



## Autumn in Kawana

The Aston Martin Owners Club of Japan (AMOC/J) held its 2014 autumn meeting on Saturday, November 29, at the beautiful Kawana Hotel.

(See <[www.princehotels.com/en/kawana/about-us](http://www.princehotels.com/en/kawana/about-us)>.)

Located on the scenic Izu peninsula, the Kawana Hotel features expansive grounds (approx. 375.75 acres) including two world-class golf courses overlooking the Sagami Bay out toward the Izu Islands. On a clear day, majestic Mt Fuji can be seen on the distant horizon. Truly a great place to hold an AMOC/J meeting.

Unfortunately, November 29 was not a clear day. Nor was it a good day for the many Aston Martins that were in the shop for one reason or another, and there were only a score of cars there by Friday evening --- with another eight showing up the next day in time for the meeting and post-meeting festivities. Including family and friends, fully 60 people turned out for this autumn enjoyment.

MCing the dinner party, AMOC/J Representative Yasuhiko Shimazaki first asked for a moment of silence in memory of Kansai Chapter President Toshio Yamawaki, who passed away in July. Yamawaki was one of AMOC/J's most devoted members and one of its most avid Aston Martin fans, and he is already being sorely missed.

Three new people who joined AMOC/J recently were introduced next: Masatami Kita from Kobe, Atsushi Kubo from Shizuoka, and Naohiro Hio from Gunma. All three were warmly welcomed --- as were Akio Lin and his family from Nara, Masato Tada, and others attending their first AMOC/J meeting.

First-timer Tada was asked to propose the toast, which he did with wit and aplomb, following which everyone settled down to enjoy the delightful food and friendship at every table.

Topping off the evening were drawings for an array of fabulous memorabilia and other take-homes, this portion of the program again this year ably handled by members Kunisuke Sadakata and Yukinobu Saito. But before the drawings started, however, Shimazaki gave the little ones teddy bears to keep them company while their parents concentrated on the serious work of winning something serious. Each tot got a pair of bears --- a Lionel Bear and an 80<sup>th</sup>-anniversary Aston Martin "sammy" bear.

First out was a tableful of Aston Martin items --- model cars, artist renditions, and more --- generously donated by member Masao Sakai. These were followed by half a dozen bottles of fine Berry Bros & Rudd champagne courtesy of member Yukinobu Saito. Other prizes that went to lucky winners included:

- a casual bag with the BLBG logo from AMOC/J sponsor British Luxury Brand Group,
- several items of fine Hackett apparel from Atlantic Cars,
- a Hackett blazer and other exclusive items from Aston Martin Asia Pacific, and
- some special model cars and other fan goods from repeat donor Spark, these last presented by Spark Model Managing Director Hugues Ripert, who came from China especially to join in the festivities.

The drawings done, Shimazaki announced a special prize: the 91x73cm Andre Brasilier lithograph that had been on display and much-admired during dinner. Rather than have a simple drawing, this was awarded to the winner of a fierce rock-paper-scissors competition: Masahisa Inagaki.

In closing, a group photo was taken and then people excused themselves, some to go to the hotel's renowned Brisa Marina spa to relax. others to go to the main bar and lounge to continue talking well into the night, and the children to bed.

Bright and early the next morning, people caught a quick breakfast and, for the most part, hurried off to beat the holiday traffic on the way home. There were some, however, who could not pass up this chance to play a round on the Fuji Course that is used for Japanese professional golf tournament play. It was a cloudless day perfect for golf, and the two foursomes now insist that AMOC/J's next general meeting has to be held at a golf resort.

It was already dark by the time the last members departed Kawana for home, but all agreed that this was a fitting cap to Aston Martin's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and pledged to continue in this tradition of ever-better meeting. Then the roar resounded and the happy motorists were off for home.

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