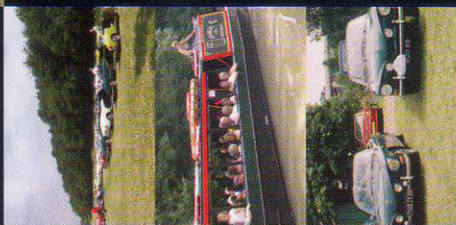


KARMANN KOMMENT

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KARMANN
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE KARMANN GHIA OWNERS CLUB GB

Special Colour Edition
2006 "International"

The review of the 2006 International

For those that were there I hope this is a good representation and for those that were not, hopefully this will make you want to come to next year's International. Peter and Lynn Skinner have already volunteered themselves so keep the weekend of 24th June clear for a very pleasant run around the Cotswold area.

About 72 members of the Karmann Ghia Owner's Club converged on a very pretty Inn called the Heart of England in the tiny Northamptonshire village of Weedon. Weedon has the distinction of sitting on a major crossroads so it has proportionately more hotel rooms than private bedrooms (although some may argue that point). Drivers from all over the area were amazed to see Karmann Ghias of all models and colours arriving on their roads early on Friday evening.

So after lots of oohing and aahing at the cars and lots of hugs and handshakes we settled down to dinner, it turned into a very pleasant summers' evening so most of the German contingent and their friends spent the evening in the beer garden. We learnt some German and a lot about various KGs. Some of the group discovered how to magic a pre-booked but non-existent hotel room at the Premier Inn out of thin air, thanks to poor organisation by them. Some of us did the quiz set by Andy & Theresa's daughter, Sophie and some of us are still wondering what H2O2 is!

Theresa and Andy Holmes, their daughter Sophie and nephew Ben did a fantastic job of organising everything. Ben, by the way, has vowed to become a KG owner. Considering what they packed in to the weekend the cost was fantastic, a mere £38.00 per head, accommodation and Friday nights meal were extra but almost everything else was covered so it was excellent value for money.

Even the Holmes's couldn't organise the weather, but you know the sun always shines on the righteous, boy, were we a righteous bunch, the sun shone all weekend and the evenings were good enough to spend outside. Not only did this add to the ambience of the whole weekend but it showed off the cars sexy curves and beautiful paint jobs making the paint and the chrome shimmer and shine wherever we went. Anyone who came in a convertible was the envy of the whole of Northants. I would like to thank Stuart de Lacey here; he must have been a boy scout as he was the one to produce a bottle of suntan lotion from a period suitcase under his bonnet. He certainly saved me from a bad case of sunburn.

As we greedily unpacked our KG owners goody bags we found an excellent itinerary with the weekend fully explained, a lovely enamel badge commemorating 50 years of KGs and a beautiful little scale model. I believe there were coupes for the coupe owners then T34s and cabrios too depending on your car; we were especially pleased as the model is pewter and ours was the only pewter car there. Also of course many very handy catalogues from the range of people we all hand our hundreds of pounds to each year.

Saturday started off at a cracking pace, we did a full hour and a half procession over the Northamptonshire highways and byways, and apart from the odd soulless white van man and a

Mazda sports driver who felt he needed to prove a point we progressed in style, the view in the rear view mirror was fantastic as we snaked through the countryside glittering in the sun.

Stowe school was our first port of call; we lined the cars up in front of the school, as I'm sure you will see on many of our photos. Off we went for a tour of a tiny part of the huge pleasure grounds led by an amiable man who reminded me of John Bejeman. This gave our main sponsors Hegarty Classic Car insurance the time to whip out the lap top and do some pretty effective valuations and insurance quotes (thanks to some input from Andy), we found them slung in smart black bags over our wing mirrors on our return. They were spot on with mine and that of another friends' but I didn't talk to many people about them. I was impressed with their style though, and even more impressed with the lunch they laid on for us.

For this, we had to drive further into the landscape park, so as not to set fire to any expensive children from the school at Stowe, where we made a circle of cars and partook of a fantastic barbecue lunch of chicken legs, burgers, sausages, home made salads and fruit salad and cream, there was gallons of squash and iced water and it was all served on excellent white crockery with quality eating irons. This was the ideal opportunity to vote for the winning cars in their individual categories. It was quite hard to tear us away from lying on our picnic rugs gazing at the clear blue sky, but somehow Theresa and Andy rallied the troops and we set off again.

After a quick dash up the A5 for a splash of go juice we were off again to the next venue of the day. On arrival we parked in a field beside a quintessentially English church and potted off through the church yard and along to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum which afforded an opportunity for a ride on a narrow boat, a walk down the canal towpath and a wonderful cream tea at the Chapel tea room. Some even sought out the pub which was showing the Germany/Sweden world cup match.

The evening event was held only a mile or two up the road from Weedon in the Old Dairy at Upper Stowe. Here we were told who's cars had won, and in which category (a full list is given below) and watched the happy recipients receiving their wonderful array of prizes. Clive Richardson, the new chairman, gave the Holmes family some gifts for all their hard work and we had a very pleasant dinner and were entertained by a murder mystery performance staged by a team of 4 actors. A few revellers chose to sit out in the courtyard to be entertained by the complexes' cats including a very pregnant chocolate point Burmese. The cats had obviously not been taught to read as they all disregarded the notice in the doorway of the restaurant stating that cat's were not allowed in.

The two littlest members of the group Lola and Ellie amused us all with the endless energy and delighted noises they were making. Ellie very rightly got the award for best fairy. Eventually the murder was solved, I think most people had come to the right conclusion way before the team of actors had and everyone had an enjoyable evening renewing and making new friendships.

On Sunday morning we couldn't believe our luck, as the sun was still streaming down. This time we set off in a different order and somehow got a better effect, some cars like Alan and Carolyn's

Clementine Orange, Mike and Astrid's Bright Green and Caroline and Dieter's Saturn Yellow coupe's really stand out from the crowd, with Pete and Lynn's Red convertible and Eike and Susanne Matschull's stunning bright blue Convertible shining like jewels amongst the more conservative beiges, silvers and whites. We all love them, our own more than others obviously, but what a fantastic spectacle we made gliding down hills and vales turning heads of motorists and pedestrians alike. We got plenty of cheery waves, elderly gents outside pubs, mums with prams, kids swinging on a gate, some roofers pausing to watch as we rolled by. Two elderly ladies stopped us and asked about them at Stoke Bruerne. We passed an MG rally in Silverstone and plenty of people were out on their motorbikes enjoying the sunshine and the spectacle we provided them with.

We pulled into another field, this time at a tiny railway museum at Lamport, they had a steam train and a few diesels and a length of track to roll them up and down. Unfortunately the steam train refused to work for us, which left some of us feeling disappointed at missing an opportunity to revisit our childhood, a scabby paint flaking diesel is not quite the same!

There were, however, other events to divert us, the pub had the best loos I think I'd ever used; Ray Charles serenading the ladies, spotlessly clean and sparkling tiles and chromes, effusive bouquets of silk flowers and even a thoughtful framed notice telling us what time the England / Ecuador match would be kicking off. The Brazilian manager and his team of young staff were so helpful and polite that we felt obliged to eat the marvellous array of free cakes and drink gallons of the coffee, tea, squash and iced water. This had all been provided by the club and was laid out very beautifully in a lovely cool marquee with not one but two flat screen TVs in it! It was so well done it would have done a wedding party proud. In fact after our overwhelming on the train we felt we owed it to them to go back and eat more of their cake.

At this point it was Sunday lunchtime, some drivers started to say goodbye and headed off to their various destinations all over England and some went further afield back to France and Germany.

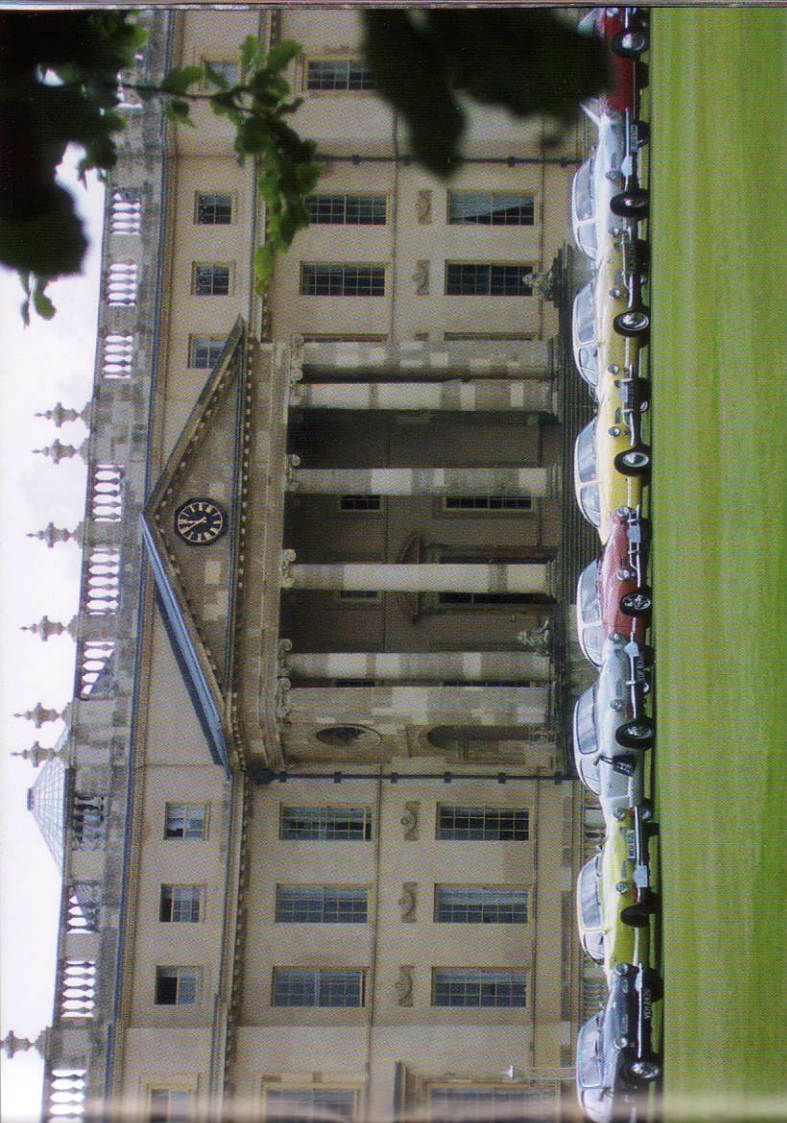
The intrepid hard core of KG owners knew however there was one more destination planned for us so we had to visit it, the Heart of the Shires Shopping Centre (the word shopping made Lynn Skinnners eyes light up). To be honest we could have sold the antiques shop at the centre some stuff, the whole idea of old signs etc is to pick them up free or as a bargain, not for silly money, still we enjoyed it and some of us certainly didn't need lunch after all those free cakes, but it was there if you wanted it, with a generous discount arranged by the club.

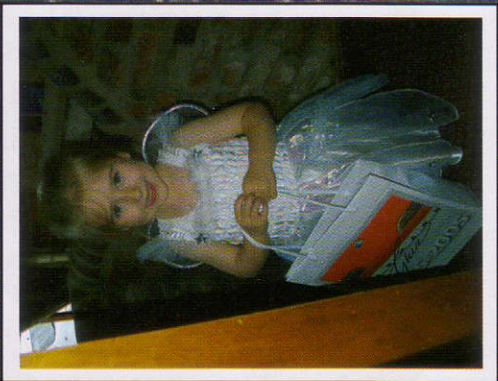
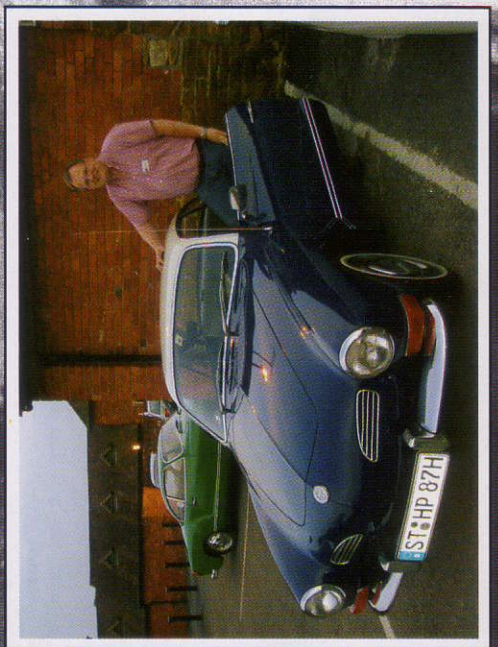
It took ages to say our goodbyes and swap phone numbers and email addresses with all our new friends but eventually people drifted away home.

In our case we called on old friends in Milton Keynes and were greeted by 10 year old Nathaniel with cries of "Dad, they've come in a jag" No kid, it's MUCH better than that, it's a Karmann Ghia. What's more England won their match and so did Germany so, a really fantastic weekend was had by all.

Judith Beckett











KGOC 2006 International Classes and Awards made		
Class	Awards	Recipient
Super class	Club Trophy (Return)	Andy, Theresa & Sophie Holmes Ben Holmes
Best Type 1 Coupe	Club Trophy (Return)	Margritta & Uwe Menzer-Klein
Best Type 1 Convertible	Club Trophy (Return)	Eike & Susanne Matschull
Best Type 3	Club Trophy (Return)	John & Lynn Figg
Best Paint	Club Trophy (Keep)	Olivier & Sylvie Marais
Best Engine	Club Trophy (Keep)	Eike & Susanne Matschull
Best Customised	Club Trophy (Keep)	Phil & Margaret Reid
Best Interior	Club Trophy (Keep)	Reinhold & Mechtild Soppe
Best Modified Engine	Club Trophy (Keep)	Owen & Sharon Paterson
Best Workhorse (Daily Driver)	Club Trophy (Return)	John & Pamela Everitt
Furthest Driven		Mic & Dine Blondin
Organisers Choice		Caroline Wilkinson & Deiter Hendel
Oldest Car		Margritta & Uwe Menzer-Klein
Friday Quiz		Peter/Pat & Alan/Carolyn Silly beggars
Best Fairy		Elle Wilson

MEMORIES OF A KARMANN . . .

I always had a soft spot for the Karmann Ghia. When I was a boy, a friend came over from Kenya to collect his brand new Karmann Ghia with a view to driving it back to Africa. He stayed with us in Findon and we drooled over this shiny exotic thing in the drive. Next morning he turned north onto the Findon by-pass into the south-bound carriageway . . .

Anon