



PRESS RELEASE – October 2021

Opel Manta: New found popularity in middle age.

2021 sees the Opel Manta entering into its 51st year. Life didn't begin at 50 for the Manta as most of the celebrations and special events that had been planned to commemorate this milestone unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the global pandemic. What has been noticeable during this difficult time is the noticeable rise in the interest being shown in owning and preserving an Opel Manta. With sporting heritage and the classic "engine in the front, driving wheels at the rear" configuration, the Manta has made an interesting alternative to the usual 'blue oval' rivals and offers something a bit more discerning and exclusive!

The Manta was given its preview at the Paris Show in September 1970, initially in three variations: the base model, Manta Deluxe (L) and Manta Rallye (SR). Only the last two ever sold in the UK. It went on to be produced for a further 18 years and underwent an update in 1975 and a further facelift in 1981. It remains a firm favourite today for the discerning driver who wants a rear-wheel-drive sports coupe with something a little different from the norm.

The 50th Anniversary of the Opel

One of the few events that did go ahead, albeit in very limited numbers, was the gathering of some of the very earliest Mantas in Europe for a photo shoot at Timmendorfer Strand on the German Baltic Sea coast. This was the venue for the original press launch in September of 1970, and a perfect recreation of that event was put together by a group of European enthusiasts.



The ElectroMod Opel Manta



To celebrate the 50th Anniversary, Opel wanted to do something special, so it commissioned an electrically powered model to show how a Manta GSe (e for 'elektromod'), can combine the past and the present in a special way. According to Opel, the electric Manta A shows that the brand places a great focus on 'emission-free' mobility, but that it does not forget its heritage.

There is a 147 hp and 255 Nm strong electric motor where normally the petrol engine was. It has created quite a stir in the Opel enthusiasts circle and has certainly been a great talking point and has made people look at Electromods in a new way. In the opinion of the Owners club, anything that can preserve our heritage and keep the brand in the public eye is considered to be a good thing.

The Opel Manta Owners Club

Formed in 1983, following an advertisement in "Motor" Magazine placed by a hand full of enthusiasts dedicated to preserving and enjoying the Opel Manta, the Opel Manta Owners Club (OMOC) was an immediate success as membership rocketed to over 2500 members by the early 1990's.

Now in its 38th year and still going strong, club members have a regular magazine and enjoy benefits such as a dedicated website and forum, a discounted parts club, owners insurance scheme, national and regional meetings and many other activities.

OMOC at the National Classics Motor Show

The Opel Manta Owners club hope to be exhibiting at the 2021 National Classics Motor show, held at the NEC in Birmingham on the 12th – 14th November. The club are hoping to present a dazzling array of Mantas for display, with one of the earliest A series Mantas in the UK and also a one owner from new Manta GT/E model.

More details are available on the website www.mantaclub.org
Or you can contact publicity@mantaclub.org - Tel 01327 843 860

