

Civil Service Motoring Association

CSMA

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Civil Service Motoring Association



The Big End

CSMA CLUB

Civil Service Motoring Association  
North West London Group

NEWSLETTER

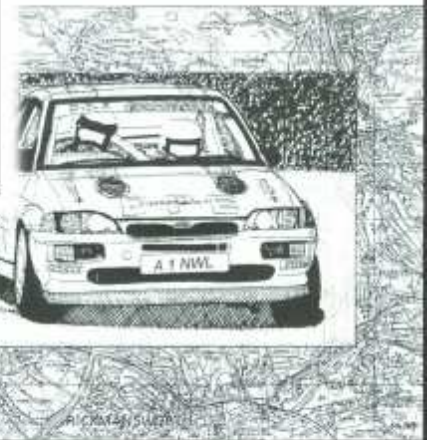


CSMA

THE BIG END



BIG END



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

89-97

Edition

97-99

CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION  
NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP



boundless

BY CSMA

North West London Group

May 2017



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## Club night

Tuesday 2nd May, The Red Lion PH

### Radio Controlled racing



## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

This month it's happy birthday to the following people: **Sara Austin** on the 2nd, **Shirley Baldwin** on the 6th, and **Gill Coghlin** on the 21st - congratulations all round!



Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the CSMA Club, North West London Group Committee or those of the Editor. In addition, articles on maintenance, etc. are published in good faith and no liability can be accepted by the CSMA Club, North West London Group Committee or those of the Editor for the accuracy of such contributions or for damage or malfunction arising from their use, no matter how they are used.

Visit **The Big End** on the Internet - [www.esmanwl.com](http://www.esmanwl.com)

# Editorial

Well it turns out the replacing of the coil hasn't cured the problem on the Mini, as at the event last Sunday, it started up ok to go to scrutineering and back, but when I went to start it to go to the first test, it failed to start and it had all the symptoms of before. Battery pack and push starting had no effect. I borrowed another coil, but that didn't help. Checked all the wiring and found a dodgy connection on the Luminition plug, changed it, but again no help. As there was no spark from the king lead, and with the coil already changed, it looked like the Luminition system itself had failed. Borrowed another distributor, but this had the wrong drive pins on the bottom. Then went down the route of changing the optic trigger to points, borrowed a set of points and a condenser, fitted them and then had to work out where the wire between the distributor and coil was mounted. Got this sorted and then tried it again. Fired up first time! Someone then set up the points properly and did the distributor timing by ear. The engine was quite running properly, so checked each cylinder in turn by pulling off the plug lead and number one plug didn't make any difference. A spare lead and a new plug were fitted but it didn't change. The consensus was that a valve may have burnt out slightly, but which seemed to be ok when on full throttle. I was now ready to start the event, having missed the first three rounds and the lunch break, so it was catch up time. Did the nine tests one after the other, thankfully two of the tests were quite short and easy, but the driver and car needed a short break and fluid top ups before going out again for the final two rounds. Everything was going all right until the very last test, when the handbrake suddenly stopped working most of the way round. Finished the test, got out and had a look for any fluid leak, but there wasn't any, so must be the linings have gone, probably one (or more) have become detached from the shoes. When I got back in the car, I noticed the electric motor on the steering column seemed to move when I touched the steering wheel. Looking at the mounting bracket, I could see that one side had sheered off! Thankfully I had finished the event but the car had suffered badly. Now all I have to do is take the head off, sort out the valves and oil stem seals (quite a bit of smoke at start up), fix the steering bracket, fix the rear brakes and permanently sort out the distributor. Four weeks until the next event.....



Formula One definitely seems to have a proper championship race on the cards, with Ferrari looking at last to be real challengers. Things may have to change at Mercedes in that they may well have to go into No1 and No2 drivers, just to make sure Hamilton has the best chance of beating Vettel. However, nothing has changed at McLaren, with Alonso saying he will retire the car at any race if he isn't going to finish in the points. To try and placate him, and to get him to sign again for next year, they have allowed him to miss the race at Monaco and let him race in the Indy 500 in America (in a car with a Honda engine and badged as a McLaren). Jenson Button gets to have his first drive of the new car, but without any testing prior to the Monaco weekend!

The grass autotest season gets under way in June, so fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us this year and we can get the first two events off the ground. The first event will be our Greenacres autotest, so please put it in you diary to help out marshalling or competing. Regs are now out.

Clubnight this moth is the fun filled action of radio controlled cars trying to be steered around a simple course against the clock. Suitable for everyone to have a go and even more fun to watch.

Mike B.

**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter is Thursday 25th May



# Chairman's notebook

The films shown at last month's clubnight certainly brought back some fantastic memories of standing in the forests in Wales watching and probably more importantly, listening to the sound of approaching rally cars, especially at night or in the early morning mist! You can't beat the sound of a rally car at full throttle!

Not sure we will ever get back to the "good old days" but my thanks to Doug for refreshing our memories.

Speaking of the good old days, Doug and I have our first historic rally of the season next week, when we travel to Wales to compete on the Dixies Stage Rally over the classic Epynt asphalt stages on the bank holiday weekend. No doubt Doug will update you all on how we get on next month.

Last month saw Allan Goddard and I compete on the last 12 Car Rally of the season, organised by Bernard Ward of NEL. With a good entry of some 10 cars, the rally used a lot of narrow twisting lanes above Ware in the top North East quarter of map 166 and crossed over on to the adjacent map 167 numerous times just to keep the navigator busy!

The number of built up areas perhaps slightly spoiled the event, but the navigation was once again just about right and everyone made it to the finish. Surprisingly we came home a very credible second overall and 1st expert with a novice taking the honours of first overall.

With the slight change in format and more consistent navigation, this year's 12 Cars have been a real success and the future looks much better than it did this time last year.

I took the Sprite along to the MG Car Club day at Brooklands last month and had a thoroughly good time. The weather was great, so the hood stayed down there and back for once and the entry fee at just £11 per person (£10 for me as I am now officially old) gave you entry to the entire museum and also allowed you to drive on the parade around the adjacent Mercedes test track and also two runs up the hill climb.

Brooklands have now relocated the main hanger that was built over the start line during WW2, so that this can now be reinstated and the Wellington Bomber is housed in a temporary hanger for now. However, from the look of the old hanger which has been completely refurbished it won't be long until its back in there along with the other interesting aircraft and exhibits. Hopefully, if the Mini Factory Tour in Oxford does go ahead, the work force is on strike at the moment, I will manage to give a report on how the tour went next month. It apparently lasts a good 2 – 3 hours and good walking shoes are recommended!

This month Alan Thurbon, who always seems to be on holiday, is providing some radio controlled cars for our amusement at clubnight on the 2nd May. No doubt if you want to bring along your own, it won't be a problem.

The autotest season kicks off in June with the Greenacres on the 4th June and I will be looking for marshals to help run the event at this month's clubnight. Entries are of course equally welcomed. I am also looking for either classic or competition cars for the Uxbridge Car Show on the 16th July, so if you know of anyone with one, please either get them to contact me or give me their details and I will contact them.

Not to forget, there is also the Midsomer Run being run by Pete Gregory on the 21st May, if you fancy a nice easy run through the countryside in and around the Chilterns.

So hopefully I will see you all at next clubnight on the 2nd May and if not then at noggin on the 18th May.

Mike H.





# Secretary's spot

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It only seems like yesterday that I was writing my previous set of Secretary's notes however it is over two months ago! From what I gather it appears that NWL Group has soldiered on regardless and an inspiring AGM has come and gone and a couple of other events have taken place as well. The Committee is pretty much what it was, although Anne has relinquished the financial reigns to Doug for at least his second term in the role. Many, many thanks to Anne, who has admirably taken charge of our finances for a number of years now, and has done a wonderful job along the way. For some unknown reason you are stuck with your Chairman and Secretary for another year.

You may be aware that the national AGM of Boundless by CSMA will be taking place a little earlier in the year in 2017 on Thursday 29th June as part of the National Networking Event at Warwick. Full details will be in the May/June edition of Club Life and Pete G and myself will be in attendance. I do not believe there are too many voting situations but if you feel you need to pass on your proxy vote I am sure Pete or I will carry out your wishes.

I am sure our Chairman and Editor will report on all the recent events but please try to give your support to our forthcoming summer activities where a fairly comprehensive programme is in the pipeline

## **For the immediate future we have the following;**

**Tuesday 2nd May – North West London Group Clubnight** at The Red Lion, London Road, Hemel Hempstead where a radio control car autotest will be organised for your enjoyment. A simple test (or two) will be laid out for you to test your skill at manouvering a radio control car around the course. All equipment provided so just turn up by 8.00pm for a free, fun night – you may even go away with a prize

**Thursday 17th May – NWL Chat and a Drink**, as usual at The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead where we normally convene from around 8.30pm onwards

**Sunday 4th June – NWL Greenacres Autotest** – the first grass autotest of the summer series so do please support either by competing or marshalling. The venue is our usual site at Studd Farm, near Leighton Buzzard and Mike H is in charge of proceedings so please give him a call for further details and/or information. Full regulations should be attached to this newsletter.

**Tuesday 6th June– NWL Clubnight** will be a walking treasure hunt taking place in Denham Village, just off junction one of the M40 (use Junction 16 off the M25). Starts from 7:30pm. See advert.

**Thursday 15th June – NWL Chat and a Drink** at The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead

**Tuesday 4th July – NWL Clubnight** will be a boule/petanque evening in the beautiful gardens of The Five Bells pub in the village of Stanbridge. Once again please note the date and watch out for full details soon.

***That's about it for now – hope to see you at our events!***

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
May	Sun 14	* Spring Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
	Sun 14	* Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	
	20/21	* Miglia Quadrato ()	City of London treasure hunt	UH&ULMC	
Jun	Sun 4	* Greenacres Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
	Sun 10	* Carnival Autosolo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Dolphin MC	
Jul	Sun 9	Grasshopper Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NEL	Region
	Sun 9	Summer Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
Aug	Sat 5	Two Brewers Scatter ()	Drive to a location, answer a clue	CSMA NWL	
	Sun 13	Haymaker Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA WMx	Region
	Sun 20	Juniper Autotest (Nat B)	Tarmac autotest	CSMA NEL	MSA/BTRDA
Sep	Sun 3	Chiltern Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
Oct	Sun 8	Autumn Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region

**Licence required:** (I/Nat A/Nat B/Cm) = MSA Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, \* = Regs available

### Past Events

**March 31st 12 Car Rally** An even better turn out for the fourth and last event of the season, saw ten entries taking part this time. Thankfully we got the navigation right enough again, as everyone got round the route ok, although the last placed crew seemed to have an aversion to actually writing down all the codeboards they passed! The route seemed to find all the fords in the area, although Pete and Graeme had a problem with one when they missed the codeboard at the entry, and so lost another event. The weather was much kinder this time, with a dry night and thanks to all the marshals that allowed the event to run. We will make a few changes for next years series, with looking at the criteria for expert status, and making sure the novices/beginners can get round easier.

1st	Car 8	Ben Cutting/Steve Chambers	N	CMC/WS	0 Fails	15 Mins	1st O/A
2nd	Car 2	Allan Goddard/Mike Harrison	E	WMx/NWL	0 Fails	20 Mins	1st Exp
3rd	Car 1	Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell	E	NWL	1 Fail	5 Mins	2nd Exp
4th	Car 7	Karen Rowan/Simon Rowan	N	CMC	1 Fail	18 Mins	1st Nov
5th	Car 9	Rod Botteley/Mike Botteley	N	CMC	1 Fail	25 Mins	2nd Nov
6th	Car 4	Daniel O'Connor/Ian O'Connor	B	NWL	2 Fails	9 Mins	1st Beg
7th	Car 3	Jim Drake/Beth Drake	B	CMC	3 Fails	25 Mins	2nd Exp
8th	Car 10	Alan Wakeman/Simon Mummery	B	WMx	4 Fails	21 Mins	3rd Beg
9th	Car 6	Billy Johnson/Richard Lillyman	N	PMC/NMC	5 Fails	19 Mins	3rd Nov
10th	Car 5	Matt Costin/James Costin	B	BCC	19 Fails	11 Mins	4th Beg

### Future Events

**Greenacres Autotest** The first event in our grass autotest season will be on the 4th June this year and will run at the usual Dunstable venue. This will be a passenger carrying event and is held on a smooth grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and is suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £20 (juniors £10) and regs are now available from the website or myself. Mike Harrison is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

**Grasshopper Autotest** The second of the summer grass autotests will be running on Sunday 9th July at the usual grass field. This will be a passenger carrying event and is held on a smooth grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and is suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £20 (juniors £10) and regs will be available mid May. Bernard Ward is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

The other grass autotests have had a swap around due to availability of organisers. Same dates as previously, just different name/person running it.

**Two Brewers Scatter** This NWL event is moving to a Saturday afternoon this year (5th August), to hopefully encourage some more entries, after a steady decline running on a clubnight. The event will be open to both NEL and WMx as well, with the format of visiting various locations and answering a clue question. Eight out of 15 locations to count and points are based on the number of people who answer that question, so quite random in finding a winner.

**Hollstar/Quadruplex** As Surrey have dropped out of organising or participating in these events, I've had to re-jig the organisation calendar for future events. As the Quadruplex was due to be run by Surrey this year in the Spring, it is very unlikely we will now get someone else to organise it, so we will start again next year. To the right is the organisational calendar of who is due to run what in the coming years.

Year	Quadruplex (Spring)	Hollstar (Autumn)
2017	—	WMx
2018	NEL	NWL
2019	WMx	NEL
2020	NWL	WMx

**Other Invites** Please see the calendar above for other events we have an invite to. I can get regs for any of these, just contact me if interested. We will be invited to all the Anglian Motor Sport Club autosolos/autotests throughout the year.

## NWL Greenacres Autotest - Sunday 4th June

Usual venue at Studd Farm, near Dunstable

Mike Harrison organising - Entry Fee £20

All forwards tests on smooth grass, passengers required

Great fun day out driving - Marshals required

Regs available from website at

<http://www.csma-nlr.org.uk/index.php?doc=503>

or from Mike H or Mike B

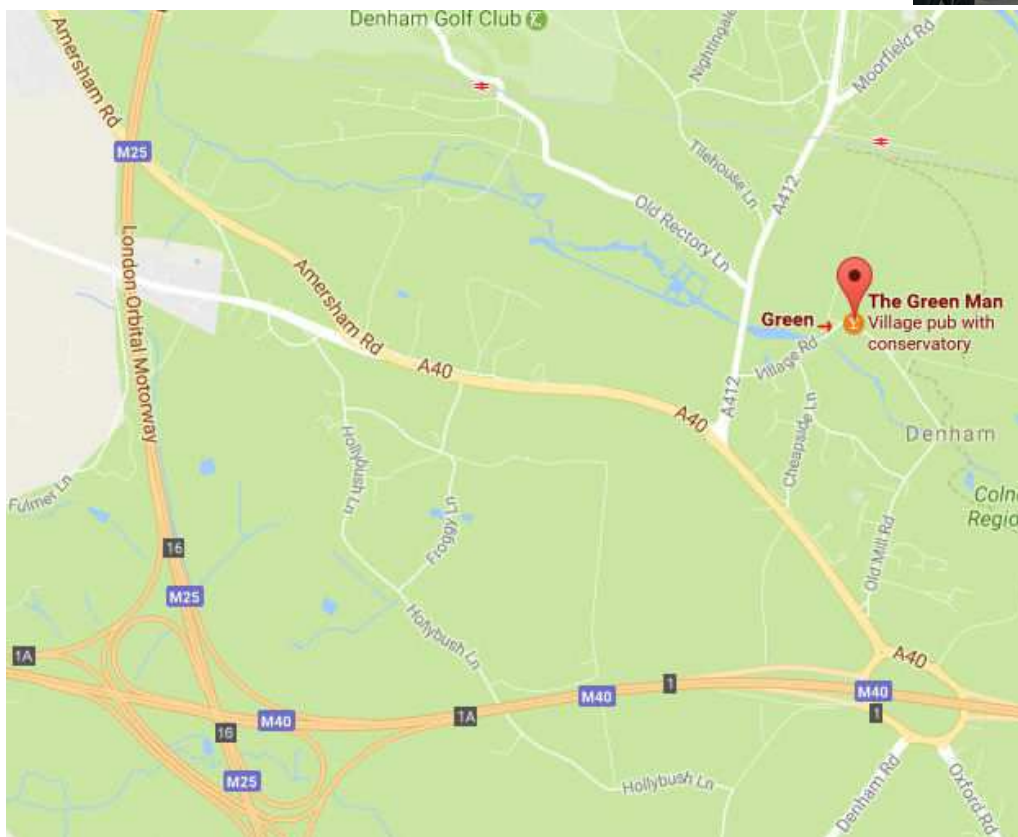
## Clubnight 6th June - Walking Treasure Hunt

The Green Man PH, Village Road, Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5BH

Map 176/042 871 just off junction 1 of the M40, use junction 16 off the M25.

No map required for the walking treasure hunt.

Meeting inside the pub if wet, or down at the green if dry, which is just past the pub going NW.



No car park, but plenty of parking along the road either side of the pub.

Meet 7:30pm for start.

Finish 9pm latest.



# Diary NWL 2017



**CLUBNIGHT Venue**  
 The Red Lion,  
 London Road,  
 Hemel Hempstead  
 HP3 9TD

**NOGGIN Venue**  
 The Red Lion,  
 London Road,  
 Hemel Hempstead  
 HP3 9TD

## May

**Tue 2nd** NWL Clubnight - Radio Controlled car autotest - The Red Lion  
 Sun 14th F1 - Spain  
**Thu 18th** NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead  
 19th-21st WRC - Portugal  
 Sun 28th F1 - Monaco

## June

**Sun 4th** NWL Greenacres Autotest  
**Tue 6th** NWL Clubnight - Walking Treasure Hunt - Denham Village  
 9th-11th WRC - Italy  
 Sun 11th F1 - Canada  
**Thu 15th** NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead  
 Sun 25th F1 - Azerbaijan  
 Thur 29th Boundless by CSMA AGM - Warwickshire

## July

30th-2nd WRC - Poland  
**Tue 4th** NWL Clubnight - Boule - Five Bells, Stanbridge  
 Sun 9th NEL Grasshopper Autotest  
 Sun 9th F1 - Austria  
 Sun 16th F1 - Silverstone  
**Thu 20th** NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead  
 28th-30th WRC - Finland  
 Sun 30th F1 - Hungary

### Dates to reserve:

Saturday 5th August - Two Brewers (afternoon) - Summer Munch (evening)