

Hi Phil,

Firstly, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to drive your wonderful cars, it was an amazing experience, especially driving around the track for the parade lap despite the miserable weather. As promised, please see the following write up as requested, I hope it's okay?



When Phil Graham asked me if I could help him by driving one of his cars for a display of special cars at the Oulton Park Historic Gold Cup weekend, I didn't need to think twice before saying yes!

I have previously owned and driven a number of high performance cars including my first Porsche, a 987 Boxster Sport Edition and more recently a 991.1 Carrera S so I was really looking forward to the opportunity of getting behind the wheel of a Porsche once again.

I was particularly pleased to start off with a drive in Phil's beautiful 50th Anniversary car in Geyser Grey, given that I will soon be looking to buy my next 911 and this is type of car that I am currently seriously considering, given the individuality, looks and strong residual values of these special cars.

This wide-bodied car has a presence and style all of its own, given the unique paintwork, chrome trim, sports door mirrors and classic style wheels. On entering the cabin there is a real sense of classic style from the beautiful Hounds' Tooth trim complemented with Agate Grey leather and grey stitching to the green instrument digits and chrome needles. The retro style is classic, stylish and feels special without being over the top.

On turning the key, the flat six engine roared into life and that unmistakable engine note was further enhanced when Phil reminded me to switch on the sports exhaust for the full experience. The drive from Wllmslow to Oulton Park was extremely enjoyable with a good mix of twisty B roads to dual carriageways with sweeping bends. The rear wheel drive Anniversary delivers the power smoothly and progressively, yet as and when the occasion arises to overtake, the power kicks in, in a way that is typically Porsche and I was soon grinning from ear to ear. This is a car that can be driven to the shops as your daily driver but is also so much more and can test your skills if you took the car to the limit. Needless to say, given that the car was not mine, I was nowhere near the car's limit, yet just following Phil and Nette in their GT3RS and Turbo S Exclusive Series, I couldn't have been happier. As we arrived at Oulton Park and parked the car in front of Porsche Wllmslow's stand it was nice to see that the Anniversary was getting as many admiring glances as it's two much more powerful and impressive siblings.

This wasn't the end of my surprises today, imagine my excitement when Phil told me that we would be taking part in a 70th Anniversary parade lap round the track. Even though this was to be at a

strictly controlled 30 mph, I was still delighted to get another opportunity to spend some time with this car.



The drive back to Wilmslow was just as enjoyable as the journey to Oulton Park and to be honest given the dreadful weather, driving the Anniversary was the highlight of my day and I could hardly wait to drive it back the following day.

On arriving at Phil & Nette's at 8am the following day, Phil generously offered me the opportunity of driving the awesome Turbo S Exclusive Series in its stunning gold and lacquered carbon fibre finish, I didn't need to be asked twice and jumped into the car before they changed their minds! Well this car has a unique combination of contemporary luxury and sportiness like no other Porsche car I have seen. It is perhaps the closest thing to some of the other super car manufacturers, yet it still retains

that unmistakable 911 character. The interior is every bit as impressive and dramatic as the exterior with the themed seats, dash, gold stitching, gold weave carbon fibre trim and black with gold highlighted headlining, there is no doubt that this car is a very special and exclusive machine. I was excited to turn the key and get going to compare it with the other Porsche's that I have driven, including a 996 Turbo back in 2004.

What struck me first, as we drove away through Wilmslow and warmed the cars up, was just how easy this car was to drive. It has every conceivable feature that you could possibly want right down to the cooled seats. This clearly is a car that would be ideal for touring on the continent. As I followed Phil's incredible and unmistakable GT3RS in Miami Blue, I started to get used to the different feel of this car when compared to the Anniversary that I had driven the previous day. We came onto a series of interesting B roads with some sweeping bends and Phil's pace quickened and it was easy to keep up with so much power on tap. Then came a long straight with a nice safe overtake, Phil shot off with the unmistakable roar of the GT3RS and as I pressed the throttle it took off with the force something akin to a space shuttle and before I knew it we had overtaken the car and progressed onto the next stage of the journey through Knutsford where our convoy attracted quite some interest before heading onto the dual carriageway section of the A556, where we were able to safely explore the car's ability within the confines of the national speed limit. The turn of speed and the way in which this car can put the power down is incredible. On arriving at Oulton Park, the car easily managed the speed bumps and off road drive route into the parking area with its 4 wheel drive and front axle lift. Once again, I was grinning from ear to ear as I got out of the car, what a fabulous experience. It's just a shame that given the limited number of cars produced that not more people will be able to experience this excellent machine.

Fortunately, we were blessed with dryer warmer weather on the second day and were able to enjoy walking round the pits, watching the racing and meeting some old and new friends in the Porsche Club GB marquee where there was a plentiful supply of delicious hot coffee. However, the highlight of the weekend came when Phil surprised me with the chance to drive his beloved GT3RS home! Once again, I didn't hesitate to take the keys from him and headed to this formidable machine without delay. It is a car that has so much presence and is a car that I have admired since I first saw and sat in it on the day that Phil took delivery of it. As I opened the door and climbed into the body hugging bucket seat and closed the door with its lightweight strap, it dawned on me the trust that Phil had in letting me drive this special car. The responsibility of this was at the front of my mind as I turned the key and the beast from behind me came to life, sounding nothing like the other cars that I had driven over the last two days or for that matter ever before. I looked at my surroundings and took in the pure theatre of the the GT3RS, including the roll cage, fire extinguisher, Alcantara covered steering wheel and my heart beat increased to the point where it was nearly as loud in my ears as the engine! The Steve McQueen film that helped start my passion for Porsche as a small boy came to mind and the look of concern was soon swapped for a smile, as I thought about engaging the front axle lift and hoped that I could get up the grassy bank in front of me with the RS's semi slick tyres. I needn't have worried and we were soon driving out of the Oulton Park entrance. I have to admit that I was pleased that I had experienced the car as a passenger so many times with Phil before and knew what to expect in terms of the engine sound up to around 2,000 revs. At low revs the car sounds like a racing car and unlike any other car that I have driven. It was another reminder that this car needed to be treated carefully and driven with respect.

Once on the open roads the car came alive and the earlier disconcerting engine sound that was whirring, crashing and banging was replaced with the unmistakable Porsche flat six just like a full on orchestra which just got better and better as I carefully pressed the throttle and made quick progress behind Phil who was now ahead in the Turbo Exclusive.

The journey back to Wilmslow was over all too soon and I was left to reflect on the sensory overload that I had experienced over the last two days as I drove home in my Golf R daily driver, which although very capable, had somewhat lost its appeal slightly as my desire to own another Porsche was reignited.

But which modern day 911 which would I choose if money was no object? If I won the lottery, that would be easy there is no doubt that I would choose all three. It was hard to explain to my long suffering wife Angela why I would want all three, but on reflection it is obvious, whilst all three cars are a Porsche 911, they are also totally different cars for so many different reasons. All of these cars demonstrate and show Porsche character and style from the evolution from that first 356 that came out of a shed in Gmund. Yet all three are some of the most advanced, well thought out and usable sports cars that money can buy.

Something else occurred to me as I sat down with a glass of wine at the end of the second day, Porsche is not just about the cars, it's about the experiences and the people that you meet who share the passion for the brand and its heritage. Fortunately, there really are Porsche cars that are available to suit each of us and our different requirements, dreams and of course budgets. But each and every one of these cars share the same heritage and were built with the passion for driving in mind, that attracts all of us to this brand. Region 5 of the Porsche Club GB did us proud this weekend and I for one had one of the best bank holiday weekends ever. As I come back down to earth, I know which car I am going to aim for. For me it's got to be an Anniversary, I know that it might not be easy to find one and we might have to settle for beans on toast once I have bought one, but that will add to the fun and excitement of chasing my personal Porsche dream. I love the combination of the traditional design and hint of heritage together with the modern day usability and performance that this car has to offer. However, if those lottery numbers come in, well that's another matter...

Finally, many thanks to Region 5 for arranging such a great weekend for all of the members and special thanks to Phil and Nette Graham for trusting me with their beautiful cars and for helping me to reignite my passion for Porsche.

Martin Davis
Region 5