

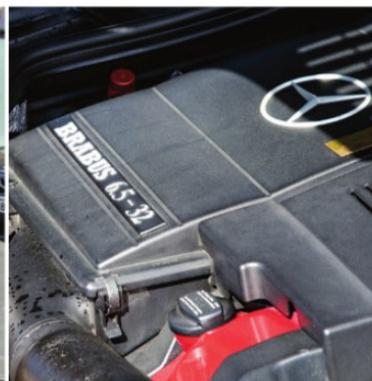
“The friendly and relaxed nature of the meeting was even more refreshing than the gentle breeze that whispered down the street.”



# Variety is the spice of life

All types of Mercedes are welcome to the annual MBE Landstreff in Gol, Norway, making it a highlight on the events calendar for purists, modifiers and everyone in between

WORDS KYLE MOLYNEUX IMAGES CRAIG PUSEY/STEVE HALL



△ Inge Høyers' Brabus is based on a W124 E500 and now packs a 6.5-litre, 32-valve V8 developing 444bhp/490lb ft torque.

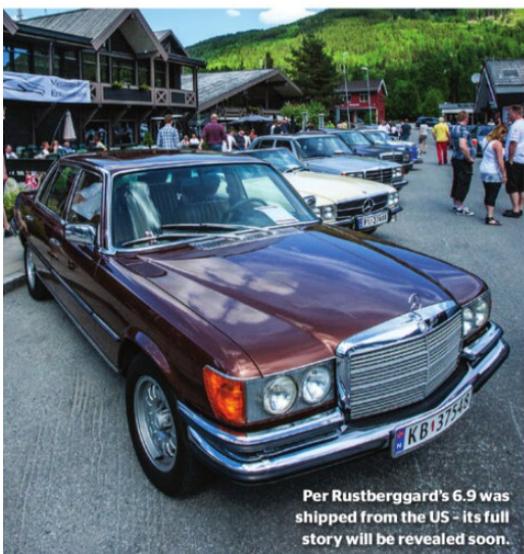


△ Mads Amundsen's A250 boasts a carbon RevoZport kit.

△ New 20-inch alloys and LEDs for this CLK63 Black Series.



SL, CL- and C-Class models proved popular and came in various state of tune



Per Rustberggard's 6.9 was shipped from the US - its full story will be revealed soon.

**W**HERE TO START WITH a Mercedes gathering that attracts the likes of an orange R129 SL widebody, a W124 E500 rebuilt by Brabus and given a 6.5-litre V8 to the tune of €80,000, plus a pristine 1969 300SEL 6.3 with under 62,000 miles on the clock?

Organised by the Norwegian Mercedes-Benz Entusiastklubb and hosted for the last 10 out of 11 years by Pers Hotell in the town of Gol (around 125 miles north west of Oslo), the MBE Landstreff draws Mercedes owners from across Scandinavia, with participants invited to vote for their favourite car in several categories. But the evening's award ceremony appeared an

afterthought to most – there are no egos or 'mine is better than yours' type mentalities here, just a group of petrolheads with a passion for three-pointed stars who love to meet under bright blue skies; we were told that good weather always seems to bless this event, and the late May sun doesn't set until almost 11pm.

The friendly and relaxed nature of the meeting was even more refreshing than the gentle breeze that whispered down the street outside Pers Hotell, where the cars and owners gather each year. The 2014 event took place on the final weekend in May and *Mercedes Enthusiast* was there to witness the spectacle.

The aforementioned Brabus is owned by Inge Høyers and is good for 196mph. That's ▷

▷ no surprise with a 32-valve, 444bhp/490lb ft torque eight-cylinder under the heavily modified bonnet. The interior is just as impressive, again done by Brabus and finished in two-tone Alcantara. The tuner even added screens to the back of the front seat headrests.

Less than 10 yards away, Morten Stuestøl's 190E 2.5-16 Evolution II looked just as wild as the Brabus, the racing homologation special flying the flag for W201s, of which there were many, including two first generation Evolution models. Number 38 of 500 built, the Evolution II had covered just over 80,000 miles from new and visually held its own against far younger and more powerful metal.

### FAST WITH A TWIST

Metal such as the 2008 CLK63 AMG Coupe Black Series owned by Leif Tjelta. He has fitted 20-inch alloy wheels finished in anthracite, and endowed the front splitter with LEDs, but otherwise the car looked standard and utterly menacing in metallic black, the 500bhp, two-door coupe pulling in a whole new circle of people every few minutes.

But the MBE Landstreff is not just about the fast and the furious, Sven Voldum's 2005 W211 E200 CDI a perfect example of brilliant attention to detail. Although the car sat on 19-inch alloy wheels from the 221-series S-Class catalogue, it looked largely standard from afar. But then you notice the additional exhaust pipe at the rear, the facelifted headlamps (which were a real challenge to fit, apparently) and the repositioned, better integrated aerial on the roof. Sven then pointed out the Eibach springs with OE Sport trim line shocks, the E63 AMG steering wheel with fully functioning paddleshifters, the rear Isofix points and side airbags – all retrofitted.

Walking around, it is clear that no matter what the Mercedes, aftermarket alloy wheels are almost a given, in this circle of owners at least. Which explains why a brand new S400 Hybrid had a 22-inch aftermarket rim at each corner, but otherwise looked stock. Stood nose to bumper with a W140 S500, the latest W222 dwarfed its ancestor, which was surprising given the W140's apparent girth.

No Mercedes meeting worth its salt goes without a healthy collection of 124s, and the MBE Landstreff did not disappoint, Mikael Andersen's Azurite Blue E36 AMG Estate from 1995 staying under the radar without its full complement of AMG styling. Just as we began to doubt its provenance, we noticed all the car's paperwork on the dashboard, including its VIN verified build sheet with the option code '957 – AMG Technology Package'.

Full blown classics were outnumbered, but the US spec W115 200D and W108 with air ride suspension were not to be missed. Yet it was the dark green 300SEL 6.3 that stole the show for us, blending presence with sophistication and elegance in the most wonderful fashion. Sometimes, original really is best.



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△ This Azurite Blue E36 AMG Estate's modifications threw us off the scent until we spotted its build sheet in the window.



△ The Mercedes-Benz S-Class was well represented, with the 116, 126, 140 and even the latest 222 generation car on show.



△ Evolution versions of the 190E 2.5-15 were a highlight.

△ Sven Voldum's W211 has received a host of kit upgrades.



△ Time behind the wheel of this 1969 300SEL 6.3 demonstrated its superb condition, with no rattles or squeaks to speak of.