

# The Big Bang

*The club started off with one of its smallest convoys - three cars. Ed and Karen turned up in their newly resprayed Beetle - or was it a completely different Beetle? On the way to Santa Pod we met up with Yanna, Steve Sienna and Willow so our convoy had grown a little.*

If anyone is interested in rally driving then the family camping area on Friday was the place to be. Steve and Yannas busn got stuck in the mud - lovely muddy wheel spins!

It was at this moment in time that the thought occured to us all that we could get stuck, apart from Ian who was zooming around with his big fat tyres. Putting the tents up was no problem as we didn't even need to hammer the pegs into the ground.

It was extreemly cold so it was a good idea for us all to go to the cafe for breakfast. Later Sayed and Dirty Dave - sorry Dave, Nigel, Rachel, Kevin and co turned up. For the ladies most of the evening was spent looking for the appropriate fashion for the Car Wash. It's extremely important to wear the right cloths with that sparkly eye shadow!

All the ladies had a proper girlie night out, dancing round our beer cans. Sayed and Dave also strutted their stuff (I'm not implying that Sayed and Dave are Girlies). I'm not sure if the men can remember the evening with their bottle of Jack Daniels. On ariving back from the Car Wash everyone hung out in Steve and Yanna's bus. At this point Kevin did have some sensation in his legs, but once Kevin had some of the finest Spanish Whisky, the expression legless, steaming and pixxd come to mind. Sayed attempted to walk Kevin back to his tent, or were they doing the funky chicken dance? Kevin ended up falling on top of Sayed, I tried to help Kevin up, I said tried as I was laughing so much.

Everyone soon made their way to their tents - for a peaceful nights sleep - NOT. Kevin started to make what can only be described as animal noises and crawled around out-side. I did contemplate going out to see if anything could be done, but decided not to!

Most of us made our way over to the cafe for another breakfast (apart from Kevin who was on planet hangover). Ed was determined to race his Beetle, and was the only member of the club to do so. At one point Ed was pulled off the track due to an oil leak, but managed to sort everything out and was whizzing down the track again. Something tells me that Ed will be putting in a bigger engine, maybe getting a crash helmet and roll cage - watch this space.

The day was split between watching the racing and sun bathing and getting sun burnt. Kevin spent the day recovering in his van - ahhh! We all had an excellent barbeque, thanks to Dawn for getting some lovely grub and Sayed and Steve for doing the barbees. In the evening we all split up into smaller groups, some went on the dodgeham cars, and other rides. A small group group went dancing,, Sayed and Dave strutted their stuff again. All the men were sampling the Spanish whisky again - quality control obviously.

Sunday started off with heavy rain, but luckily it didn't last long. Again most of us went off for a lovely healthy fried breakfast. There was some confusion as to where the show and shine would be held. The area of grass where it is usually held was so muddy, so the show and shine was on the concrete area adjacent to the club camping area.

Chris and Jo came along to display Hellfire, and Nigel also put his car in for showing. At various points of the morning Ian could be seen twitching. Could it be withdrawal symptoms of not polishing his buggy? Ian gave in and started to help Nigel polish his car, you could see the relief in his face.

Chris won an award - well done, but it wasn't announced what categorie he won. Better luck next time Nigel. Concidering that the Roundabout Club is one of the smaller clubs I think we can be quite proud of the amount of show cars in the club.

After the show and shine we all headed to the cafe for hot drinks to warm ourselves up. The sun decided to come out so we decided to watch some racing, and get more sun burnt in doing so. (you'd think we'd learn).

It was nearing the end of another Big Bang. We got our tents down amazingly quickly, no one got stuck in the mud, well ok so I needed a little assistance to get my wheels moving.

Personally I really enjoyed the weekend and I am looking forward to Bug Jam. Here's to everyone who likes to DRIVE in the land of the good groove! **Emma**



Beetle, 1975, yellow.

I have added the following, new tyres, new upholstery, new carpets, new heated rear window, new clutch, new light clusters and I have had the engine rebuilt. Difficult to know exactly how many miles it has done because the left hand digit of the mileometer turns all the time. Paintwork has beenresprayed within the last two years and it seems to have new wings. It has 12 months MOT. I bought it for my son 12 months ago and we worked on it together. for £2000 for it but am very flexible on price. I will not turn down a reasonable offer. My phones are: **Home 01234 218368 (Bedford), Office 01908 233255 (MK) and Mobile 0850 012523.**

## RED VW BEETLE 1300 S FOR SALE

Interior and exterior in good condition, new battery, some welding needed for mot, stereo and bass box extra if wanted.

**£500.00 Tel: 01908 613221**

## VW Camper Type2

1079 1600cc 4 birth, cooker, Fridge (new) Sink, 56,000 miles valued at £3000

**Happy to accept £2000 Tel: 01442 268939**

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## B.V.f (Malvern)

B.V.F (British Volkswagen Festival) is on the 1st - 2nd July. Its one of the best shows of the year, with great scenery, good camping and of course the Roundabout VW Club! Oh and the weather is generally pretty good as well.

B.V.F is situated in Malvern, Worcestershire. There is camping from the Friday afternoon, but most, if not all of us, will be going early on Saturday morning as it is a fairly long drive with lots of gravel traps (see Carl for avoidance techniques!). Saturday and Sunday are the main days of the show with autojumbles, exhibitions and concours competitions. These are split into three sections...Daily driver concours on the Saturday and Sunday has Concours D'Elegance (stock vehicles) and Custom concours so there are plenty of possibilities for a few trophies for the club.

On the Saturday at around teatime is the traditional, for this show, RundFarht which is a cruise around the town of Malvern by approximately 100 Vee-Dubs. The locals love it and come out to cheer on the convoy as it travels around the streets. Its great fun to do and is an awesome sight.

The evening musical entertainment consists of The Back Beat Beatles and Wave Length Disco.

Anyone interested in going to this show please let me know. We'll be meeting at the Hockey Stadium as usual, meeting at 08.00 to depart at 08.30 giving us plenty of time to get there allowing for mishaps en route (will Carl ever live this down!)

Prices are:-

£7.50 per person for the weekend + £7.00 per unit to camp

We haven't bothered with advanced tickets as you only save 50p on the price. Dawn

## Bug Jam

Its time again for Bug Jam, the biggest show of the year. The dates for your diary are 21st - 23rd July.

As usual we will be ordering advance tickets so please could you let know as soon possible how many you will require, then there will be no last minute rush and everyone will be guaranteed a cheaper ticket.

The highlight of the weekend will be the barbecuing skills of our resident chef Sayed and his co-chef Steve and as we all know the food is always excellent.

The club camping area is full but as with previous Bug Jams we have found that the area isn't really large enough so we'll be camping in the family area (Janne and myself will be hiring out our kids for the weekend)!

Prices for Bug Jam are: Advance weekend-£27.00, Gate weekend-£31.00 Advance Sunday-£12.00, Gate Sunday-£15.00

And as we all know they charge more for non VW's Advance weekend-£31.00, Gate weekend-£35.00

PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE 10th JULY.

Cheques are to be sent to Anto, our treasurer. When you contact me I'll give you her details.

**Contact me, Dawn, on 01908 605831.**



## Dates to come out and play

**Sunday 2nd July**  
The Old Barn From 7pm

**Sat 1st-Sun 2nd July**  
The British VW Festival  
three Counties Showground, Malvern

**Fri 21st-Sun 23rd July**  
Bug Jam, Santapod Raceway

**Sunday 6th August**  
The Old Barn From 7pm

No excuses, mark these dates in big red letters (VW) on your calendar!

## Teddy Bears Picnic

*If you go down in the woods today, You'd better go in disguise. If you go down in the woods today, You're sure of a big surprise. For every VW that ever there was, Is gathered there for certain because, Todays the day the Roundabout Club have their picnic!*

If you fancy a cruise and then a picnic with your mates then read on for further details.

We've planned the event for the 16th July which hopefully doesn't clash with too many holidays and is clear of VW shows. The picnic is to be held at Ashridge. Its only a short drive and is a National Trust area so as you can imagine is very picturesque. There will be plenty of room for playing football, rounders, fris-bies, kite flying etc. All you need to bring along is some food and drink (no barbeque) and some very fine weather.

Departure times are to be confirmed.

## Roundabout VW Club Contacts

Sayed Batt	Chairman	07957 720797	
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Dawn Metcalf	Events Co-ordinator	01908 605831	
Anto Toniolo	Treasurer	01908 571427	
Malcolm Hawkins	Newsletter	01908 609736	malc@roundabout.freeisp.co.uk
	Website	http://www.roundabout.freeisp.co.uk	



# Sandown Park

*Chris had finally got his Beetle back together and was busy cleaning the bottom of it, though why a car that low needs the floor cleaning escapes me. He has spent the last few months cleaning and detailing the underside of his car and polishing the carbs which look great through the clear decklid.*

## Friday

At lunchtime Tim and Kevin arrived at my house in Kevin’s Bus for the start of the long drive down. Chris hadn’t finished polishing his bottom yet and my car is too slow for the motorway so the four intrepid explorers (Tim, Kevin, Rachel and I) had a leisurely journey down along ‘A’ roads. Chris and Jo had left later and made the journey by motorway which when your car is only millimeters off the floor is probably a very good idea. After getting stuck behind a lorry within ten minutes of leaving home I needed to wash the Oval for the third time in a week! Chris and Jo joined Rachel and myself and we had our own little Roundabout car-cleaning corner – very cosy. After the cars had been parked inside and the futile and boring but ultimately rewarding job of polishing had been accomplished, with the aid of a beer delivery from Kevin and Tim (Cheers chaps), we went to the pub (No shock there then). Chris and Jo were staying with Chris’ brother in London and set off for the railway station with a car battery in hand (Don’t worry I’ll explain later). I won’t bore everyone with the details of the excessive drinking and eating because you’ve all been there and seen the mayhem and devastation.

## Saturday

What a civilised way to start the day – a shower and a full cooked breakfast obviously not at the same time because that would wash the tomato sauce off the plate but I think you know what I mean. After we had been fed and hosed down we set off by foot for the show which is only about a fifteen minute walk from the hotel. We arrived just as the doors opened and the heaving masses were admitted to gasp in awe and wonder at the beauty that is my car!!! Well there were a few people waiting and they shuffled through the halls without seeming to take a massive interest in most of the cars.

The club stand consisted of Kevin’s bus and Phil and Lisa’s Beetle which was less than had been planned but you know what they say about the best laid plans.... Carl and Naomi were due down in his ’66 which had

chosen Friday evening to destroy it’s clutch and Emma had decided not to attend. So it was down to us to sell Easter Egg raffle tickets which when you consider the weather and the fact that we hadn’t sold one by 2 o’clock it was decided to raffle both baskets on Sunday. A new feature of the club stand was the flag and pole “acquired” by Kevin that looked superb and is a great way of finding your way back when you are lost and/or stupid.

Now I’m glad somebody mentioned the cars because the ones that spring to mind are:

I think my favourite car of the show was a new one on the scene which was a pale green Fridolin. For those of you that don’t know, the Fridolin was designed and built by Volkswagen for various European post offices in the 60’s and is the original Postman Pat van (10’ long, 5’ wide and 7’ high). This one has been fully restored and has got Porsche ‘gas burner’ wheels and a 2275cc engine in the back. I spoke to one of the people polishing it on Friday afternoon and asked about the speed and was told “Well I was doing about 105 on the way down and he was leaving me behind”. I think you get the idea about how mad this thing is.

For those of you with long memories there was a superb piece of VW nostalgia – Billabug was back. I last saw this car at Santa Pod about 5 years ago and it was looking very tatty but now it is back to its previous superb best. This car is totally deseamed, no door handles, the ‘B’ pillars removed and the wildest surf inspired interior you will ever see. When Billabug first appeared it took show cars to a new level of detail and finish and even now it doesn’t look out of place amongst the modern show cars.

Wizard had dusted off and polished up their pale green demonstrator which uses Mercedes lights in the front wings and highly polished modern alloy wheels and had got that on display in the main hall. This car is another flawless machine which really does show what can be achieved with one of Wizard’s fiberglass kits, a lot of hard work and some imagination.

It’s amazing, you’ve never even see one and then like busses two Type 3 Karmann Ghia drag race cars come along. Both of them had full tube chassis’ but one had the engine in the front and the other was in the rear but slightly further forward than VW intended. They should both be ready to start doing battle later this year and will make for an interesting sight and hopefully some good times.

In the hall downstairs there was another half finished drag car this time it was a genuine 1952 split window Beetle complete with Crutch Cooler vents in the front quarter pan-

els. They were called Crutch Coolers because when opened they delivered a blast of freezing cold air to that delicate area of the anatomy. This car has a full Hauser Race Cars tube chassis and the best of everything that money can buy, the amount of money that has been thrown at this car must be truly frightening but it looks superb and should go like a rocket. Upstairs was a half finished Split Screen Crew-cab van which was painted the same colour as the 1952 beetle and was being prepared with the same attention to detail and disregard for money. This van is destined to be the crew bus for the 1952 drag car and they will make a truly awesome sight and hopefully sound at the various meetings.

Chris had got his car in the hall upstairs and managed to draw the largest crowd at the show by playing with his big toy in public again. All of his hard work had really paid off as his car was really gleaming and looked fantastic. I don’t know how serious he was but he claims to be getting bored with it and is itching for a new project – lower, wider, louder, shinier? The showing off also explains the car battery which was removed every evening to get a recharge back at Chris’ brothers.

In the hall downstairs there were a Karmann Ghia and a 70’s Beetle wearing BRM’s which are intended to be used on the new Beetle. Whereas the old Beetle ran on 15” wheels (Yes OK splits used 16” wheels) these new wheels are 17” and completely filled the arches on both cars and gave the Ghia an almost ‘Touring Car’ look.

In the ground floor hall was a ’52 split which had been given the full-on custom look in the 70’s and used to be owned by none other than the editor of this very journal. Yes after selling the car many many years ago and thinking that it must have gone to the great swap meet in the sky it is back. When Malc owned it the paint was yellow and now it’s black, the rear side windows had been paneled in and now they aren’t and the interior has now been Bernard Newburyed but it is the same car. What a blast from the past!

Chris and Jo arrived from London at about lunchtime which was just in time to see Tim, Rachel and myself leave for the short walk up into Esher to go to the pub cash machine. While we were in the town the heavens opened and we were forced to take shelter in the nearest building which to our complete shock and dismay happened to be a Public House. So soon after the rain had stopped and we had finished our drinks and food we staggered back towards Sandown and the club-stand. Kevin had been doing a superb job looking after everything while the winos were in the pub (That’s Tim and Rachel I just

went along to look after them). Phil and Lisa had arrived at the crack of someone who looks like Dawn and had been patiently sheltering from the frequent rain showers in their car. At around 4pm with no obvious change in the weather in sight they headed for home with a vague promise to return in the morning and once more it was down to the Fabulous Four.

Saturday night once more descended into a blur of food and alcohol and a good time was had by all. Rachel and myself wandered off for our five minute walk to our hotel which would have taken longer but Rachel almost carried me back and Kevin and Tim had a long walk under the moonlight. Forty Five Minutes, so much for the hotel telling Dawn that they were in walking distance!!!!!!!

## Sunday

Sunday started pretty much the same as Saturday but only that it was an hour earlier. That really helps the hangover - I don’t think!!!!! Anyway we arrived at Sandown Park at about 10am again and made our triumphant entrance into the showground. What should greet us but the thronging hoards of the Roundabout VW Club, well a couple of extra cars and everyone on walkabout anyway. Kevin and Tim were very late arriving due to a totally unreasonable ransom demand by the hotel where they were staying for the payment of someone else’s hotel bill which they quite rightly refused. This has been the cause of Dawn’s fully understandable comment of “In future I’ll get the hotel names and you can book your own rooms!” Anyway the club numbers had swelled to include Carl and Naomi, Malc, Geni and Sam, Ian, Dawn and Steven, Sayed, Steve, Janne, Sienna and Willow so with the six weekenders we had quite a good turnout. Carl’s rather lovely little Red ’66 and Steve’s Westfalia had joined Kevin’s bus on the club stand. Dawn soon moved into full-on bully mode and was forcing raffle tickets on anyone who breathed. The day continued much as the Saturday with the order of business being walking around the show buying things, looking at things, eating things and drinking things (Is this getting repetitive?). Before we knew what was happening my mobile rang while I was in the pub library to say that the prize giving was underway and I had better get back just in case. All I am going to say about the prize giving is if they had told me they already knew who the winners were going to be I wouldn’t have bothered going. The car that won best paint was a basket case, the paint was chipped, there was rust bubbling up and you could see where the paint had faded around the decklid. Most of the prizes I can’t argue with because the cars were superb but that just

took the biscuit. So with a slight grumble or two all that was left to do was load up and get out little convoy on the road. Geni and Sam had already left so the remainder assembled at the Petrol Station and we were off. Well some of us were and some were still filling up. Oops so we stopped just round the corner with me leading as my car is so pathetically slow. And then we’re off again. This time we manage to get just under the M3 before we notice that Chris wasn’t there anymore - now how the hell car you loose a car that obvious? We all pull into a bus stop and wait, no sign of him so Ian goes back to find him. We discover that Kevin’s bus is losing oil like only a Volkswagen can out of one of the rocker covers so Sayed does a quick repair job by the side of the road. Ian returns but still without Chris who hasn’t got a mobile so we have no way of knowing where he’s gone so we push on. Everyone heads home on the M25 except me and I head back once more by A roads for a return trip the same as the way down. For everyone else the M25 is moving for once and they all keep up a nice steady 70mph and they are soon back on the M1. As the convoy passes the Hemel Hempstead turning Malc thinks “Oh look there’s a Beetle coming down the slip road. That doesn’t half look like Chris. Well b\*\$\$\_r me it is Chris”. Which just goes to show that you can run from the Roundabout VW Club but you can’t hide!

## And that ends the story of the Great Sandown Park Adventure.

Sorry one last thing. I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of the whole club to Ian and Dawn who once again have managed to arrange everything against all odds and apathy. Without Dawn’s organisation and Ian’s enthusiasm I really think we wouldn’t even have a club let alone a club that has a presence that belies it’s small size.

