



Council **News**

3/11

BMW Clubs International Council Newsletter

VETERANEN-CLUB CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF THE BMW 328



**75 YEARS OF THE
BMW 328**

The birthday of a legend

BMW BIKE FEST

Oudtshoorn, South Africa

IC BOARD MEMBERS

on tour in Europe

Dear BMW Club Members,

This year the BMW Clubs International Council celebrates its 30th anniversary. The original idea of founding an umbrella organisation for the BMW Clubs goes back to the year 1979. The initiator on behalf of BMW was Dr Horst Avenarius, head of the BMW press department at the time. The first meeting was held in Vienna in 1981. In this phase the aim was to establish channels of communication, set down procedural principles and vote for office holders. These procedural principles gradually developed into the Council's statutes, still valid to this day with some slight changes. Even back then, importance was attached to the organisation's international orientation. Representatives from the USA, Canada, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia and of course Germany all took part. Dr Reiner Jodjohn was voted Chairman of the Council, with Keith Dempster as his deputy. Two years later, in 1983, Peter Samuelson from the UK took over the chairmanship. Christian Eich attended the Council Meeting as a guest speaker.



Over the years, processes have become well-established and the club structures have become consolidated. From the very beginning, communication was especially important to both BMW and the clubs. This was no simple matter in the days before Internet and e-mail, though it is still something that occupies us today despite technological advances. The website, e-mail newsletter and the Council News, which comes out four times a year in PDF format, have become well established and are very popular.

There are now official BMW Clubs on all continents of the world (apart from Antarctica), and these cover all the relevant markets. The club community now consists of some 200,000 members! But there still seems to be enormous growth potential in Asia in particular, for example China and India. So I expect to see the club community continue to grow in future, with increasing networking via the new media. BMW Classic will continue to support this powerful community, with its commitment to cultivating the brand and its products. For example, we finance the BMW Clubs International Office on the premises of BMW Classic, as well as supporting and organising Council meetings and maintaining close contact with the clubs. We are currently extending our services and our spare parts supply operations, helping to keep historical BMW vehicles in running order in this way. The fleet of historical BMWs is certain to grow as the years go by – and we are prepared for this. So we are very pleased to be able to go on sharing our enthusiasm for the brand with the BMW Clubs in the future.

Best regards,

Karl Baumer

Head of BMW Group Classic, BMW Museum and BMW Welt

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Photo: Stefan Bordt

THE BIRTHDAY OF A LEGEND

Stefan Bordt, editor of the BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e.V.

42 BMW 328 from 8 countries took up the invitation of the BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the legendary BMW 328 from June 17th – 19th in Munich.

FRIDAY, 17.06.2011:

In gorgeous summer weather, participants arrive at the Leonardo Hotel near the BMW plant in Milbertshofen. In addition to serial production roadsters there is also a 328 with a Wendler body, a Frazer Nash 328, the rare König-Fachsenfeld streamline 328 and a rare Veritas RS. In spite of their age, it goes without saying that most of the BMW 328 were driven to Munich by their owners, even though this involved a trip of 640 kilometres for the Flaismanns from the Czech Republic, for example.

SATURDAY, 18.06.2011:

8:15 am. The growl and roar of BMW in-line 6-cylinder engines being started, arising from the depths of the underground hotel parking lot, entices more and more guests away from the generous breakfast buffet and out to the hotel forecourt.

Dr Lange provides participants with fresh pretzels to keep them going on the journey, and then we leave Munich via the motorway heading towards Herrsching. Unfortunately, the weather god turns out to be a stickler for authenticity and sends the roadster teams the very same rain that soaked Ernst Henne 75 years ago during his training runs.

After leaving the motorway, the route winds its way through a magnificent natural setting, past the picturesque Lake Ammersee and gently rolling hills, and through thick pine forests towards Penzberg.

Tranquil villages pop up along the way with richly decorated gabled houses, delightful onion-shaped domes, inviting country pubs and tiny village shops. On quiet side roads and virtually without a modern car in sight, the BMW 328 roadsters roar unerringly through the spray of the rain towards an impressive Alpine backdrop.

A real high-point is the former Kesselberg race track with its numerous bends which runs for nine kilometres from Kochel am See to Urfeld on Lake Walchensee, with an elevation gain of 240 metres up to the pass road.

Positioned at one of the many lookout points, I wait with Rüdiger Jopp for the approaching BMW 328 roadsters whose wonderful roars and growls can be heard round the many bends long before they appear in the viewfinder of the digital camera. In spite of the stately speeds, there is

nonetheless a touch of the racing atmosphere of the legendary Nürburgring race of 1936 in the air during these moments, warming the cockles of one's heart despite the cool temperatures and ultimately bringing the myth of the BMW 328 to life.

Passing through the Werdenfeller Land – also known as the “Golden Land” – we gradually approach a truly picture-book Alpine landscape as we head for Krün. In the family-managed Alpine guesthouse at Lake Barmsee, participants enjoy a delicious lunch while taking in the impressive panoramic view over the car park – with 42 parked BMW 328 surrounded by forested slopes, and with the snow-covered Zugspitz Massif and Wetterstein Mountains towering majestically in the background.

From there the trip continues for a few kilometres before we take a private toll road along the green shimmering Lake Walchensee set against an exquisite mountain backdrop. In spite of the heavy rain that now sets in, some of the BMW 328 teams continue to drive with their tops down in authentic style, their good mood and functional clothing in utter defiance of the inclement weather. Selected by Dr Lange with his excellent knowledge of the area, the route then continues via Arzbach through the peaceful, unspoilt natural setting of the Bavarian highlands, past blossoming Alpine meadows and a perfect rural idyll to Bad Tölz.



Photo: Stefan Bordt

In Dietramszell a visit is recommended to the historical monastery church dating back to the 18th century. Leaving behind us the splendid Alpine scenery of Upper Bavaria with its mountains, lakes, churches, monasteries, towns and villages, we head back towards Unterhaching and Munich.

It is now time for a further highlight: a visit to the Allianz Arena, opened in 2005, where we are also given a peak behind the scenes in those areas otherwise reserved for the professional footballers of the Munich clubs Bayern Munich and TSV 1860. Drinks and culinary delicacies are served in the elegant VIP lounge. Although some of the teams in their open-top BMW 328 got soaked through and some hairstyles suffered accordingly, everyone is in a great mood. Even the rain, which unfortunately came down rather heavily at times, was not able to tarnish the pleasure of driving a BMW 328 over a beautiful stretch of 230 kilometres through the delightful Alpine foothills. We then head back to the Leonardo Hotel.

For the gala evening, BMW Classic has invited us to the BMW Museum. Tables are set festively on the lower level, which we reach via the rotunda. Especially for this occasion, BMW

Classic has placed alongside the BMW 328 the "BMW 328 Homage", first presented last spring at the Villa d' Este. Dr Ralf Rodepeter, head of the BMW Museum and a participant in the excursion with the BMW 328 Mille Miglia Kamm-Coupé (replica), expresses his sincere thanks to the BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland, in particular Rüdiger Jopp and Dr Karlheinz Lange, for organising the highly successful anniversary event "75 years of the BMW 328".

After BMW Classic declined, the two took on responsibility for organising the event themselves, otherwise it would never have happened

and that would really have been a great shame! With a three-course meal of culinary perfection and select drinks, a truly enjoyable evening in the unique setting of the BMW Museum comes to a close far too quickly. As at every meeting of the BMW Veteranen-Club, the evening is simply continued with relaxed conversation at the hotel bar.

SUNDAY, 19.06.2011:

On Sunday morning all 42 BMW 328 gather once more for a photo shoot in front of the BMW Museum before finally heading home.



Photo: BMW AG

BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e.V.:
Sheer driving pleasure – meeting friends and enjoying life
www.bmw-veteranenclub.de



Photo: BMW AG

BMW CLUB HAINAUT-BRABANT ASBL VISITS MUNICH: A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEART OF BMW

Christophe Theatre, president of the BMW Club Hainaut-Brabant ASBL

BMW Club Hainaut Brabant asbl is one of the French-speaking BMW car clubs in Belgium and a full member of the BMW Clubs Belgium Federation. It is a small club with only a few members, but with a strong passion for the beloved "Propeller Brand". For many years, the club had planned to organise a trip to Munich to visit all the famous BMW landmarks that are a must-see for any BMW fan.

The first preparations therefore started to take shape back in January, mid-April being considered as the ideal travel period. We managed to gather a team of thirteen enthusiastic folks to enjoy the event – and no, we are not superstitious at all.

It was clear that the programme had to include a tour of all the main points of interest: BMW Classic, the new BMW Museum, the BMW Welt, BMW M and the BMW Munich Plant. Admittedly, it was the team of the BMW Clubs International Office that made it all happen for us at short notice.

And all our wishes were fulfilled! Unfortunately, our tight schedule didn't allow for a tour of the BMW Munich plant, but we had the superb opportunity to visit the plant in Dingolfing instead (after an early morning wake-up call). This turned out to be a fantastic experience.

BMW Classic and the BMW Museum are both home to an astonishing number of magnificent gems. We took so many pictures, I stopped counting after 5,000.

All members also enjoyed a visit to the town centre to sample Bavarian food and drinks. Everyone reveled in the unique ambiance and local architecture, and appreciated the comfortable hotels we discovered. To round off our agenda, we also paid a brief visit to the sister brand ALPINA in Buchloe. As we were in the neighbourhood, this was an opportunity not to be missed!

The number thirteen (which is the number of participating members), mostly known in Belgium as an unlucky number, sometimes turns out to be a lucky one after all: although it was a bit chilly at times, we enjoyed sunshine for almost our entire trip.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the BMW Clubs International Office and all our hosts for their dedication and passion which made this event a great success.



Our excited members at the BMW M Studio.

Facts and figures:

Date of foundation: 1997

Number of members: 47

Type: Car club (all models/ages)

Website: www.bmwclubhainaut.com



RECORD BREAKERS!

Jeff Heywood, chairman of the BMW Car Club Great Britain

Record crowds flocked to the Heritage Motor Centre, in Warwickshire, England, for the BMW Car Club's 2011 National Festival, for the first time held over two-days on 13th and 14th August. The Festival always has a theme – this year we were celebrating the 50th birthday of the BMW Neue Klasse cars and the 25th birthday of the legendary BMW E30 M3.

The fun started on Saturday 13th when the club held its National Concours Competition. The standard and number of cars entered were amazing; over 50 cars gleaming in the sun with paintwork polished and polished until it resembled glass! Saturday also saw the Club reproduce the famous 'M' photograph originally taken from the BMW AG Four Cylinders Building in Munich of 66 BMW E30 M3. We also managed to assemble 66 BMW E30 M3 for the photo shoot and seeing as we had no Four Cylinders Building to take photos from, we hired a light aircraft to fly over and take a number of photos of the assembled 'M' – an amazing sight and something that will probably never be repeated again.



The event was blessed with warm sunshine all weekend and Sunday dawned bright and warm as we made an early start in readiness for the crowds to arrive. The Festival opens to the public from 10:00 am, with all display cars already in position. This year saw amazing displays of Neue Klasse cars; BMW 1600, 1800, 2000 + 2002s and a stunning line up of BMW E30 M3; M Power was also well supported with a massive display of BMW M Power cars and, not to be outdone, the Club's Z Register also

organised an amazing display. There were also wonderful displays from the BMW E21, E24, E30, E31 Registers as well as a superb collection of Alpina models from the Alpina Register and some beautiful modern classics in the Classic Register gathering, with some stunning BMW E9 CS' on display including a couple of CSL Batmobiles ...

BMW Classic provided extensive support and a stunning selection of cars, and they were rivalled by show sponsors 'Munich Legends', a well-known BMW garage in England that specialises in selling classic BMW. At their stand stood an immaculate BMW E30 M3 DTM car and some amazing 'M' cars including a beautiful BMW M1.

10:00 am arrived and the show cars were all in place, marshals were at the ready and the gates opened to the public. By 11:00 am the Heritage Motor Centre (HMC) Director informed us that the visitor car parks were already full; cars were now directed to the overflow car parks. By 12:00 noon the overflow car parks were full and they were using the parking facilities at Aston Martin next door... Aston Martin? Yes, they are based next door

and we have access to their test track, with laps available to club members driving their own cars – a real thrill.

BMW UK kindly arranged for BMW Motorsport driver Andy Priaux to be our official guest at the event, and the European Touring Car Champion and triple World Touring Car Champion happily chatted

to the crowds, signing autographs and posing for photographs before taking one lucky club member for the ride of his life around the Aston Martin Test Track in an X6 M!!

The show closed at 4:00 pm and all records were broken. Over 3,000 cars and 4,500 visitors to the event made this year's 'National Festival' the largest BMW festival in the world – please come and visit the 2012 Festival when the BMW Car Club GB celebrates its 60th birthday!

BMW CAR CLUB GB NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2011

BAVARIA TOUR 2011

Andy Andexer, BMW 02 Club e.V.

The moment finally came in 1961 – BMW AG presented a completely new type of automobile at the IAA in Frankfurt – the BMW 1500, the very first “NEW CLASS AUTOMOBILE”.

While at the BAVARIA TOUR in 2002 reference was made to the fact that it was in the “year that was named after a BMW”, in 2006 the 40th anniversary of the BMW 1600-2 was the occasion for the second BAVARIA TOUR. This year it is the 50th anniversary of the BMW 1500, and therefore an anniversary for all NEW CLASS cars, providing the occasion for the BMW 02 Club e.V. to organise the third BAVARIA TOUR.

In a time in which classic car events vie for participants every week, it is nice to know that the BAVARIA TOUR with some 300 BMW NEW CLASS cars from approx. 18 countries remains a regular event, traditionally held on the long weekend around Corpus Christi.

This might be due to the fact that sufficient time passes between each tour to allow the anticipation of driving pleasure to grow.

It might also be due to the day tours: two trips, on Thursday and Saturday, covering approx. 200 km of attractive routes throughout the German and Austrian Alps. The cars climb steep mountain passes, pass through idyllic villages, valleys and paths and coast along ice-cold lakes. En route everyone stops for snacks and lunch in magnificent settings such as the Ahornboden at the foot of the Karwendel mountains or at an altitude of over 2000 metres in the Kühtai area of Tyrol. Questions on the local people and culture as well as automobile history, including that of BMW, keep all 300 teams on their toes, without having to plague them with set times or huge stages.

Or it might just be that a visit to “Mother BMW” is simply a must. Traditionally, the Friday is “BMW Day”.



BMW NEW CLASS



Line-up in front of the Schleissheim New Palace.



En route through idyllic valleys ...



... with stops for snacks ...



... and a visit to "Mother BMW".

After the Olympia Centre in 2002 and the Oktoberfest in 2006, in 2011 it was the New Palace in Oberschleissheim which provided the backdrop for the approx. 300 NEW CLASS cars. From here there was a bus transfer to visit the BMW Classic collection, then we continued on foot to the aircraft department of the Deutsches Museum and into the palace. Some 70 teams drove their classic vehicles to the line-up outside the BMW "Four Cylinders" headquarters building, then going on to visit the BMW Museum and BMW Welt.

But it might also be because the BAVARIA TOUR makes every effort to address the individual needs of NEW CLASS enthusiasts. The group is not limited by barriers of social class. So it is helpful that the traditional tour venue Oberammergau has something to offer for everyone, from 5-star hotel to campsite, as well the inviting festival hall at Ammergauer Haus for the evening events. Here, Volker Neuroth and his team did an excellent job with the catering this time around.

The versatile band "Dreisam" provided the music, supported by a live performance by the Goasslschnalzer from Peiting.

It is this perfect blend which makes the BAVARIA TOUR such a great family meet-up for enthusiasts. About 75 % of the teams have attended before, coming from almost all European countries and overseas – with some who even attended the event for the third time. On the Sunday participants meet for the traditional farewell at Ammergauer Haus before teams set off home again. The organising team has brief moment for reflection ... was everyone happy, did they get what they were expecting? Were there any unpleasant incidents – even accidents? Did everyone get back home safely?

There have been no serious "complaints" to date anyway ... Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the success of the BAVARIA TOUR 2011.



f.l.t.r.: Ian Branston, Kati Hockner, David de Bruyn, Peter Nettesheim and Andrea Sommer.

BMW MOTORRAD DAYS

Ian Branston, chairman of the BMW Clubs International Council

Now in its 11th year, the BMW Motorrad Days took place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in southern Bavaria. In the last ten years crowds of up to 30,000 have descended on the site to enjoy everything there is about BMW Motorcycles. To better understand this gathering, it was decided the International Council would have a more formal presence in 2011 and, to this end, David de Bruyn (VC Motorcycles), Ulrich Arendts (BMW Classic) as well as Kati Hockner and Andrea Sommer (BMW Clubs International Office) and I joined thousands of others and headed south of Munich.

For myself, I had no idea what to expect. I am definitely a four-wheel enthusiast (although I still hold a valid motorcycle licence from my

What an experience. It really was an eye opener in that I had no idea there was so much “stuff” you could buy for a motorcycle. People, who know me, know that I like a bit a retail therapy when it comes to car “stuff” but this must have been heaven for motorcycle enthusiasts. To top it all off, Chris Pfeiffer was doing unbelievable things on an BMW F800R and just to see him perform was worth the trip.

There was also a serious side to our presence at the event and we spent the best part of three days meeting people from across Europe and around the world including South Africa, Australia, the US and even 6 club members from Malaysia who rode from Istanbul especially for the event.

We also met Peter Nettesheim who many will know has an incredible collection in New York. He is a genuinely nice person and more than willing to talk about anything motorcycle related.

From the Council's

perspective, being there was a great idea. So great in fact, we are seriously considering how BMW Clubs can be better represented at the event – bearing in mind it is, after all, a BMW Motorrad weekend and not a club meeting.

Thanks to everyone who called in to the BMW Classic tent to say hello. Thanks also to Ulrich and the team in the BMW Clubs International Council Office who made our arrangements. Don't take my word for it. Plan on being there next year – we are. If you do attend, don't forget to buy an event lapel pin – you never know what might happen.



younger days) and the thought of 30,000 bikers was a little daunting. Unperturbed, in the BMW X5 supplied by BMW Classic, we headed off down the autobahn to meet David and his wife Rita at the venue. True to form, David had chosen to travel on two wheels. My first jaw-dropping moment was about 10 seconds after we arrived. The scale of this enterprise just blew me away. There were motorcycles everywhere, along with rows and rows of trade tents. Add to that the massive BMW Motorrad presence, a huge beer tent and you start to get the picture. And to that, add thousands of people, all dressed in biker battle gear (I was told it was wet weather gear) and I knew I was experiencing something special.



Reunion with the BCE Board: f.l.t.r.: Predrag Trkulja, David de Bruyn, Harald Flecker, Sabine Benz and Ian Branston.



47TH BMW CLUBS EUROPA MEETING 2011 IN MAYRHOFEN/AUSTRIA

Ian Branston, chairman of the BMW Clubs International Council

After the excitement of the BMW Motorrad Days, what could be a better way of spending a few days than with 400 or so club members at the 47th BMW Clubs Europa Meeting in Mayrhofen, Austria?

The Council was formally represented at this event and once again we headed south from Munich. David de Bruyn and his wife Rita headed off on two wheels to see what more the Bavarian Alps could offer by way of truly unbelievable touring roads. Meanwhile, Kati Hockner from the BMW Clubs International Office in Munich and myself, suitably armed with a fully loaded black BMW 530d Touring, also took to the roads to find whatever mountain passes laid between Munich and Mayrhofen. Suffice to say, when we met later in the day in Mayrhofen, the first topic of conversation was the drive/ride to get there. Mayrhofen was a wonderfully picturesque setting for the meeting and after unloading suitcases into the hotel, we then headed to the Europahaus to set up the club stand in the exhibition hall. The hardest part when we were setting up was concentrating on the task. The major cause of distraction was the sleek lines and bulging guards of the BMW 1 Series M Coupe sitting just in front of our stand.

After completing this task to Kati's satisfaction, it was time to explore the streets of Mayrhofen. This was an experience in itself since every few minutes Kati would recognise someone from somewhere, and that set the scene for the rest of the weekend. Suffice to say, meeting people from different clubs was truly unforgettable.

It is my long-held view that it is people who make up clubs, not machinery. BMW are only the common bond. With Kati assisting with interpreting when required I was able to chat with many people. My lasting impression, having now attended club meetings in many countries, is that these club events are one of my favourite pastime activities. From my perspective the weekend went off without a hitch. We all had the chance to see Chris Pfeiffer perform his magic and the weather was kind for the tours and surrounding activities. While the numbers were not massive, the range and quality of motorcycles and cars on show for judging was impressive. During the day many members took the opportunity to explore the lovely countryside either informally or while attempting the Riddle Rally. At night time the whole group came together. On the first night, a less formal outdoor setting allowed for some hilarious games including tug of war, milking a cow and sawing timber. The final night was more formal, with great food and amazing entertainment – and this was all topped off with the special unveiling of the BMW 6 Series Coupe.

These events do not just happen and the hard work of Harald Flecker and the team was appreciated by all. The support of BMW Austria also helped make the meeting special. From the Council's perspective it was gratifying to see the great relationship between BMW Austria and the Austrian clubs as well members from clubs across Europe getting together and enjoying themselves and their BMW. And they were right. There are no kangaroos in Austria.





OUTDSHOORN, SOUTH AFRICA

David de Bruyn, member of the BMW Clubs Africa organising committee for the Bike Fest



Photo: Nickie Vrijen

On 22nd April, Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo (small Karoo) for the second year opened its doors for about 700 participants who arrived on their Bavarian steeds from Canada, Hong Kong, Portugal, Namibia, Swaziland and all the provinces of South Africa to experience the best that the Klein Karoo has to offer.

Registration, the beer garden, the bar and the marque tent were hosted by Kleinplaas Holiday Resort, which also provided accommodation together with local B&Bs and hotels.

Part of the welcoming committee were some ostriches, which made for an excellent photo opportunity!

Saturday evening Jovan and Thelma rocked the big tent where 700 riders enjoyed a wide choice of meals provided by the local farmer market stall owners, which was complimented excellently by the delicious wines from the Oudtshoorn vineyards.

The highlight of the evening came when Rob Holder from BMW Motorrad unveiled the new six cylinder K 1600 GTL



Photo: David de Bruyn

Representing the BMW Motorcycle Clubs in South Africa and Namibia the chairs of the clubs were all present – from left to right: Nico Martins, BMW MCC Central, Harald Preschel, BMW MCC Namibia, Warren Ellwood, BMW MCC Cape, Gillian Jones, BMW MCC Eastern Cape, Dani du Preez, BMW MCC Pretoria, Allen Bullard, BMW MCC Durban and President of BMW Clubs Africa



Our own GS Trophy hero Roger Kane-Berman and his fiancée Janine De Froberville.

Bike traffic jam at Attakwas Pass.



Photo: Kevin Wakeley-Smith



Photo: James Bigby



Photo: Raymond Botha

flagship. For a very long time, the bike was the center of attention as there was such a throng of people crowding around the magnificent machine. A big wine bottle was donated and raffled off by Wymoth Palmer-Pilgrim, as part of collecting money for charity. The BMW Clubs Africa, the organisers of the event, also donated R 50,000 to local charities. Popular as a spectator event was the slow riding race and riding skills competition – it also attracted quite a few participants. Sunday Evening was summarised by Howard Stafford from Bike SA magazine as follows “That evening was a monster braai (barbeque) at the site with enough vleis (meat) and slaai (salad) to feed an army.” A final word from the organisers: “we would like to thank all who attended the BMW Bike Fest 2011 – especially for your efforts to travel to Oudtshoorn and contributing to making it a great weekend. We appreciate your support and encouragement. It was fantastic to see some old friends and make many new ones. We hope you had a good time experiencing the great routes with your wonderful Bavarian beauties.”

Popular as a spectator event was the slow riding race and riding skills competition – it also attracted quite a few participants.



Photo: David de Bruyn

Slow Race competitors.



Photo: David de Bruyn

Slow Race winners.

GREAT SUMMER EVENT AND EXCLUSIVE BMW M3 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH M GMBH

Volker Skwiercz, publisher and editor M magazine of the BMW M Drivers Club



The “M Race Day” was once again the high point in the event calendar of the BMW M Drivers Club.

“A really great summer event: lots of participants, 30 vehicles in the starting line-up, a new hotel (Sheraton Hotel Jagdhof, situated right on Lake Fuschlsee), entertaining shop talk at the hotel bar – we were in top gear all the way,” said Dr Martin Küster.

First of all there was a visit on the Friday afternoon to the BMW M Studio in Munich where M GmbH provided informative details on M history: from the BMW M1 to the BMW M3 E30 and the fastest pick-up in the world (BMW M3 pick-up).

To celebrate the anniversary event “25 Years of BMW M3 at the Salzburgring”, there were several M rarities to be seen (BMW E30 as a convertible) in addition to the current models such as the BMW M3 GTS and the 570 bhp model by G-Power (M3 SK II, also in use as a race taxi).

Instructors Tom Schwister and “Junior” Nico Bastians thrilled spectators when they turned up the speed just as the rain set in ...



M RACE DAY AT THE SALZBURGRING



BMW M CLUB CHINA, THE SPIRIT OF M

Louis Yang, president of the BMW M Club China

The BMW M Club China is a non-profit ‘car owners’ club which was founded in August 2009 only for owners of M series models. Until July 2011, it already had more than 500 members throughout China. We consider it an honour that it has been officially approved and globally recognised by the BMW M Drivers Club, under the umbrella of the BMW Clubs International Council, only two years after it was first established.

In 2009, Louis Yang and Andy Jin became two of the first lucky owners of a BMW E92 M3 in China. They first met on an automobile forum and had been in contact ever since. Both shared a regret that there was no platform for BMW M series owners to exchange information and get to know each other in China, which could have given them the opportunity to get to know their cars even better and



become yet more infatuated with them. In August of the same year, Louis and Andy organised the first party for BMW M owners in China through the Internet. At that time, only 6 BMW M series vehicles attended this meeting in Shanghai. It was mainly a forum for the owners to chat about looking after

their vehicles, their driving styles and the handling of the cars. Everyone agreed that these cars seem to just work all the time. All participants certainly learned a lot from each other at these meetings. As Louis and Andy wanted to give other BMW enthusiasts access to useful information and statistical data including maintenance manuals and driving instructions, they decided to found the BMW M Club China and an automobile forum for M owners. This is how the BMW M Club China came into being.

From the end of year 2010 and into 2011, the club took part in all track events and challenging competitions that were open to BMW M series cars, and in the driver training on ice in Sweden, organised by BMW. All these activities catered to the members’ desire for experiencing tracks and improve their driving skills at the same time. In addition, we organised more than ten track and karting events during this year, which brightened up our members’ leisure time. During the third SIC Club Challenge, which was held at the Shanghai F1 International circuit in May 2011, BMW M Club China took part with a fleet officially approved by BMW China. 70 cars and over 150 individuals were involved in this large-scale event. By July 2010, BMW M Club China had already represented with dedicated owners’ clubs in most Chinese cities. We started out in Shanghai where the club’s headquarters are based, and we subsequently established local clubs in Beijing, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Chongqing, Sichuan, and Guangdong. Each club chairman was elected in accordance with the standardised stipulations and regulations of BMW M Club China. All activities in each local district are reviewed by BMW M Club China.

After being recognised as the official owners’ club by the BMW M Drivers Club, BMW M Club China has developed further and further. As a team, the BMW M Club China needs to ensure that Chinese BMW M series drivers get to know each other, understand their vehicles and the culture behind the brand. We hope that we will succeed in building close relationships between the BMW cars and their drivers, and in contributing to making each Chinese M series enthusiast intimately familiar with the BMW culture, that people find out more about M and BMW, that they are proud to drive a BMW, and that they are delighted about belonging to the large BMW M Club China family.

Facts and figures:
 Date of foundation: 2009
 Number of members: 500
 Type: Car club
 Website: www.mclubchina.com

SEPTEMBER

BMW Clubs International Council Meeting in Berlin, Germany
24.-28.09.2011, www.bmw-clubs-international.com

OCTOBER

Power by BMW: Exclusive auction at the BMW Museum, Germany
01.10.2011, www.bmw-welt.com

VETERAMA in Mannheim, Germany
07.-09.10.2011, www.veterama.de

42th BMW CCA Oktoberfest, Birmingham, Alabama, USA
10.-16.10.2011, www.cca.org

XV Mexico Convention International BMW Durango, Mexico
26.-30.10.2011, www.motobmwdurango.com

Auto e Moto d'epoca, Padua, Italy
27.-30.10.2011, www.byci.it

M Race Track Training Nürburg Nordschleife, Germany
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