

Spa Classic Francorchamps,
& Nordschleife Nürburgring
24th - 28th May 2013



As a veteran to the now ever popular Spa 6hr Classic which normally takes place early September at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Belgium, I shall into 2013 be organising a STOC trip to a new alternative. The Spa Classic, a new event taking place earlier in May in the picturesque Ardennes Forest.

The atmospheric Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Belgium, where with its micro-climate has very unpredictable weather, will host the 3rd annual Spa Classic event in May 2013. With no Le Mans Classic in 2013 the event organisers 'Peter Auto' are predicting record crowds and fantastic car club displays to complement the exciting historic racing on the track. Spa Classic is now proving to be a formidable alternative to the biannual Le Mans Classic.

Normally at the 6hr Spa meet in September it is customary for the STOC in attendance to see Sunbeam Tigers participate in the highly competitive events, but for the Spa Classic meet in May it is **not** expected that Tigers will be racing. Sports cars & touring cars from the 1950s through to the 1980s will be racing in grids alongside single seater F2 historic.

Classic Endurance Racing

Prototypes and GT's that have raced in the greatest endurance races in the world between 1966 and 1979

Group C Racing

Dedicated to cars that have competed in famous endurance races between 1983 & 1991

Sixties Endurance

Pre 1963 sports cars and pre 1966 GT cars

Historic Formula 2 Championship

Races for Formula 2 single seater cars that competed in the European Championship between 1967 and 1978

Trofeo Nastro Rosso

A series of races dedicated to beautiful Italian sports cars and GT's built before 1966

However, and in addition, the STOC 'tour' is also planning a trip to the Nürburgring's Nordschleife (Green Hell as tagged by Sir Jackie Stewart). So the formal 'tour' falls in two parts, the first spectating classics racing at Spa, followed by a road-trip to the Nürburgring circuit.



A further bonus to STOC members attending the Spa Classic will be the opportunity, if you individually so wish, to take part in ‘parade-laps’ at the infamous circuit, this is subject to availability and personal bookings must be done in advance **direct** with the organisers.

Attached to this email is a separate PDF form which is to be completed and sent ‘direct’ to the organisers if you wish to take part in the parade laps. Helmets are compulsory (but will confirm this with the organisers) but it is normal that the pace of the track-lap will be governed by the leading official pace car. Much the same format with the Le Mans Classic. Only proviso is that classic cars are only permitted on the parade laps if they were built prior to the organiser’s cut-off of 1966. Supporting copies of registration documents (logbook & photo) will need to be sent with the application. Tickets will be issued by the circuit nearer to the event date, and confirmation of booking will be sent via email by the organisers.

Even if you are not wanting to do the non-competitive parade laps, then I would still urge the application form is completed so that you can obtain an individual parking permit (cost €10) so that your Tiger will be permitted in the ‘Clubs Enclosure’ allowing parking in the prè-66 classic car parking area. Otherwise, you will be parking with the moderns!

Costings are €20 per person for a general admission ticket for the weekend, and this will get you access to the Paddocks and all the Grandstands, I am sure you can buy the tickets on the day but it may be worth securing these beforehand as you first need to secure the prè-66 parking at a cost of €10 before you depart the UK. Circuit parade laps are priced at €90 (per day per car) and choice of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I would suggest the Saturday, and you can also choose beginner/skilled groups. On the track parade laps, there are no noise restrictions, 30 minutes track time per session, UK License will be required, no maximum or minimum speeds so please move over for faster cars but no overtaking the pace car! Parade laps usually take place over lunchtime, but yet to be confirmed.

To avoid disappointment, the accompanying application forms must be back with the ‘Peter Auto’ organisers before the **26th April** deadline. Again, can I stress the importance of sending the form back to the organisers direct. On this occasion, there is no official STOC club stand at the Spa Classic or representation who will collate bookings on your behalf.

For the second part of the 'tour' and, which can be attended to your preference, will be the opportunity to visit the Nürburgring's Nordschleife. If time allows and if open, there may also be the opportunity to visit the Grand Prix circuit (separate to the Nordschleife!) at the Nürburgring. As always is the unfortunate case, opening times and track availability is always subject to the Nürburgring opening the circuits (the Nordschleife is deemed a public toll road!) to the general public. Be warned, there is no guarantee of circuit time at the Nürburgring, at both the Nordschleife or Grand Prix circuits it will down to the officials at Nürburgring to open the circuits to the general public. It is usual for large corporate events to take precedence and priority at the German circuits, at very short notice, so you may be disappointed if events beyond my/our control means that there are no guarantees of circuit track time. Circuits can close for any reason, with the usual problems down to weather, repairs, accidents and corporate days. Please note, like the Belgium Spa circuit racing helmets are compulsory for the Grand Prix circuit but not 'officially' compulsory, (though recommended) for the Nordschleife. There is also a rather splendid and modern museum at the Nürburgring housing some fabulous machinery, and this will be worth a visit if time permits.

Costs of the Nordschleife track laps, prices are from 2012 and are expected to increase for 2013. Last year (2012) prices are 1 lap, €26. 4 laps, €95. Costs for the GP circuits, €40 for each 20 minute intervals.



Hotel accommodation at Spa Francorchamps:

Hotel Seehof (19 Kms east of circuit)

Bed, breakfast €47 single and €77 per couple per night (grand suites available) for 'gastronomic weekend'. Access at a modest cost to 2 Turkish Baths, 3 Steam Rooms, Massage facilities, 3 Saunas, Indoor pool and a load more!

Our Contact: Eloi Lachmann

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Hotel accomodation at Nürburgring:

Due to the popularity of the Nürburgring phenomenon, hotels in the region become quickly booked up and coinciding with the Spa Classic weekend it is highly anticipated there will be strong interest in the region and hence, the STOC have secured provisional bookings with two hotels in the town of Andenau which is only 10 kilometres away from the 'Ring'



Hotels selected are the popular Hotel An Der Nordschleife and the Blaue Ecke Hotel, which are very closely situated to one another.

Hotel an der Nordschleife is on the outskirts of Adenau town, and is situated on one of the two entry points to the Nordschleife circuit. Room rates are; Single: €49. Double: €75 bed & breakfast. Secure garage, car-port and lot parking. Rooms en-suite with mini-bar, satellite TV and VCRs. Bar & Restaurant. Some balcony views of the track. Workshop equipped with lifting ramp, tools, welding equipment, trailer, etc. Webcam over the track....

www.hotel-an-der-nordschleife.de A popular choice amongst motorcyclists and is a long-term family run Hotel operated by enthusiasts.

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Alternative choice of Hotel for the Nürburgring is the Blau Ecke Hotel situated on the market square in the town of Adenau, newly rebuilt, with restaurant and bar, you can choose between completely new rooms in a modern Country style, newly renovated Classical Blaue Ecke rooms and Romantic Rooms with four-poster beds. Room rates are; Single: €72. Double: €99 bed & breakfast. Their 'Beer Garden' situated in the main square is always a popular choice! Rooms are all en-suite, with television, free internet connection, telephone. The rooms in the new part also have minibar and safe. The hotel has parking and a garage for motorbikes.

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Logistically, everyone is responsible for their own ferry/tunnel crossings and hotels and food will be paid for on a “pay as you go” basis. Unless it changes, there is no need at present for deposits with the choice of hotels but I will need to advise on numbers to secure rooms and any personal preferences, so let me know if there any special requirements (dietary, etc) and I will place these requests when I confirm availability with the hotels. No need to contact the hotels direct as I will arrange the bookings on everyone’s behalf. Hotels will be paid for and all bills settled at the end individually. *Going to press; there is now very limited room availability at the Hotel An Der Nordschleife.*

Individuals will also be responsible for arranging their own crossings into Europe. Popular choices are; overnight boat from Hull to Zeebrugge or Eurotunnel from Dover to Calais.

Boat trip to Hull/Zeebrugge; only option is with P&O Ferries bookings can be made online for the required weekend. Cost for a standard cabin is in the region of £238. Book direct with <http://www.poferries.com> or 08716 64 21 21

Eurotunnel or Ferry crossing via Dover/Calais are plentiful in order to cross the English Channel. Cost for a ferry with P&O or DFDS Seaways for crossing Friday (24th May) afternoon returning Tuesday (28th May) morning, is in the region of £125. Contact details for P&O Ferries as above, and DFDS Seaways: www.dfdsseaways.co.uk or 0871 574 7235. Alternatively, the cost via the Eurotunnel is currently not dissimilar £149 for a ‘standard’ ticket. Contact details for the Eurotunnel: www.eurotunnel.com or 08443 35 35 35.

Other business;

Driving in Europe, you will at the minimum need; First aid kit, Spare bulbs, Fire extinguisher, Warning triangle, on-board Breathalyser kit and Fluorescent jacket in the car in the event of breakdowns. If you don’t carry any of these items then you may face hefty “on the spot” fines and points on your UK licence! Overseas car insurance and breakdown recovery cover is highly recommended.

Also, there has been talk for a short while now that the Nurburgring is facing financial difficulties and may need financial assistance from the German authorities/Banks. If not forthcoming then the circuit may close and I will endeavor to keep all who have expressed an interest to join the tour reliably informed.

When committing to Spa-Francorchamps, Nordschleife, or Nurburgring Grand Prix circuits please be aware your normal every day road insurance may not cover such events, and I, as coordinator, or the STOC will not be held responsible. You will need to take impartial advice on the matter and are deemed to accept the risks involved in taking part in any of the events detailed on this information pamphlet.

Quick summary and programme of tour;

Thursday 23rd May:

For those traveling (from the North) via Hull, boat departs Thursday evening, arriving Friday morning in Zeebrugge.

Friday 24th May:

Calais depart, via boat or using Eurotunnel to arrive into France, & rendezvous with Tiger chaps (meeting place already agreed) who will be from Zeebrugge. Onward bound trip to Hotel Seehof, Bütgenbach, Belgium - staying 3 nights.

Monday 27th May:

Travel to Nurburgring via Ardennes Forest and check-in at the Hotel An Der Nordschleife, arrive at Nordschleife for opening late afternoon and track time, evening dinner at Adenau a short walk from hotel.

Tuesday 28th May:

Nürburgring Museum in the morning, depart Calais or Zeebrugge port.

Finally, having been to the Spa Francorchamps circuit on many occasion, I would like (subject to interest) retrace the old steps of 'original' circuit. Map on the right, which you will see the new circuit overlaid the old circuit which is now public roads. I will be sending out details nearer the time of a planned route tracing the original circuit. Perhaps also appreciate the site where Jackie Stewart crashed in 1966 in his BRM, a unique turning point in F1 safety as we know it today!



Reference;

[Wikipedia Webpage on Spa-Francorchamps](#)

[Wikipedia Webpage on Nürburgring](#)

[Hotel Seehof, Belgium](#)

[Hotel An Der Nordschleife, Germany](#)

[Blau Ecke Hotel](#)

<http://www.spa-classic.com>

[Spa Francorchamps home webpage](#)

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