



Star quality

There were plenty of reasons why people travelled the globe to get to Sandown Park in March for one of Europe's biggest air-cooled gatherings. Here's some of them...

We pride ourselves on organising the air-cooled VW show that everyone wants to come to and, for the 25th year in succession, it was a case of business as usual this March at Sandown.

As organisers, we're content with giving ourselves a pat on the back for this year's event. We start selecting cars as soon as the last gnarly bit of soggy fag packet's been swept up from the previous year's event, but inevitably cars don't get finished in time, and there's still the issue of getting the right cars displayed in the right place. This year, thankfully, we're pleased to report it all went beautifully to plan – and even the glorious weather worked in our favour.

As always, there was the odd hiccup – and we admit, we didn't get everything right. Like the delay getting in on Saturday morning, which was a bit of a fiasco, and we'd like to offer our apologies for the stress this caused. We take a telling off for stuff like this on the chin, and we'll make sure we get it right next year.

Of course, a show of this calibre just wouldn't have been possible without the enormous effort and sheer goodwill put in by the people who build the cars and bust a gut getting them there for the weekend. We're also indebted to all the clubs that fill the outside areas and the specialists who take trade space inside. And that includes the show's long-term sponsors, namely Carole Nash, Meguiar's, CamperVantastic and VW Heritage. You're jolly good eggs, one and all – so thank you!

Mix and match

It was difficult to identify any real emerging trend at this year's Surrey spectacular. The patina look was definitely less prominent, with more subtlety shown perhaps when it comes to lowering. We also noticed a few more Beetles outside than in previous years – reinforcing the notion that interest in them is gathering pace over Buses. One thing we are convinced of is that people

are now investing more heavily than ever in Beetle restorations and a *VolksWorld* reader we met in the swapmeet area confirmed this. Spurred on by the Split Beetle restoration series we've been running since last September, said reader told us he was finally getting round to tackling his early Beetle project. The fact that he was in the process of handing over a huge wad of notes to Wolfgang Pouzar at Wolfparts in exchange for a number of top quality panels, his way of putting his money where his mouth was, spoke volumes about the quality of work he was intending. What was nice was that Wolf gave the customer's young son one of his t-shirts, thus ensuring this particular reader's passion would automatically be passed on to the next generation of enthusiast.

So, once again, thanks for coming and thanks for helping make the show so special. We'll see you again in 2018. ■



Top 20 WINNER

> Damir Hrovat's Type 3 Karmann Ghia was nothing less than sensational. Thanks Damir for bringing it the 617 miles each way from Switzerland

^ If you thought Russell Ritchie's shocking pink Squareback looked a bit 1980s, you'd be right. The original 'Pepto' was built in the States by DKP member, Bill Schwimmer, and Russell's car is to be shipped back there for him to drive around again



Top 20 WINNER



Top 20 WINNER



Top 20 WINNER

^ Urs Beyeler came all the way from Switzerland with his '54 ragtop which was packed with nice details and touches

^ This isn't just any old electric Beetle. In fact, it takes the whole concept to another level. Check out those carbon bumpers. Bravo Richard Morgan

Ivan McCutcheon's car of the show

"The thing Oddball disliked about Moriarty in the movie *Kelly's Heroes* was his negative waves. I'm the same as Oddball – many would say I am one. What's this got to do with the show? Well, there were plenty of negative waves and rumours leading up to the show this year and they started pretty much from the moment news broke that *VolksWorld* was changing hands. I remained positive and fended off direct questions on the subject with the truth... I was not involved at any level with the show. But this all changed when I was invited by *VolksWorld* editor, Ian Cushway, to host the awards presentation and organise the show car judging. Being involved wasn't something I would ever turn down, as I have been part of every one of the 25 *VolksWorld* Shows and, hand on heart, I love the fact I am able to help make your visit worth all the effort – wherever you have travelled from.

As for my car of the show this year. Well, you're in for a bit of a shock as the vehicle that got my attention was a 1303. See, I told you! An absolute shed of a 1303. Yes, really. But it was properly mental. I later found out that the car was owned by a lad called Josh Gresswell who works for Type 2 Detectives. It might look like crap, but it was how it sat that got me. I've never seen a 1303 this low. Josh has junked the struts and fitted a link pin framehead and beam to get it on the deck. I loved it!"



Swapmeet treasures

One of our favourite activities over the weekend, apart from enjoying a shandy and a packet of Walker's in the Bear on Saturday night, is trawling through the swapmeet goodies. Here's what we spotted...



◀ How about a 30hp engine crankcase? You can tell it's an industrial application by the 122 engine number



> Fancy giving your Beetle a period race look? If so, you'll need one of these Motometer rally dashes, complete with oil temperature gauge, clock and fuel gauge

✓ Check out this Split ignition lock, complete with key!



◀ Not that you'd really want to fit it, but this rare fake Karmann Ghia grille was a snip at £250



> We thought this might be an original at first, but it was a copy bought in France. It'd look nice on the bathroom wall for £60



◀ We were sorely tempted by this Mathe 100,000km commemoration watch sporting its original strap at £80



> Hazet spare wheel tool kit is rarer than the original one with the VW logo. Porsche 356 owners like them, too



◀ These Mera air deflectors would come in handy for winter driving. They were being sold with their original box and chrome trim for £130



Top 20 WINNER

◀ Pierre Radojewski's Oval Cabriolet deserved its turntable position, and a Top 20 award



◀ Spirit of the Show gong went to James Monroe. He drove his VW-based Speedster down from Solihull without any heating, using polishing cloths to keep his tootsies warm



◀ Who wouldn't want to try out one of CamperVantastic's T6 Californias for a weekend? The firm's prize for Best VW California Camper (a cool Cobb kitchen in a box) was awarded to Rob and Claire Gailor with their white T5

Show shocker!

You surely can't have missed this VW-powered 'Rustin' Allegro. It's the creation of Bryan Butler from Tutshop BMX. "It all started as a Photoshop project and kind of went from there," he admits.



✓ VW Heritage's campsite display, complete with Split and period accessories, was truly inspirational



◀ Mario Steinhauser from Germany graced Sandown with his oh-so-subtle looking Fastback



◀ Richard Pearson's Bus was just so different – and the finish was superb



✓ This Karmann Ghia Sport owned by Matthew Berry is just one of a handful made as a run-out model in the last year of production



◀ Dean Hall's '55 Oval is a real DIY work of art with some nice touches, like the matt gold paint and the Hendrick's gin bottle, which serves as a brake fluid reservoir



◀ If JK's Fridolin looks familiar, it's because it featured minus its smart new livery in our November 2016 issue

◀ Simon Rookes' full custom Bay Window Bus has lots of neat features, including suicide opening front doors

Steve's Gosling's car of the show

"It was a different event for me this year, obviously, but I loved being here as a spectator. It's been a great show. For me, the car of the show was Lloyd's Beetle. It's just my kind of car, and the way it was done was phenomenal – and just how I would have done it myself!"



Top 20 WINNER





< Sam Brader's Australian-built '60 Beetle on air ride features a 1776cc engine with twin Dell'Orto 36DRLA carbs, electronic ignition and twin external oil coolers. An especially neat touch is the hi-fi controller concealed in the sun visor

> There was more to see downstairs, including our very own Cathal O'Toole's retina blasting yellow '80's Looker



< Diego Delespeaux was the man responsible for the restoration of this gorgeous Ragtop Split Window



Fuzzy thinking...

Fuzz Townsend is a *VolksWorld* Show regular and was pretty complementary about the mag and the scene in general when we spoke to him. He's never actually owned a VW but he's got fond memories of the time when he used to ride in a Bay Window milk van as a boy. "It was in Sutton Coldfield and the local dairy, Woolner Bros, used a VW transporter for their rounds." His sister had a 1303, apparently. "The great thing about the VW scene is that it's all-inclusive. Everyone's welcome, regardless of what VW they own, and that's something that doesn't happen with other marques. There's lots of specialist support, too. Best of all, with so many shows, owning a VW is like having an invitation to party every weekend."



> Khyam's doggy tent, complete with robot dog, was neat

> James and Louise Glasspool from Eastleigh picked up this Beetle bootlid from the swapmeet. Guess what – they're going to make it into a shelf for their front room!



Tempting buys



Wandering around the cars for sale area is another integral part of the weekend's shenanigans at Sandown, and one that's hard to resist whether you're looking to buy a car or not. We spotted lots of potential buys, including this project '63 Panel Van US import. It was being sold minus an engine for £8,450. Another nice find was this really solid looking '70 Westfalia. Never lowered or messed about with, it was being offered at £18,950.



< Scott Wickens' Pastel Green '54 appeared in our December 2001 issue. Since then the turbo motor's been swapped for an IDA unit



Top 20 WINNER

< > Another really inspired and unique creation was Broen Messiaen's heavily modified '69 Beetle featuring 2.5-litre Type 4 power with throttle bodies, racing buckets, Boxster brakes and a Uniball suspension set up



Top 20 WINNER



> Lookers made a historic link to VW Campers from the past with this gleaming new T6



Top 20 WINNER

> Richard Clements' Buggy was festooned with custom features. The yellow Buggy in the background belonging to John Cavery was in the very first issue of *VolksWorld* in 1987



Top 20 WINNER



< For us, Gregory Peere's Jupiter Grey '55 Oval was one of the nicest cars at the show. It's a seriously rare Standard model with a factory sunroof – the original 30 horse engine's been re-worked into a 1400cc unit by French engine guru, Jean Rene Feller



> This Ducati logo'd '58 Split caught our eye. It was formally a Swiss Army radio Bus, but looks a lot nicer in this livery

> A special display of '67 Beetles appeared out front to mark the benchmark model's 50th anniversary



> Sam Eynon and her crew dressed accordingly alongside her '69 Bay



< This '50 Split was originally supplied to a Ben Pon dealership in Holland. We're looking to feature it soon...

< Adam Young's Split Bus was one of several vehicles prepared by Absolute VW

Mark Walker's car of the show



"I was truly blown away by Lloyd Jackson's eagerly anticipated Bordeaux Red Split Beetle. Fred Noebert's Raspberry Dream back to '89 car brought back great memories of my younger years in the VW scene, whilst Peter Ferguson and his Java Green '67 Beetle won spirit of the show for me. As far as the car I'd have taken home though, Mario Steinhauser's incredible Fastback gets my vote – it just looks so right in every respect."

Best of show



If you've ever carried out restoration work yourself you'll know first hand just how much skill and effort it takes to get a decent finish, let alone one that comes anywhere near show car standard. Which makes the quality of the show cars on display at Sandown even more awe-inspiring. A team of expert judges, managed this year by our very own Ivan McCutcheon, pore over the cars for most of the weekend noting every detail. Needless to say, because all the cars are fabulous, it's not easy picking an outright winner. However, the vehicle that garnered the highest number of total points – thus being awarded Best of Show – was Lloyd Jackson's 1950 Split Window Beetle.

Believe it or not, this car started out as a total basket case as recently as last September when it first appeared in the magazine. Since then it's undergone a meticulous nut and bolt restoration, with peerless attention to detail at the genius hands of master metalworker Lloyd and the guys at Deluxe Metalwork. The result, we think you'll agree, is totally stunning. The fact that it was completed in just eight months and involved the world's top specialists, makes it even more special. You'll be able to read a full feature on it soon, but this issue on pages 74-77 we cover the engine rebuild. ■

Picture by James Wallace