

Review of the Great Western Vintage and Classic Rally, 18th August 2024

What the competitors thought ...

- I thought that I must write to **Congratulate** all involved in the organisation of yesterdays rally. It really was a superb effort and whilst being severely handicapped without any readable trips in the car we still really enjoyed the event.
 - Thank you so much for a great event, really enjoyed our challenging day in the beautiful Bath area.
 - Super lot of wonderful cars, a joy to be part of
 - Thanks for a great day's rallying.
 - Firstly congratulations to you and the team behind the rally yesterday, it takes a mega effort to create a new event, hope you had a big drink to celebrate last night. You managed to attract a lot of new crews and a wide selection of cars. The route and tests were really enjoyable (any chance of an overview map to see where we actually went?) and unexpectedly the roads weren't that busy for us.
 - A belated many thanks for a truly enjoyable event. We found the support from all the volunteers, and in particular Andy who took us aside on Saturday afternoon to guide us through the challenges, unfailingly excellent. A great route on roads that we as locals had never visited, an excellent venue and you even organised good weather! Thanks very much and we hope to enter again next year. I think you have found a much needed niche to encourage newcomers into historic road rallying.
 - I really enjoyed the event - excellent route, 1st class marshalling and documentation superb - well done to all the team and I hope you feel you can run the event again
 - Just a note to thank you and all your team for a grand day out.
 - I just wanted to say thank you to you and your team for organising the rally. I thought it was superbly organised with great support for all the competitors especially us newbies, we really enjoyed the challenge of navigating and learning new skills from such a friendly team.
 - Thankyou and congratulations on providing us with a great day's sport on your inaugural running of your new Historic Rally. Great scenic regularities on mostly quiet lanes, I also enjoyed my first blast around South Cerney Airfield an ideal new test venue ! The documentation was excellent, as were the friendly efficient team of Marshals throughout the event. The large number of friendly resident spectators on route were testament to all your PR work
 - It was a great event, and we enjoyed being able to help by marshalling
 - Well done Bernard and team for a really good event - especially for the first time.
 - A great day out in the Cotswolds, great route with loads of happy marshals out in the sunshine. Well done Bernard and the Bath Motor Club team.
 - Well done to everyone involved in organising and running this great event.
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Bath Motor Club's inaugural Great Western Vintage and Classic Rally ran on Sunday August 18th 2024. The rally was aimed particularly at newcomers to historic road rallying and of the 54 entries, 33 were classified as Newcomers. The field also included 16 Experts and 5 Masters. Clerk of the Course Bernard Northmore designed the event so that no special instrumentation was required (GPS trips were allowed for example) and the navigation was by means of various types of jogularity, presented in a comprehensive roadbook – no maps were required and there were no tricks in the navigation. Furthermore, no whites or damaging surfaces were used, thereby reassuring crews that any risk of damage to cars was minimised.

The resultant entry included a wonderful selection of cars ranging in age from a 1931 Riley Biarritz through to a 1984 Mini and in engine size from an Imp through to a TR7V8.

The route started and finished at Walcot Rugby Club grounds on the northern outskirts of Bath and went via two regularities to tests at Cotswold Airport (better known as Kemble) and South Cerney airfield to the lunch halt just outside Cirencester. After lunch a long regularity around the north of Cirencester brought crews back to South Cerney and Kemble to repeat the morning tests and then two more regularities back to Bath for the finish.

The buzz at the finish was remarkable – many of the Newcomers promising to come back for more. Results showed that Newcomers had taken first and second overall.

- 1 Graeme Bolt/Caroline Bolt (Fiat 124 Spider) N3, 0:55
 - 2 Robert Smith/Richard Stanier (Volvo P1800E) N3, 1:03
 - 3 Paul J Mills/Nick Cooper (Austin Mini Cooper S) E2, 1:10
 - 4 Elliott Dale/Charlotte Ryall (Ford Escort Mk1) M, 1:11
 - 5 Tim Sawyer/Suzanne Barker (Ford Escort Mexico) E3, 1:21
 - 6 Gavin Rogers/Suze Rogers (Reliant Scimitar SE5A) M, 1:22
 - 7 Tony Brooks/David Kirkham (Alpine Renault A310) E3, 1:43
 - 8 Edward Linton/Martin Phaff (Hillman Imp) M, 1:58
 - 9 Phil Cheek/Graeme Presswell (Hillman Hartwell Sprint Avenger) N3, 2:06
 - 10 Cliff England/Peter Rushforth (Triumph 2000) E3, 2:06
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Paul Loveridge, Chairman of the Historic Rally Car Register, was Historic Eligibility Scrutineer for the event, and he also acted as a Driving Standards Observer. He stated :

“The first running of the GWVC rally was a great success – well done to Bernard Northmore and Bath Motor Club for putting on the event. There was an excellent list of entries with a wide range of vehicles. The event attracted a lot of new competitors trying a historic daylight road rally for the first time. The format of the event was very well received. Let's hope it runs again.”

Visit the official photographer's site at [M&H Photography | Great Western Vintage and Classic Car Rally 2024](#) to see just how varied the entry was !