

CLASSIC DRIVER

Chelsea AutoLegends 2010 - Review



What a great day out. For a first event, the all-Sunday extravaganza by the bank of the Thames was an outstanding success.

Over 5000 visitors enjoyed (mainly) good weather and a genuinely impressive line-up of cars. The main theme was '**Le Mans**', so the lynchpin of the event was an avenue of cars which had entered the famous **24 Hours** race.

Why hadn't anyone thought of this before? **The Royal Hospital, Chelsea's** grounds proved the perfect location for a Sunday stroll through some superb machinery. I counted at least three **Ferrari 250 GT SWBs** - and these weren't even in the main display, the '**Pit Straight**'.

In 'the pits' you could see a diverse range of racing cars from the history of **Le Mans** which included several grass-green **Talbots**, a variety of **Porsches** including a **Rothmans-liveried 962**, many **Ferrari GTs** and prototypes, and more than one **Gulf-liveried** veteran of the **Vingt-Quatre Heures**.



You could also admire the **Ecurie Ecosse** transporter, complete with **Tojeiro-Buick** coupé and an **ex-Scuderia Ferrari** transporter. In the '**Esses**', '**Porsche Curves**', '**Tertre Rouge**' and '**Indianapolis**', the organisers had laid out a display, by marque, of some pretty interesting privately owned modern and classic cars. In addition, London main agent **H.R. Owen** was showing examples of [Bentley](#), [Bugatti](#), [Ferrari](#), [Maserati](#), [Rolls-Royce](#), [Lamborghini](#) and [Alfa Romeo](#) supercars.







They were joined by **Classic Driver** dealers [Fiskens](#), [Aston Sales Kensington](#), [Desmond J. Smail](#), [JD Classics](#), [Graeme Hunt](#), [Frank Dale](#) and [Hexagon Classics](#).



Celebrity car enthusiasts **Jay Kay** and **James Martin** (above) could be seen behind the wheel of the latter's [1953 Jaguar XK120 FHC](#), while **JD's Derek Hood** was very pleased with whole event:

"I've sold two cars already!" said the Maldon-based **Jaguar** specialist, fresh from his successes on the track, concours lawn and saleroom at **Pebble Beach**.

In fact, come one o'clock, I'd bumped into just about everybody who's anybody on the London car scene.







Auction house **Bonhams** had the **1952 Jaguar C-type** it will sell at its forthcoming **Goodwood Revival** sale on display. The **Bonhams** team was also in charge of charity auctions, which contributed more than £11,000 to the **Royal Hospital, Chelsea** Long Ward modernisation programme.



As promised, several personalities were on hand for autographs and to exchange reminiscences with stage host **Simon Taylor**. **Sir Stirling Moss** (a regular competitor at **Le Mans** – often the pace-setter but never a victor) was joined by winners **Derek Bell** and **Richard Attwood**, and veteran privateer **David Piper**.







For an oh-so-modest admission price of £15.00 (for adults - accompanied under-16s were admitted free) you got an awful lot for your money, so it's well worth putting **Sunday, 4 September 2011** in your diary, as this is the date slated for next year's event.

For further information, see www.chelseaautolegends.com.

Postscript: It didn't cost me £15.00. No, it ended up considerably more than that, as I bought a framed photographic print (**250 GTs in the Pyrenees on the 1960 Tour de France**, if you must know) from the excellent [Jarrotts](#), one of many quality trade stands at this year's **Chelsea AutoLegends**. Separating your Editor from his hard-earned: truly, the sign of a good event.







Text: Steve Wakefield
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