



Nicholas Taylor in his 1949 MG TC. Photo: ACCD Photography



Amy Johnson and Jen Chambers from Alopecia UK, in the charity's branded MG TF LE500. Photo: Amy Johnson

2017 SHOWCASE CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR GALA

The regular gatherings of MG owners in the Chichester area have long been known as one of the friendliest MG groups in the south east, welcoming all enthusiasts, and building friendships with many local car clubs of other marques.

The May gathering formed the Showcase Classic & Sports Car Gala charity fundraising event in the grounds of Lord Cowdray's estate, Midhurst, West Sussex, with MGs dominant among the 300 cars present, and MGCC SE Centre members out in force.

Guest star of the event was double Olympic gold medallist (London and Rio) Joanna Rowsell Shand MBE, representing Alopecia UK, for which the event raised just over £3,000.

After delicious cooked breakfasts, served from a traditional shepherd's hut, had warmed everyone up on a slightly chilly morning, the event began with the optional 60-mile 'Showcase Run' across the South Downs, ending back on the Cowdray estate, where each driver was presented with a souvenir by Jo, wearing her Olympic gold medals.

Meanwhile on the showground, entertainment included 'Jazz on the

lawn' by the FB Pocket Orchestra, and vintage 1940s vocal harmony group The Cadettes, who had attendees up on their feet and dancing, followed by a great performance from the Petworth Town Brass Band.

The vintage-style afternoon teas proved very popular, as were all the stalls to browse, and attendees were truly spoilt for choice on the lunch menu.

Jamie Cripps from Milestone Classics was the competition judge, awarding Eileen and Tim Kilpatrick the trophy for 'Loveliest interior' in their 1972 MGB GT, with Darren Sparks and Nigel Melbert runners-up in that class with their 1971 MGB Roadster, and 1973 MGB GT V8 respectively.

Congratulations also to runners-up in the Best Soft Top class; Peter Hall with his 1933 J2, and John Farncombe

with his 1996 RV8, and runner-up in the Best Saloon class Peter Smithson with his 1958 Magnette ZB Varitone.

A day at the races, dinner for two, and a T-shirt autographed by Joanna and her Olympic team mates, were among a list of great prizes won in the raffle too.

The event was covered by a team of photographers and a film crew, so whether you were there on the day or not, just go to www.showcase-classic-cars.events to watch the official video and download some lovely images, or order prints (from which 50% of the proceeds will go to Alopecia UK).

The Chichester team is already working on the next Showcase which promises to be even bigger and better, with all MGCC Centres, Registers, and Branches cordially invited to attend.



Enjoying the ride in Mark Lacey's 1970 MGB Roadster. Photo: ACCD Photography



Peter West in his 1954 MG TF being greeted at the finish line by Jo Rowsell Shand MBE. Photo: ACCD Photography