

Civil Service Motoring Association



newsletter

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The Big End





Civil Service Motoring Association  
North West London Group



NEWSLETTER

CSMA

THE BIG END




BIG END




CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

Edition



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION  
NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



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BY CSMA  
North West London Group  
October 2020



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## Club night

**CHANGE OF CLUBNIGHT - BOWLING CANCELLED**

Instead, we have a  Quiz

Organised by Mike B - over Zoom call (host Mike H)

(see page 6 for details)

## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

Happy birthday wishes this time go to **David and Emma Muir** who are another year wiser this month!



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 **Boundless North West London Group**

# Editorial

No articles this month, as Doug is still constructing his latest kit and Ian is a bit busy at present.

My next competition event is next weekend when I get to use the MX5 for the first time since this time last year! Got a bit of a shock when I went for the MOT and it failed on a broken rear spring. The coil-over unit had held it in place and I hadn't noticed it when driving it down to the garage. Luckily, the units had been replaced with uprated ones with adjustable spring platforms. This meant I could unwind the platforms to take the pressure off the springs and that enabled to me remove them without having to separate any of the other parts of the suspension. I had to buy and replace both rear springs, as I couldn't find out what the ones fitted were rated at. Time will tell on the event if it was broken on last years event and it handles a lot better this time. Would be nice.



Nice to see Elfyn Evans have his second win of the year on Rally Turkey last month. He managed to keep out of the troubles that a lot of the others had on the very rough stages and the many punctures that halted the challenge from those in front of him on the last day. He is now leading the championship again, this time by 18 points, with just two events remaining. There is one more gravel event before the final tarmac round in Belgium. Is it possible he could take the WRC crown, it would certainly be nice if he could.



The 12 Car rallies are getting more challenging to organise with each new Government restriction, with the pubs closing at 10pm meaning no indoor finish venue for the events. Other clubs are managing to still keep putting them on, so I don't think it will be a problem for us to do the same. It will most likely not be as sociable at the finish, but at least they will have taken place.

How do Mercedes keep making mistakes after all these years that give Lewis Hamilton penalties that hinder his championship chances. At the race in Russia at the weekend they got done twice for practice starts at the end of the pit exit, which they thought was ok, but the stewards didn't and gave two five second penalties. The rule itself was looked at by the commentators and they thought it was a bit of a grey area and that the rules would be changed by the FIA for next year, but they do seem to give out penalties without any thought to how it is going to affect what people are going to watch. In F1 they do seem to be a bunch of jobsworths!

As for Carlos Sainz and his attempt to drive through a concrete wall on the first lap was incredulous. Having overshot the first proper corner, he was required to go around some barriers before rejoining the track but completely got the speed/angle wrong and took the front corner off his McLaren!



For your delectation, this months clubnight, in a change to the published programme, is now a Zoom call virtual clubnight, featuring a music quiz presented by yours truly.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the November newsletter is Thursday 22nd October





# Chairman's notebook

Having said last month that we were finally taking the first tentative steps back to normality, things have since then changed and it looks very much like we are heading back to a lock down.

So, having consulted the committee, we have taken the difficult and sad decision to cancel both the October clubnight at the bowling centre in Dunstable and also the Karting evening in November, also in Dunstable. Having said this, we are going to try and run, or more specifically, Mike Biss will try and run a quiz night on the 6th October. Not sure what platform we will use, Zoom or Microsoft teams (*ED: It will be Zoom*), but if you are interested, please send me your up to date email address so I can invite you all to the event please.

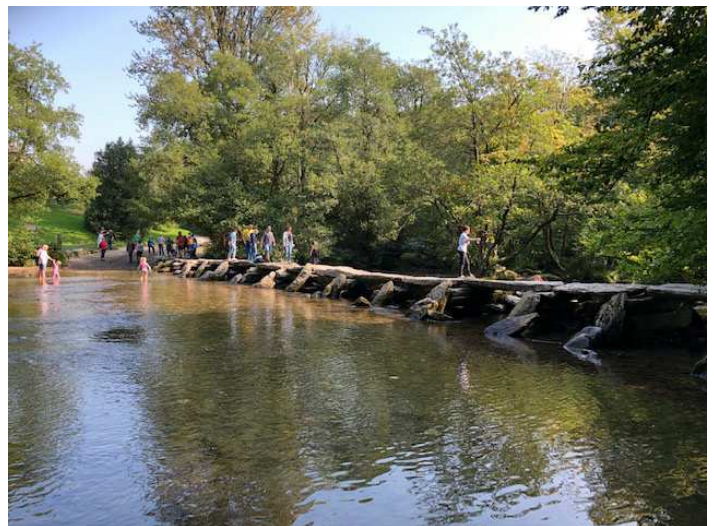
Having said all this, Anne and Steve ran a brilliant walking treasure hunt through the streets of old Hemel last month for us. What a pretty little part of the town, I had never visited it before, very similar to the old part of St Albans.



As usual, Ann and I managed 98% of the answers, but the final 2% alluded us, even with the help of a torch we still couldn't find them, although as usual once you know where to look, they are obvious!! Hey, but this is the fun of a walking treasure hunt! Many thanks Anne and Steve for a very enjoyable clubnight and even a good pint afterwards in the pub, or should I say in the garden of the pub and yes, we did all maintain social distancing! And yes, we didn't need the umbrella this year either! But it was jolly nice to see all of your happy faces once more!

We finally got the Sprite back at the beginning of the month. They have replaced not only the block and bottom end etc., but also the head, so in reality an entire new engine, but fortunately not at my expense this time. So, we are now in the process of running it in and with that in mind, Ann and I took it down to Lynton and Lynmouth last weekend. We were supposed to be away on the Retro Run in Wales but this got cancelled, so I booked our usual hotel on the harbour front in Lynmouth instead, as our normal weekend here back in June had also been cancelled because of Covid 19 restrictions.

On the way down on the Friday, Ann kept telling me off for driving too fast, but I was only running it at just about 3,500 revs, however, this still equates to 75mph and my foot was barely resting on the accelerator. Honest guv! We took our normal route down the M3 and A303 and then turned left at Ilminster to follow the A358 along to Taunton. From here we continue to the coast, still using the A358 to Washford. This road follows the West Somerset Railway to Minehead and you get glimpses of it along the way, as well as passing under it several times. From Washford you pick up the A39 to Minehead, before finally reaching Lynmouth via the famous and exciting Porlock Hill. Some might say challenging, especially back in the 60's. Providing that is, you don't get stuck behind someone in a clapped-out Audi A4 Estate!



The road from the top of Porlock Hill all the way to Lynmouth follows the coast along the edge of Exmoor and is a delight to drive, especially in the Sprite, although the exhaust does protest at times, as ground clearance is limited! You then descend down to Lynmouth on the famous Countisbury Hill, which affords fantastic views along the coastline, if you are a passenger that is!

*Chairman's notebook - continues on page 7*

# Secretary's spot

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The nights are drawing in and the weather is getting considerably colder and with recent announcements about the pandemic situation, there is not a huge amount to stop us all from going crazy, however we all must put our best foot forward and enjoy what we can.

Having said that, it is disappointing to announce that at a recent Zoom committee meeting we decided not to proceed with our planned programme of Clubnights. We were hoping to be able to run the tenpin bowling evening and the karting because both venues have adopted proper Covid-19 risk assessment and taken into account all social distancing and sanitising requirements but it was considered a little irresponsible to encourage our members to take chances so these events have also been side-lined for the time being.

Fortunately we were able to have a short walk around Hemel Hempstead Old Town last month where Anne and Steve had organised a super walking treasure hunt and even arranged for social distanced outside tables to be available at one of the local pubs on completion of the 'hunt'. Most competitors did fairly well but Gwilym and Mark were the only ones to find all the correct answers so congratulations to them on a great performance and a big thank you to Anne and Steve for a very enjoyable evening.

We are intending to run a virtual quiz (most likely music based) via Zoom on the evening of our October clubnight on Tuesday 6th. Look out for zoom signing in details elsewhere in this Big End and please make sure you are online by 8.00pm sharp. This will be a first for NWL so who knows what might happen but if you can come and join us online then please do so as I am sure it will be fun.

It is anticipated that some of us will still be turning up at The Red Lion on the third Thursday of each month for our Chat and a Drink evenings between 8:30pm and 10:00pm. The arrangement at the pub seems very good and whilst it may be too cold to convene outside, there is plenty of social distanced space within the pub to make everybody feel comfortable.

On the motorsport front it was a great disappointment not to run any of the proposed grass autotest events during the summer months due to the restrictions and whilst it is hopeful to run the 12 Car rally series during the winter, there seems to be many restrictions coming into play that may make running these events difficult – watch this space in the next few months for further development

Our very **provisional** programme is as follows, but please watch out for changes and/or give me a call for further confirmation;

**Tuesday 6th October – NWL Clubnight – virtual quiz, full details elsewhere**  
**Thursday 15th October – NWL Chat and a Drink – The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**  
**Tuesday 3rd November – NWL Clubnight – watch this space**  
**Thursday 19th November – NWL Chat and a Drink – The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**  
**Tuesday 1st December – NWL Clubnight – watch this space**  
**Thursday 17th December – NWL Chat and a Drink – The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**

***That's about it for now – please keep safe and well and follow the guidelines!!***

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
Oct	Sun 4	* Boanerges AutoSolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC	
	Sun 11	? Autumn Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest	<del>CSMA NWL</del>	<del>Region/Southern</del>
	Fri 23	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC	
	Mon 26	* Goodwood Track Day (C)	Drive own car on race track	<b>CSMA MSG</b>	
Nov	Fri 6	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC	
	Fri 20	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC	
Dec	Fri 4	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC	
	Sun 27	? Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	
Jan	Fri 8	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>	Region
Feb	Fri 5	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NEL</b>	Region
Mar	Fri 5	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>	Region
Apr	Fri 9	12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>	Region

**Licence required:** (I/Nat/Inter/Cm) = MSUK Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, \* = Regs available

### Past Events

### Future Events

**Grass Autotests** These have now been dropped for the rest of the year, as the farmer never replied to contact to give us any time to make arrangements for the last possible event to run. Will have to wait until next year now.

**Goodwood Track Day** The Motorsports Group, in conjunction with MGs-On-Track, will be running a track day at the Goodwood race circuit in West Sussex on Monday 26th October. There is a dedicated session (of 15 minutes every hour) to the club and costs are £199 per car, which allows more than one driver for the same car but you just share the same amount of time between you. More details on Motorsport Group website/Facebook page. Contact Mike Harrison if interested or further details.

**12 Car Rallies** These are planned to run from January to April, as usual, and the dates are shown in the calendar. With the pubs currently told to shut at 10pm, this means we are without an indoor venue for refreshments after the event. The 12 Cars could still use the pubs for a start, at least for refreshments as per their own arrangements, as we no longer will need a table inside to do the paperwork, but perhaps we could still use the pub car park (by agreement) for the finish. We will have to see what is going to be practical.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 07753 137415

E-mail: [mike.biss@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)

## Music Quiz - Clubnight Tuesday 6th Oct @ 8pm



Due to the new restrictions in place, the committee feels it cannot be seen to be out at other venues during this time, so we are going to try something new this month, and have a virtual clubnight instead. Hopefully this will work similar to how it has run before in real life.

There will be nine rounds of 10 questions or less if you get bored! Wide selection of music from songs to TV shows (old and new). There will be no visual items in the quiz, it is all audio based.

It would be nice to see you all your faces live after our long break since the AGM.

Guidance notes on connecting with Zoom are available on request to the Editor.

Please just let Mike Harrison know if you are able to make the clubnight, so that he can send out the call details. You will need to have the Zoom app on your computer beforehand.



## Chairman's notebook - continued from page 4

Coming back on the Sunday, we used a different route, using the B3223, with a little bit of the B3222 and the A396 to Tiverton. This crosses Exmoor and allows one to visit the famous Tarr Steps, where if you are brave or an idiot, you can take your car across the ford. Let us say the Land Rover guy was brave and the BMW3 driver an idiot.



However, the B road across Exmoor is once again fantastic, especially on a lovely sunny day like we had last Sunday and there are plenty of places to stop and enjoy the views. Needless to say, we didn't stop to enjoy the views as I was enjoying the drive too much!

At Tiverton we joined the M5 heading North and then hopped off two junctions up at Taunton to head back to the A303 and M3 to get home. We had the usual hold up at Stonehenge, I suppose one day they might build the tunnel but interesting the traffic both days was heavier than in August when we travelled down to Tintagel.

So, two great roads to perhaps try next time you are down that way if you don't want to use the main roads or more direct routes, so you can enjoy the views and indeed your car! Next year will be even better, as the car will have been run in and I can exceed 3,500 rpm all the way up to 8,000rpm, however, I will probably run out of both road and talent though if I am not careful and I must remember the exhaust which acts as a speed limiter anyway, as if I drive too fast, they hit the smoothest of roads!

If you are wondering what the picture of the farmer guiding his cows is all about, it's a lesson why you should give this sort of thing plenty of room. Back in Cornwall during our summer holiday we came across the cows crossing the road from the field to the farm and I was just about to get a bit nearer to give Jacob our grandson a better view, when suddenly out of nowhere an air sea rescue helicopter came flying across us at low level, scattering the cows everywhere! Fortunately, the extra room paid off as we just about avoided a badly dented bonnet and car! But only just, and the old heart rate certainly increased somewhat for a few moments, as the farmer just about managed to control them before they ran amuck! Next time I might even give them more room!



Just to mention we still have one space left on our first track day of the year at Goodwood on the 26th October, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, give them a nudge to get in touch. We are running this in conjunction with the MG car club and have one session for only 10 cars. As I will still be running in the Sprite, and the noise restrictions there are quite demanding for the Sprite, I won't be out there on track, but I will be there to help and assist on the day.

So hopefully I might see your cheery faces on Zoom or Microsoft teams on the 6th at 8pm for the quiz and if not, then I will see you in person for a drink and a chat at the Red Lion on the 15th October, provided of course the rules don't prohibit this! Oh yes, do remember that whilst on Zoom or Microsoft teams, unless you add in a background (*ED: you do need a plain background for it to work properly*), the rest of us can see whatever is going on behind you!

Mike H.

### NWL Fun Karting Evening

- Dunstable (indoor)
- Friday 13th November
- £35 (max) for three 15 minute timed practice sessions.
- 15 mins break in-between.
- 500m multi-level track.
- Arrive by 19:45
- Contact Gwilym if interested.  
Gwilym.Griffiths@boundlesscommunity.co.uk





# Diary NWL 2020



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

## October

**Tue 6th** ~~NWL Clubnight - Tenpin bowling, Dunstable Music Quiz - Zoom call~~  
 Sun 11th F1 - Germany  
~~Sun 11th~~ ~~NWL Autumn Autotest ?~~  
**Thu 15th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
 16th-18th WRC - Germany  
 Sun 25th F1 - Portugal

## November

30th-1st WRC - Italy  
 Sun 6th F1 - Italy  
**Tue 3rd** **NWL Clubnight - ???, The Red Lion, HH (or virtual)**  
~~Fri 13th~~ ~~NWL Karting evening, Dunstable~~  
 Sun 15th F1 - Turkey  
**Thu 19th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
 20th-22nd WRC - Belgium  
 Sun 29th F1 - Bahrain 1

## December

**Tue 1st** **NWL Clubnight - ???, The Red Lion, HH (or virtual)**  
 Sun 6th F1 - Bahrain 2  
 Sun 13th F1 - Abu Dhabi  
**Thu 17th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**

Dates to reserve:

NWL 12 Car rally - 8th January 2021