

2008 EVENT REPORT

Richard Stern

In its second year of reincarnation, the newly formed MSA Classic was apparently sold out three weeks after advertising the booking was open. I personally had competed in the last Norwich Union run before they sold it off to Guardian and then AXA before 'foot and mouth' killed it off in the early millennium.

Sadly in 2007 though my BMW 2002 Turbo decided to blow up the week before making it impossible to fix in time. So this year I managed to keep my car running in time. I decide to start from Dorking as one of the check points was a private circuit at Cophthorn which I had actually driven several times before including a TV programme with Chris Barrie called massive engines (some of you might have seen it?).

Upon registration and a very foggy start at Denbies Vineyard we headed off through the countryside towards Cophthorn. We enter the private track and was told to "enjoy ourselves", trouble was the circuit was wet and covered in leaves making it very slippery, so I took it easy but had some fun. My co-pilot broke the window regulator so we pulled over and to the amusement of a few removed the door panel found some branches to wedge in the door to hold the window up, in case it rained of course.

We continued to the next check point without any issues, we didn't actually stop as we wanted to find somewhere for lunch. Eventually in a village near Oxford we found a nice pub for a Sunday roast. After refreshments it was on to the next check point, this time a Steam Railway which was actually very impressive.

Last stop Silverstone, we were a few miles away from Silverstone, when suddenly I heard a metallic noise and immediately stopped to inspect the car. As I walked around the back there was the exhaust – on the floor. Fortunately I came prepared and after a few minutes managed to tie the exhaust on again using large cable ties.

We made it to Silverstone to be greeted by the crowds and received our finishing medals. Then the best part, laps around the famous F1 circuit. The turbo shot out of the pit straight passed most other cars, after checking the rear view mirror there was a Porsche 911 turbo in hot pursuit, so I pulled over to let him pass. We then parked with all the other cars and the final icing on the cake for me was Richard McHowatt in his very, very rare 2002 A4S (Genuine based on a Tii) pulled up next to me for a fabulous photo opportunity.

An uneventful trip back home to Hertfordshire with the memories of a great day to savour. Can't wait for next year, and I must take this opportunity to thank the organisers for once again a fantastic run bring on 2009.



The MSA Classic

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