

Civil Service Motoring Association

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newsletter

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Civil Service Motoring Association



The Big End

CSMA NWL CLUB

Civil Service Motoring Association
North West London Group

NEWSLETTER

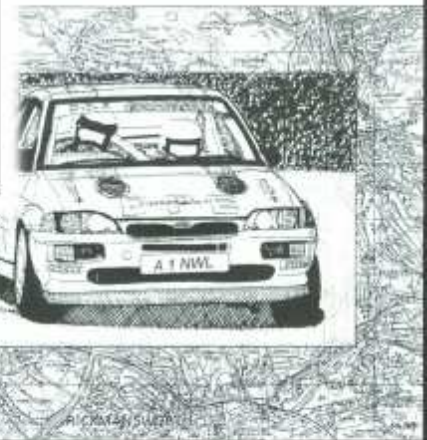


CSMA

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

February 2018



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Clubnight Buzzer Quiz

Tuesday 6th February

At our clubnight venue

The Red Lion PH

Starts 8pm

THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

February's birthday people are **Cheryl Baldwin** on the 9th, **Ian Buxton** on the 12th, **Owen Turner** on the 17th and **Ted Manktelow** on the 20th.
Happy Birthday!



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Visit **The Big End** on the Internet - www.esmanwl.com

NWL Editorial

The Dakar saw another win for Carlos Sainz in the Peugeot buggy. This is the last time they are entering the event, so someone else should be able to take the win next year, but it could still be the same drivers fighting it out.



Progress on the Mini has got as far as the engine build is under way. The subframe modifications have all been done and are now painted. The boot floor has now been cut, awaiting the sheet of ali to replace it. Had yet another broken tool whilst working on the car. So far the electric drill has gone, then a 90 degree adaptor broke, now the replacement adaptor has broken as well! Seems the bits that hold the bevel gears in had come loose and allowed the teeth to chip! Looks like it might be very close as to whether the car will be ready in time for the first event in March, but hopefully I can get all the mechanical bits done and leave the rest to later, and progressively finish it off during the season.

The Monte Carlo rally saw another win for Sebastien Ogier and is a good start for M-Sport to defend their title. Ott Tanak was impressive, having moved to Toyota for this year, and scored an excellent second place. Plenty of mixed surface conditions of clear, ice, snow and black ice. Quite a few incidents of crews sliding off on the slippery surface.



Well the so called improvements to West Middlesex group have now gone so well, that the group has now ceased to exist. A sad end to a very active group in the past.

For the Grass autotest season coming up, it looks like we will need to swap around some of the organisers and most likely have an extra one, as the Haymaker is unlikely to be running, now the Group has ceased to be. Our Chairman is unable to make the June date for the Greenacres, so I will be sending out a note to all existing organisers to see which dates they can make. The NEL event is fixed ok for July, so that just leaves June, Aug, Sept and Oct to sort out, all running on the second Sunday.

I mentioned awhile back now, about a local A road to me having a National speed limit at one end (which is how it has always been) and a new 40mph sign at the other end. Well the council have finally done something about it and made the whole road 40mph both ways (surprise, surprise) and fitted the compulsory speed repeater signs. No communication whatsoever to my raised questions on their website about reporting these things, so looks like you can report it but they'll just ignore it but can tick the box to say they give their residents a means to report things!

Please try and support the forthcoming 12 Car rallies, especially from a marshalling point of view, as some events last year were very borderline on the numbers they had available. Fortunately, the February 12 Car looks like a good entry and enough marshals, so here's hoping for some nice weather for everyone who is out this Friday.

Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the March newsletter is Thursday 22nd February

NWL Chairman's notebook

A good group of us managed to attend the January clubnight where we entertained ourselves by taking part in a beetle drive. If you don't know what a beetle drive is, it's where you throw a dice to determine what parts of a beetle you have got. You have to throw a six to start and that gives you the body, then 4 is the tail and a 3 is its legs of which you need either 6 or 4 depending on the rules. A 5 gives you the head, but you need the body first, and then 1 is an eye and a 2 is a feeler and you need two of each. The first player to complete their beetle shouts out beetle and the game stops and you add up your scores.

This is a most exciting game and very entertaining if taken lightly, but can be very frustrating when one keeps throwing 6s when you just want a 3 for a leg etc. I have had the situation when I am still waiting to throw a 6 for the body to start and someone shouts out beetle having completed their beetle! My thanks to Shirley for organising the evening for us all.

Steven and I had fun taking part on the January 12 car, with me driving and Steven on the maps for a change. He did very well and we managed to finish just within OTL and only collected 2 fails for a couple of missed code boards, which is really good considering this was his first time on the maps and we didn't go around as beginners but entered as novices.

8 crews entered but only 7 started on the night as the dreaded flu claimed the crew of car number 1. A good mixture of navigation was encountered on the route cards and the actual route although very muddy in places (the car still hasn't been cleaned) was smooth and great fun, although perhaps an Audi A4 estate is not exactly the right car to rally! As Steven is working on the night of the February 12 car, I am back on the maps with Doug driving me around the lanes above Ware in Hertfordshire. No doubt Graham Robinson could do with some more entries or offers of help to marshal the event. Speaking of which I will need both entries and marshals for the next 12 car on the 2nd March so please pass this request on to everyone!!

Doug and I attended the HRCR open day at Gaydon last month, mainly to sign on for this year's championship and to take a look at one of two of the new events being included for the first time this year, namely the Tour of Flanders Rally in Belgium, which has taken the place of the Manx Rally this year. No sure I agree with this, but let us wait and see! We also took the Lancia long to see if we could sell it to anyone in attendance. Doug has dropped the price so if you know of anyone wanting a never raced or rallied Lancia, give them Doug's telephone number!

Doug and I together with our better halves are off to the HRCR Awards evenings on the 17th February to collect our class wards, with Doug coming 2nd in class and me once again picking up 1st in class.

If you haven't been to Gaydon recently, then you will see quite a lot of change with either the Jaguar or Aston Martin car factory (I can never remember which) getting ever larger every time I go there and this year was no exception with building work taking place all around the museum!

I am pleased to announce that I am entertaining you all at next month's clubnight, where I will be running a good old buzzer quiz and yes after 30 odd years Doug's handiwork still works!! My intention is that the quiz will be light hearted and not too serious with teams of 2 if possible depending upon numbers.

For the March clubnight, please don't forget that it's the annual general meeting, so it is very important that you all make an effort and attend. I will try and get the formal proceeding over as quickly as possible, but it will need your input at some stage during the proceedings!

Clubnight is on the 6th February and if I don't manage to see you then, perhaps I will catch you at noggin on the 15th February, both taking place as normal at the Red Lion Public House, Hemel Hempstead.

Mike H.



Secretary's spot

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The NWL New Year got off to its' traditional fun evening with the January Clubnight taken up throwing dice and trying to make up 'beetles'. Ian O'Connor maintained a consistent standard of beetle drawing and came away victorious. I managed to win the wooden spoon but the main thing is that all had a good time.

A few days later Pete G, with Graeme Presswell's assistance, ran the first 12 car rally of the winter and it seemed to be very well received by the competitors. Three more 12 cars will be taking place on the first Friday evening of February, March and April so if you are able to compete or marshal then please do so.

Our February Clubnight will see our Chairman running a buzzer quiz provided the buzzers can be found somewhere in working order in one of the Harrison lofts. Whatever, I am sure Mike will keep us all amused one way or another.

Please remember that our March Clubnight will be the Group's Annual General Meeting where we really do need your support to ensure the continuation of our activities and also comment on what you would like to see organised.

As normal, our clubnights and chat and a drink evenings will all be held at The Red Lion pub, London Road, Hemel Hempstead (in the function room and bar area respectively). For attending our Chat and a Drink gatherings on the third Thursday of each month you may find it beneficial to text our Editor, Mike Biss, if you are planning to go along just to ensure other members are likely to be attending.

For the immediate future we have the following;

Tuesday 6th February – NWL Clubnight where our Chairman will be running a buzzer quiz to test our brain power. Mike's quizzes are always enjoyable so come and test your knowledge and possibly come away with a prize.

Saturday 10th February – NWL New Year meal at The Round Bush, Aldenham, WD25 8BG. Hopefully full details will be included in this Big End but contact Anne G to confirm your place or for further details.

Thursday 15th February – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion as usual.

Friday 2nd March – NWL 12 Car Rally to be organised by Mike H and full details published elsewhere in this Big End.

Tuesday 6th March – NWL Annual General Meeting – 8.30pm start at The Red Lion – please try to support if you can

Thursday 15th March – NWL Chat and a Drink – The Red Lion where we gather from about 8.30pm onwards – very informal evening

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

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
Feb	Fri 2	* 12 Car Rally (C)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL	Region
Mar	Fri 2	* 12 Car Rally (C)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL	Region
Apr	Fri 6	* 12 Car Rally (C)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL	Region
	Sat 14	Quadruplex ()	Intergroup competition	CSMA NEL	
	Sat 21	Juniper Autotest (Nat B)	Tarmac autotest	CSMA NEL	MSA/BTRDA
May	Sun 13	Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	

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

Past Events

January 12 Car Rally The first event of the season saw eight entries, but one pulled out due to the flu bug going around. Pete and Graeme found a nice route using the roads around Wheathampstead.

Car 6	Jim Drake / Graham Robinson	N	0F	13m	1st O/A
Car 2	Ben Cutting / Steve Cumbers	E	0F	23m	1st Expert
Car 3	David Thomson / Alan Smith	E	0F	28m	2nd Expert
Car 4	Mike Harrison / Steven Harrison	N	3F	30m	1st Novice
Car 5	Mark Brumwell / Gwilym Griffiths	N	5F	36m	2nd Novice
Car 7	Billy Johnson / Richard Lillyman	B	0F	10m	1st Beginner
Car 8	Ian O'Connor / Lorraine Doyle	B			Non finisher
Car 1	Non starter				

Future Events

February 12 Car Rally The event is this Friday and currently Graham has 10 entries, which is very encouraging. Results next month.

March 12 Car Rally Starting from the White Hart PH, Whelpley Hill, Chesham HP5 3RL on the 2nd, it will use maps 165 and 166 for the 50 mile route, which starts at 8:30pm. Offers of entries and marshals would be appreciated by Mike Harrison and you can contact him on either 07974 268560 or mlh.bhm@btconnect.com. Regs are available from the website or myself.

April 12 Car Rally Starting from The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Nr Dunstable LU6 2PJ on the 6th, it will use map 166 for the 45 mile route, which starts at 8:30pm. Offers of entries and marshals would be appreciated by Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on either 07904 958895 or alanthurbon@yahoo.com. Regs are available from the website or myself.

Quadruplex North East London will be organising the Intergroup event this year and it will be held on Saturday 14th April. This is a quiz, memory and skill challenge for Groups, with teams of at least two people will compete individually, but overall honours go to the Group with the two best teams. You can have more per team, or the minimum and more teams, your Group's decision. Entry is free. The venue is the Sele Farm Community Centre, Perret Gardens, Hertford SG14 2LW

Juniper Autotest Advance notice that the Juniper has moved to Saturday 21st April this year and will be part of the Vintage Sports-Car Club historic race weekend. The event will be held inside the circuit, so you will get to walk around the paddock area and see all the pre war cars, so a longer lunch break/quicker finish may be in order. Access will be via a ticket only, so please put the date in your diaries and let me know if you can attend, as I will need to send you the ticket (most likely the week before). Again a round of the British Autotest championship.

Closed Road Stage Rally in Essex The first closed road stage rally in England will be run by Chelmsford MC on Sunday 22nd April around the Clacton-on-Sea area, on the Essex coast. For the first year it will be a standalone event of about 45 stage miles, whilst they experience of organising such an event.

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.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 07753 137415

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com

NEL 12 Car Rally

Friday 2nd February

**The Axe & Compasses PH, The Street, Braughing, Herts, SG11 2QR
MR 166 / 398252½**

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £12 entry fee
Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Map 166/167 FEB 2016 required
Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Organiser Graham Robinson (graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com)

Marshals/Competitors required - Arrive before 8pm, first car starts at 20:31

Regs now available from the website <http://boundlessevents.uk> or contact Mike Biss

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 2nd March

The White Hart PH, Whelpley Hill, Chesham HP5 3RL, MR 166/000039

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £12 entry fee
Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Maps 165/166 FEB 2016 required
Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Organiser Mike Harrison (mlh.bhm@btconnect.com)

Marshals/Competitors required - Arrive before 8pm, first car starts at 20:31

Regs now available from the website <http://boundlessevents.uk> or contact Mike Biss

Notice of the annual

North West London AGM

Tuesday 6th March

The Red Lion, 56 London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TD

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 6th April

**Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Nr Dunstable LU6 2PJ
MR 166/028182**

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £12 entry fee
Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Map 166 FEB 2016 required
Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Organiser Alan Thurbon (alanthurbon@yahoo.com)

Marshals/Competitors required - Arrive before 8pm, first car starts at 20:31pm

Regs available later in February <http://boundlessevents.uk> or contact Mike Biss

Vauxhall Chevette Build Progress Report

Not yet sold the Lancia, seems the market has gone very quiet!, although Silverstone Auctions are chasing me for them to auction the car at their Race Retro event.

The Chevette is coming along slowly, the rear stays are not fixed in yet as the whole cage has to be lowered to weld the roof bar and front cage then raised back up to fix the rear stays and then the final bars to go in, are the seat belt bars and the dash bar. Quite a juggling act to do it right. The seats are being delivered this week as to complete the exhaust & transmission tunnel, the seat rails and seats need to be in position to make sure everything fits. The cage should be finished next week, so it's then time to turn it over to do all the strengthening and repairs.



I suspect it may not even be ready for the 2nd championship event in mid April over the Epynt ranges 😞

Cheers for now Doug



NWL Post Christmas Meal

Saturday 10th February - The meal is booked for 7pm

The Round Bush

Round Bush Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts. WD25 8BG

We do not need to order in advance on this occasion. The cost of the food will be split evenly amongst the diners and drinks can be purchased from the bar. More information on the Round Bush can be seen at <http://www.theroundbush.co.uk/daily-menu/>.

The pub is around 5 minutes drive from Junction 5 of the M1.

My e-mail address is anne.e.graves@btinternet.com or text/call me on 07811 905360.
(ED: closing date was Friday 26th January, but contact Anne to see if spaces still available.)

I look forward to seeing you all on the 10th February.

Anne

PRECIOUS METAL JEWELLERY

Most of the precious jewellery in retail outlets is produced by unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Chain is made by machines which can run 24 hours a day and produce many times that made by hand. Look on the web for gold chain manufacture and be amazed at the speed of operation.

A silver tray can take 1 or 2 days to saw out a pierced design. An engineers press can punch one out every 10 seconds. And a press can quickly put shape into a sheet of silver or gold which would take hours by a silversmith using hammers and stakes.

But lost wax casting is used to produce rings and small items. Here a skilled worker produces the master in metal from which silicone rubber moulds are made to enable the injection of dozens of replicas in wax. These are fixed tree like in a metal flask, filled with a special plaster, and the wax melted out after the plaster sets. Molten precious metal is then poured into the cavities to replicate the master. Can be 100 rings or more at one pour.

Affordability drives the production process but if you have lots of money and want a 'one-off' item, trot to a jeweller working for this market. He or she can design and make your ideal item. Some jewellery makers will do all the work but surrounding Hatton Garden and the Birmingham jewellery quarter there are specialists in gem setting, polishing, engraving, enamelling etc etc to assist where necessary.

A few words about precious metals. It is an offence to describe and sell Silver, Gold, Platinum and Palladium by these names if they are not hallmarked. (Palladium was a recent addition in 2010) And hallmarks indicate how much precious metal is in an item. Other metals are added to change colour, add strength, workability and reduce cost. 9 carat (37.5% gold 62.5% other metals) and 18 carat (75% gold: 25% other metals) are the commonest mixtures seen.

COLOUR: All gold is yellow when dug up. Add copper and it turns pink/reddish Add silver, zinc and palladium and white gold emerges. Well, not quite. Over some 40 years I have made many yellow gold wedding rings for family members. But when I finally polished my daughters 18 carat white gold ring - total shock. I could not understand how all window ring displays were brilliant brilliant white and mine turned out crap grey. ***The trade describes white gold as 'whitish-white' Economical with the truth! It is best described as 'greyish-white' or 'yellowish-white' according to the alloying mix. A few days after the shock I was nattering to a spectator at a race meeting. Turned out he was a jeweller and explained the 'con' All white gold is rhodium plated and he did mine.. Relief. ***Retailers keep rather quiet about this, but look on their sites and they 'will replate free of charge items that the rhodium has worn off up to 12 months after purchase. Longevity on the back burner?.

As it wears off the grey will show through and you will be lucky if it lasts 3 years.

MICRONS: In a sales pitch you may be told the plating is between 1 and 3 microns thick. A micron is 1 millionth of a metre. Can you imagine a millionth? Let me help you. At then end of each month a copy of NWL Bigend comes Bissing out of you printer and 80 gsm printer paper is 100 microns thick. Does that help? As an alternative snatch a hair from your head. Probably also 100 microns. But this choice is not available to all and may be a receding possibility.

Retailers push 'certified diamonds'. Read the web before a purchase.

Questions? Ask me Harry Spinks Feb 2018



Diary NWL 2018



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

DRINK & CHAT Venue
 The Red Lion,
 56 London Road,
 Hemel Hempstead
 HP3 9TD

February

Fri 2nd NEL 12 Car Rally
 Tue 6th **NWL Clubnight - Buzzer Quiz - The Red Lion**
 Sat 10th **NWL Post Xmas Meal -**
 Thu 15th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
(Please text editor if planning to attend)
 16th-18th WRC - Sweden

March

Fri 2nd **NWL 12 Car Rally**
 Tue 6th **NWL Clubnight - AGM - The Red Lion**
 9th-11th WRC - Mexico
 Thu 15th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
(Please text editor if planning to attend)
 Sun 25th F1 - Australia

April

Tue 3rd **NWL Clubnight - Darts evening - The Red Lion**
 Fri 6th **NWL 12 Car Rally**
 6th-8th WRC - France
 Sun 8th F1 - Bahrain
 Sun 15th F1 - China
 Thu 19th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
(Please text editor if planning to attend)
 Sat 21st NEL Juniper Autotest - Silverstone Circuit
 27th-29th WRC - Argentina
 Sun 29th F1 - Azerbaijan

Dates to reserve: