

# British and European Car Day

## 9 February 2020

by Andrew Weeks.

Thankfully the day dawned fine: It looked like being a scorcher, foreshadowing a good attendance at the event.

Work started at the Trentham Memorial Ground at 07:30 hours. Early starters worked their way in, reserving the ground for their marques.

The cricket pitch area was quickly secured with a good array of commercial operations, the Car Club tent and the Price-family caravan that doubled as a trade stand. Without doubt, the earliest starters were the BMW club who rapidly accumulated a good display of their Bavarian masterpieces.

The gate was manned just after 08:00 hours by the Air Training Squadron from Trentham. As usual, they did a wonderful job, collecting the cash and fund raising through their cold drinks stand.

The Vintage Machinery Club were also early starters, setting up their equipment and getting the steam engines running. They have been wonderful supporters of this event over the years. They were soon followed by a large contingent of MGs and Jaguars.



The day was enhanced by a first appearance of a local Upper Hutt dance group raising funds for their pending visit to the United States. The 8th Count Dance Troup comprised a number of young girls who delighted the public with two displays.

Their fund raising was undertaken by way of a sausage sizzle and it is understood that the organiser was delighted that she had to rush off for additional supplies, not once, but twice.

Their sausages were very good, and it was noteworthy that they always seemed to have a queue for their products: that says a lot about the quality and associated service. We very much hope that they will come again next year.

Organising the event has become much more complicated than in previous years. The Upper Hutt City Council required a detailed Health and Safety Plan before agreeing to let us use the park. Much work was undertaken by Ric Tyson and Denis Christiansen to get this plan approved – well done guys! Hopefully we can just replicate the plan for next year’s event. The only visible signs of the plan were the fact that four of our committee members had to wear hi-vis vests throughout the event.

The shocking pink really did stand out and led to a certain amount of humour directed at those wearing them. You can be absolutely certain that revenge will be exacted in due course! In the absence of our usual Master of Ceremonies, Roy McGuinness, the wandering interviewing role was ably managed by George Walter.



*George with the People’s Choice winner*



*George with Ian in that “shocking pink”*

Reflecting back over the years, I believe that this was one of the very best Car Days. The weather was great, the crowds were tidy, polite and well behaved and the care and pride in the many exhibits was clear for all to see. The youth of today got two very good advertisements of how to conduct themselves through the excellent department of the dancers and the ATC cadets: all a great credit to themselves, their families, and their organisations. What a shame their example is not widely copied throughout our society.

Financially the day was a great success thanks to the generosity of both those displaying their vehicles and the passing public who were also generous with their donations for Wellington Free Ambulance.

This was the third Car Day that has also included the European marques. What a splendid array of vehicles were on show.

To name by a few: Rolls Royce, Bentley, Ferrari, BMW, Audit, Porsche, Citroen, Renault, Jaguar, MG, Austin Healey, Triumph, Land Rover and Morris. As usual, we also had a great display from the BSA motorcycle club.



*Cars and bikes galore!*



There were a couple of vehicles that are worthy of special mention. We were thrilled to see a lovely Renault Alpine: a really rare car and ironically similar to the one that was rebuilt on that TV classic Wheeler Dealers.

The MG stand had, in pride of place, a visitor from Sydney with their MGB. With this vehicle they had undertaken 120,000 miles of international travel!



*The very rare Renault*



*The international MGB*

The Jaguar display included a beautiful green replica C Type.



As always Dave and Sandy Bray supported the event. This year they left their gorgeous replica Jaguar XK120 at home, choosing to bring their latest project a 1990 Mk 1 VW Golf Quartet convertible.



*Mk1 VW Golf Quartet: came out to play*

The club awards two prizes annually: The People's Choice and the Best Club Display:



*People's Choice: Citroen C6*



*People's Choice: Citroen C6*

Three members of the club committee agonised over the best club display, with BMW slightly edging the excellent displays of Jaguars and last year's winners, Citroen. In addition to making a donation to the Wellington Free Ambulance, the club is considering a one-off contribution to the Vintage Machinery Club.

They have supported the event for many many years and are struggling to fund the re- build of their classic traction engine which has been much missed at Car Day in recent years

Looking forward to an even better event in 2021.

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by Rob Jones



*The BSA Club are very strong supporters of the event*



*The only European car I snapped*



*This very rare beauty has not appeared at our show before. Was in the hands of Don Hawkes's son from Auckland.*



*If this one has been before I don't seem to recall it.*



*Very rare these days. A largely original car.*