



A FLYING START TO THE SUMMER

Summer in Britain is when Aston Martin enthusiasts the world over get out and about, and this year has been no exception. Aston Martin Owners Club Chairman **Richard Jackson** reports on a busy start to the season – not least a return to Hotel de France, Aston Martin Racing's base during their victorious 1959 Le Mans 24-Hours race

Bonhams' tenth-anniversary Aston Martin auction, reported from page 82, heralded a packed weekend, and indeed a busy summer for Aston Martin enthusiasts on Saturday 9 May. Contributing to the excitement at Aston Martin Works Service in Newport Pagnell, the Aston Martin Heritage Trust (AMHT) made several successful bids in the automobilia sale for some important additions to the expanding archive, including the photograph album of Jack Addis who worked with Lionel Martin in the earliest days of the marque. A hugely successful dinner at the AMHT and Aston Martin Owners Club (AMOC) 'Barn' headquarters followed that evening – where Members enjoyed a talk by John Browning, the architect responsible for refurbishing the Barn when AMOC bought it in 1998.

The following day, AMOC held its Spring Concours d'Etat at Rousham House, a privately owned country house, near Oxford, England. Built in 1635 for Sir Robert Dormer, whose family still live there, and famous for its William Kent-designed gardens, Rousham's Park played host to 68 AMOC entrants – the highest ever – and over 300 Aston Martins of all kinds were on display in glorious weather to about 800 visiting Members. A3, the oldest Aston Martin known to exist, made its first public appearance since a complete restoration – a spectacular tribute to the skill and expertise of Ecurie Bertelli's workshop and to its custodian, the AMHT.

The Viennese Whirl Austrian Tour took place on 10–23 May and was a great success, much enjoyed by those taking part. This was followed on 30 May by our main racing event of the year, the St John Horsfall Race meeting at Silverstone – again held in warm sunshine with exciting racing and exceptional hospitality facilities.

AMOC celebrated Aston Martin's outright win at Le Mans in 1959 by arranging Member package tours, support and celebrations throughout this year's race weekend in France. The highlight for many was an Aston Martin Gathering at the Hotel de France, La Chartre sur Le Loir, the historic home of Aston Martin Racing during the John Wyr period. Numbering over 250, AMOC's attending enthusiasts took over the town square in front of the hotel, alongside a spectacular display of Aston Martins – those present including Sir Stirling and Lady Susie Moss and Jean-Claude Plassart, President of the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, who came in his DB7. The 1959 'no. 5' race-winning DBR1 was parked down the side of the hotel as it would have been for mechanics to work on in 1959. A remarkable weekend, well supported by Aston Martin Lagonda and private Aston Martin competitors such as Drayson Racing and the Club's sponsors.

AMOC's next main event is at the Royal Navy Air Station at Yeovilton, home of the Navy flyers. Here, on Saturday 5 September, we hope to have a 'Rush Down the Runway', followed by a black tie international dinner under the wing of one of the remaining Concorde, in part of the Museum and, on the Sunday, our Autumn Concours.



Why not come and join us at one of our events? Please contact Audrey Carter at Club HQ for details on +44 (0)1865 400400, email pr@amoc.org, or visit www.amoc.org

The Aston Martin Heritage Trust can be contacted on +44 (0)1865 400414, email secretary@amheritrust.org or you can visit www.amheritrust.org

AMOC EVENTS JULY–OCTOBER 2009



The Aston Martin Owners Club have another busy year ahead. To find out how to join the Club, call Membership Secretary Carol Bradley on +44 (0)1865 400400, email hqstaff@amoc.org or visit www.amoc.org to download an application form

- 24–26 July Silverstone Classic (Northamptonshire, UK)
- 8–9 August Bentley Drivers Club at Silverstone (Northamptonshire, UK)
- 28–30 August Mountain Meeting (Davos, Switzerland)
- 31 August Castle Combe Outround (Wiltshire, UK)
- 5 September Yeovilton Rush (Somerset, UK)
- 6 September Autumn Concours (Somerset, UK)
- 6–18 September Portuguese Reprise (Plymouth to Portugal)
- 12 September Thruxton Race Meeting (Hampshire, UK)
- 17–20 September AMOC Germany AGM and Bavarian Tour (Bad Wiessee/Tegernsee, Germany)
- 18–20 September Goodwood Revival (West Sussex, UK)
- 27 September Curborough Sprint (Staffordshire, UK)
- 3 October AMOC Oulton Park Race Meeting (Cheshire, UK)



VANQUISH RIDES AGAIN

It seems remarkable that it was little over two years ago that the last of some 2,500 Vanquish cars rolled off the production line at Newport Pagnell – the end of a 50-year manufacturing era marked by a most enjoyable series of celebrations. One of the most popular and certainly most impressive was the Vanquish Celebration Day, held on 9 May 2007, when Aston Martin invited over 100 Vanquish customers to assemble at Works Service, take a last look at the Vanquish line, and embark on a magnificent cavalcade to Silverstone for the FIA GT Championship, with Aston Martin Chief Executive Officer Dr Ulrich Bez heading the V12-powered convoy up the M40.

On Saturday 3 October, a similarly high-octane spectacle is set to assemble at Newport Pagnell, with the inaugural 'Vanquish Day'. Owners and enthusiasts of Aston Martin's one-time top-of-the-range model – an entirely hand-built, true 200mph supercar – will be invited to convene at Works Service, where refreshments will be available and experts will be on hand. Details are still to be confirmed, but in keeping with the format of other highly successful theme days at Works Service, such as last year's DB4 and DB7 Days, a personality instrumental to the development of the Vanquish at Aston Martin is expected to mount the stage to answer any burning questions and dispel any remaining myths of this unique car.

To learn more about the event, which will be held in conjunction with AMOC, AMOC members are advised to contact Audrey Carter on +44 (0)1865 400400 ext. 21, all others to contact Ali Young at Works Service on +44 (0)1908 619264

ROUSING ROUSHAM

Aston Martin Works Service contributed handsomely to proceedings at the Aston Martin Owners Club's recent Spring Concours d'Etat with a brand-new trophy for the best exhibiting Gaydon-class car. Proud AMOC Member Tony Hall was presented the award at Rousham House near Oxford, on Saturday 3 October, by Works Service's General Manager Arthur Sinclair (pictured left and right respectively) in recognition of his DB9 Coupe in Aston Martin Racing Green, showing in spectacular condition.

Emphasising their passion and commitment towards modern-era Aston Martins, in addition to their unrivalled reputation for the restoration and maintenance of the David Brown-era cars and beyond, Aston Martin Works Service has commissioned two Gaydon-class trophies this year, the second of which will be presented for the first time at AMOC's Autumn Concours at Yeovilton, Somerset, in September.

