

## Report on the auction of an RV8 at Barons auction on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019



generate a sense of momentum with bidding as the lots were announced and bidding beginning to roll. Some lots struggled to meet their reserve with no doubt further negotiations later with the auctioneer's cheerful and welcoming staff.

One lively item was a Works Land Rover V8 70th edition example based on a Defender 90XS TD which had seen the full works V8 magic carried out on it. With only 57 miles since then this vehicle was in superb condition in every way and still has the

### Barons Annual Christmas Classic auction on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

An end of season classic car auction, on a wet and windy day with the background of the final 60 hours of an ill-tempered general election focused on the Brexit battle, seemed to be a slightly subdued event with a mixed list of lots and less than lively bidding. Those at the auction, inspecting the lots were the usual mix of traders moving around the room with a keen eye on cars that might be an opportunity and other regulars looking at the cars on offer and chatting as they met up with their friends. There was a quiet sense of commercial purpose for the traders, moving around the room running their hands over the bodywork, examining the interiors and engine bays. Others opened doors, looked in, walked round and then opened bonnets. Some arriving appeared to have come more with a sense of curiosity for some of the cars on offer.

The auction got underway with the auctioneer's voice booming from the loudspeakers, starting with some valuable watches and then moving onto the cars. Bidding felt a little subdued with the professional skills of the auctioneer trying to

original stickers on the exhaust and other ancillaries. It was only for sale as part of a deceased estate, so it was an opportunity for any collector of classic vehicles to own one of these limited edition examples. Bidding was brisk from £50,000 and climbing to well over £100,000.

**An RV8 appeared as Lot 134** – a Japanese spec car which was reimported to the UK for a client by the Somerset based specialist HS Imports in March 2004. It had a total of 14,214 miles and a guide price of £17,000 to £22,000. Examining the car beforehand the interior was reasonable although the Connolly leather looked as if some treatment would lift the dry look and feel, and the engine bay was not as clean as you would expect for a car described as a “car in overall excellent condition”. So it is likely it was midway between Conditions 1 and 2. Bidding opened at a modest £10,000 and moved up in increments of £1,000 to £13,000 when it changed down a gear to £500 increments eventually reaching a hammer price of £16,500. Adding the buyer's premium and VAT thereon the price for the buyer would be **£18,480** which compares with our recent price guide for the

midpoint between Conditions 1 & 2 of £17,900. For the seller the net proceeds after commission and VAT would be only **£15,390** which is below our Condition 2 guide price of £16,320.

Let's hope the classic car market will be livelier in the New Year 2020 when hopefully some of the frustration and chaos surrounding the election may have passed. The next Barons classic car auction is the Classic Winter Warmer on Tuesday 25th February and then the Spring Classic on Tuesday 21st April, both at Sandown Park racecourse in Esher not far from the southwest edge of the M25.

