

AUCTIONS

All the news, reviews and latest prices from the auction houses of the UK and beyond...



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Conventional auctions by Classics Central at the Autodrome in Bedfordshire and by H&H at Donington Park in the East Midlands are reviewed and compared with Berlinetta's entirely new concept of classics being viewed in Oxfordshire and auctioned only on the internet

REVIEW: CLASSICS CENTRAL, BEDFORD AUTODROME, MAY 15

An Alfa Romeo 1600 Sprint GT on steroids seeking some event-action vied with a fast Ford Sierra RS Sapphire to headline at the Bedford Autodrome unit, where Classics Central held its summer sale in appropriately summery sunshine on a Sunday afternoon, shifting 60 per cent of the 73 post-1959 cars entered and selling 42 of them for £330,523 with premium.

The £20,075 handed over for a virtually unused Honda Z600 of 1974 vintage has to be some sort of a record on this side of the Rising Sun. Indeed the auctioneer described the tiny Honda's result as a world record in its post-sale coverage. The Z600 was not alone in this

regard as the £29,700 performance of a 1990 Ford Sierra RS Sapphire Cosworth and the £28,600 result of a 1996 BMW E31 850CSi M were also, according to Classics Central, world record prices.

Meanwhile the £14,520 valuation by the buyer of a 1976 Triumph Stag automatic with hard-top and a photo-recorded restoration does not happen every weekend either. The £14,575 and £11,660 paid in Bedfordshire for a pair of 1979 Mercedes-Benz 230C W123s were market-notable performances too.

Classics Central's next sale will take place on Sunday, July 31.



'Showroom fresh' following its perseverance as a result of it being displayed in an Irish museum, this 1974 Honda Z600 with plastic covers still on the door cards and 705 total mileage came to market in the Bedford Autodrome to sell for £20,075.



Said to be a running and driving this BL 1971 Mini Cooper 1275S was however in tired looking cosmetic condition and was more than ripe for a full makeover. Even so the project status S was taken on for £11,825.



The top-selling 1966 Alfa Romeo 1600 Sprint GT 'GTA Evocation' justified its front of rostrum parking with a sale results-topping £31,850 premium-inclusive performance under the gavel of Classics Central boss Justin Lazic.



After reportedly being driven 66,000 miles by three owners, this 1990 Renault 5 GT Turbo on its original alloy wheels had freshened paintwork, but an unkempt engine bay. Much viewed on the day, this Gallic hot hatch realised £6050.

CARS SOLD: CLASSICS CENTRAL

Where a vendor's reserve was met or exceeded, or where a 'provisional bid' was subsequently converted into a sale, successful bidders were charged a 10 per cent buyers' premium (subject to 20 per cent VAT) on the final hammer price bid. Among 42 classics to successfully cross the Classics Central block were the following vehicles:

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	£/SOLD
1986	AUSTIN MAESTRO VANDEN PLAS CAT C SALOON	1100
1996	BENTLEY BROOKLANDS AUTO SALOON	12,100
1995	BMW E36 ALPINA B3 5.5 V12 SIX-SPEED COUPÉ	5500
1996	BMW 850 CSI E31 MANUAL COUPÉ	28,600
1995	DAIMLER DOUBLE SIX X305 AUTO SALOON	3025
1970	FORD CORSAIR ABBOTT ESTATE	6930
1964	JAGUAR MkX 3.8 AUTO SALOON	9130
1989	JAGUAR XJS 5.3 V12 AUTO CONVERTIBLE	11,550
1979	MERCEDES-BENZ 280C W123 AUTO COUPÉ	14,575
1979	MERCEDES-BENZ 230C W123 AUTO COUPÉ	11,660
1984	MERCEDES-BENZ 200T W123 MANUAL ESTATE	2118
1987	MERCEDES-BENZ 260E W124 AUTO SALOON	3740
1997	MERCEDES-BENZ E220 W124 AUTO CABRIOLET	7700
1998	MERCEDES-BENZ S320 W140 AUTO SALOON	2860
2003	MERCEDES-BENZ CLK500 A209 ROADSTER	5610
1979	MG MIDGET 1500 SPORTS	2750
2001	MGF 1.8 FIVE-SPEED CONVERTIBLE	1705

1979	ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER WRAITH AUTO SALOON	4840
1988	MINI CITY E AUTO SALOON	1375
1964	SUNBEAM ALPINE GT SERIES V CONVERTIBLE	11,550
1976	TRIUMPH STAG AUTO HARD-TOP ROADSTER	14,520
1977	TRIUMPH 2500S MANUAL SALOON	5335
1991	VW GOLF GTI EIGHT-VALVE SALOON	3025



Only subjected to 29,900 depreciating miles from new in 1990, and therefore a late production Ford Sierra RS Sapphire Cosworth with two-wheel drive, cost its new buyer £29,700 on a Sunday afternoon in Bedfordshire.



The cheapest lot on the Classics Central lot this time was a home market 1968 MkIII 1.3-litre Triumph Spitfire. Rolling and steering, but surface-rust aplenty, this project was wisely auctioned without reserve and was bravely rescued for £330.