

Civil Service Motoring Association





newsletter

CSMA

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CSMA Civil Service Motoring Association

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100 YEARS OF CSMA 1923-2023

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CSMA THE BIG END

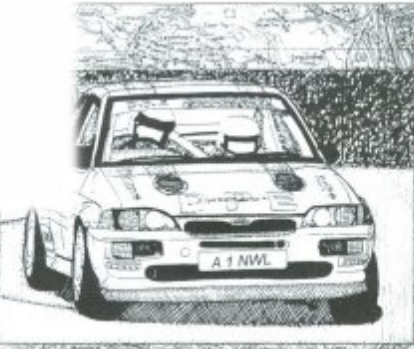



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

89-97

Edition

BIG END



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



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BY CSMA

North West London Group

September 2023



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Vacant

## Clubnight

### September Clubnight - Bowling

Tuesday 5th September

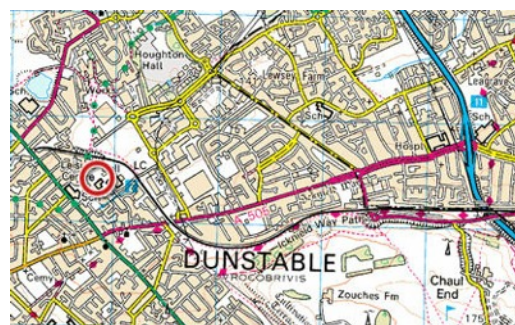
**Meet from 7:30pm**

**Bowling starts at 8:00pm**

Go Bowling, Court Drive, Dunstable LU5 4JD

**£22 for 2 games + basket meal + drink**

**Please contact Alan T to book your place**



## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

Happy September Birthday wishes go this month to twins **Doug and Mike Harrison, Dave Robins** and last but not least **Sarah Cox**.



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Visit **The Big End** on the Internet - <http://news.boundlessevents.uk>

**Boundless North West London Group**

# Editorial

Remember that nice picture of the Lancia Delta rallycross car in last months edition, well it is no more, as it and the sister car and a team transporter were all destroyed at the Lydden Hill round in the UK at the end of July. The cars had arrived and set up and the car had only been plugged into the charger for a few minutes before the car caught fire. It quickly spread to the sister car and then the transporter behind, before the fire brigade got it under some sort of control. Thankfully nobody was hurt. As it couldn't be defined how the fire started, the round for these top flight cars was cancelled and as of the present time, the fire details have not been resolved yet, so the rounds in Belgium and Germany were also cancelled. Seems all the teams cars are still at Lydden, as no one was willing to ferry them! It is noticeable that electric car fires are getting more common, as more cars get on the road, and transporting them on ships is proving to be an even bigger problem, as you lose the whole ship when one starts onboard. They might have to design special ships to transport them, or move the batteries separately.



Unfortunately, our new autotest field use only lasted half a day, before permission was pulled. Such a shame, as it was nice to get the car out again and blow the cobwebs away. I hadn't used it since 2021 and it needed all four tyres pumping up, but it was working well on the event. The car hadn't been double driven for a long time and having it running all the time showed up that it needs some TLC, and some new oil!

The Motorsports Group ran a rally school visit to a venue near Bicester and both Doug and I went along and had a go. It was hot and dusty on the course, but not too bad. We had the veritable Ford Escort for our first go, nothing special, just the basic mods and was fun to drive on the loose. They watered the course before our second go in the Escort and that made things a bit different but still fun, but the later use of a four wheel drive Subaru Impreza was less enjoyable (but more comfortable!), as it was definitely a case of point and squirt and almost no drifting around the corners, you just waited (and waited) for the understeer to stop!



The F1 race on Sunday in the Netherlands was a prime example of how weather conditions can change a boring race into an amazing one. The track itself helps with different options through corners, but it was the downpour at the start and at the end that made all the difference, except one, Max still won! Nice to see Alonso and Aston Martin back on form, and it must come this year with him getting a win and stopping the Red Bull season blitz of the wins.

Hopefully we will see you at the bowling for clubnight, for some fun and socialising.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the October newsletter is Thursday 21st September



# Chairman's notebook

A big thank you to Alan Thurbon for organising a very nice evening of gliding, at the Dunstable Gliding Club, for our August clubnight activity. A fair number of us attended and all of us who had paid for a flight, managed to get up in the air with an instructor and have a short flight of ten minutes or so.

It was well organised by the club, with three gliders on hand to ensure we all managed to get a flight and still have time for a drink in the club house bar afterwards. I am pleased to say the instructor let me have a go of the controls, which was probably true for everyone, and he was very instructive and really went out of his way to ensure I enjoyed the flight, which I certainly did.

At just £30 for the flight, it was I believe very good value and I am sure we shall repeat the event again in a couple of years' time.

Ann and I didn't make our normal drink and a chat evening on the 17th August, as we were away on holiday in Wales. Yes, it was wet and windy, but we did get a fair bit of sunshine and the weather was nowhere near as bad as forecasted. We stayed in a lovely cottage in Blaenau Ffestiniog, which had a log burner and so with a nice bottle of red wine, we really didn't care what the weather did! We of course had a go on the Ffestiniog Railway down to Portmadog and back and also the Welsh Highland Railway from Portmadog up to Caernarfon and back.



Both these railways are well worth a ride on, as the scenery is magnificent and the Double Fairlies and Beyer-Garratt locomotives are superb. There's nothing like the sound and smell of a steam locomotive! If the weather is good, you get a very good view of Snowdon from the Welsh Highland Railway, at the halt appropriately named Snowdon Ranger Halt, and also whilst riding across the Cob (breakwater) on the Ffestiniog Railway.

It's amazing what you come across whilst on holiday sometimes, on a day of mixed weather, we drove along the coast up to Caernarfon and discovered the small single hanger Caernarfon Aviation museum, situated on an ex RAF bomber and coastal command airfield

next to the beach. What made this museum stand out, was that amongst the general exhibits was the flight logbook of Guy Gibson, together with recovered parts of the bouncing bomb, which had destroyed the Mohne dam in Germany! Quite extraordinary really, you would have thought that an item such as this, which is obviously of national significance, would have been spirited away for display at RAF Hendon or the Imperial War Museum, not tucked away in North Wales!

I understand that unfortunately the grass autotest had to end early, as the lady who owns the field didn't quite understand the nature of autotests and thought the field would remain relatively untouched, which of course is not the case, and so she called an early halt to the event and Mike had to obviously comply with her wishes. So disappointing and there will not be another one in September now, as this was going to use the same field, but we will keep on with our efforts to find another field.

Unfortunately, the Sprite developed quite a bad oil leak and upon inspection it seemed to be coming from the gearbox, although it was hard to see, given I don't have a hoist. So I dropped it off at Frontline, before we disappeared off to Wales. On our return I phoned them and they confirmed it was the gearbox, but when asked where, the answer back was "everywhere"! So, the box is off to the specialist for a rebuild, hopefully I will have the car back in time for the Retro Run on the weekend of the 16th/17th September, but it probably won't be back in the car in time for the track day at Castle Combe on the 4th September. I still have spare spaces on this event at the present time and so if you are interested, just email me; the Goodwood track day on the 23rd October is very nearly full with only two spaces spare, so if you are interested in that one, you better get hold of me quickly.

*Chairman's notebook - continues on page 6*



# Secretary's spot

Our August clubnight saw a number of us take to the skies in a glider at the London Gliding Club, Dunstable. The weather was fairly kind to us and the early fliers got really good value for money, with a reasonable amount of time in the air. Conditions slightly deteriorated as the evening went on, but we all enjoyed a good experience.

Our long awaited grass autotest commenced on a piece of land new to us on Sunday 13th August. The site was very adequate for our requirements, however after one set of runs the farmer thought the grass was being cut up too much and we had to call a halt to the proceedings. It now means we are once again trying to find a suitable piece of land to use, but it is highly unlikely to be for this year!

Many thanks to Doug for organising a group visit to the de Havilland Aircraft Museum on the afternoon of Thursday 24th August, which was supported by 16 members and friends. We received an included guided tour, where we were split into two groups, with an aircraft and museum expert leading each group. Our guide was incredibly knowledgeable and interesting, and made the tour highly enlightening and the afternoon flew by (sorry about the pun!).

Next clubnight, on Tuesday 5th September, will see our annual visit to the tenpin bowling lanes at Go Bowling, Dunstable. The cost this year is £22 per person, which includes two games of bowling, a basket meal and an included drink. If you wish to come along, please let me know if you have not done so already and the fun starts at 7:30pm. It would be very much appreciated if you could pay me cash on the night to keep the finances simple.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' will be held on Thursday 21st September back at The Red Lion – do join us from around 8:30pm for a sociable evening.

At the end of the month, a number of us are journeying down to Bourton-on-the-Water for a one night dinner, bed and breakfast break, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the CSMA. I am sure we will enjoy a wonderful time in the delightful village.

Chairman Mike will be in charge of the October clubnight, on Tuesday 3rd, with a return to the Function Room at The Red Lion, where a buzzer quiz will be organised for our entertainment. Always good fun when Mike puts it together, so note the date in the diary and come along for a pleasant evening.

## ***Our planned future programme is as follows;***

- Tuesday 5th September – NWL Tenpin bowling at Dunstable**
- Thursday 21st September – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Saturday 30th September – NWL Visit to Bourton-on-the-Water**
- Tuesday 3rd October – NWL Clubnight – Buzzer Quiz at The Red Lion**
- Thursday 19th October – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 7th November – NWL Clubnight – Alan Smith talk on the 2012 London to Cape Town Rally**
- Thursday 16th November – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**

***That's about it for now – hope to see you at some of our activities***

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Sep	Fri 8	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 16	* September Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 10	Chiltern Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - CANCE	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
Oct	Sun 8	Autumn Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - CANCE	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 13	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 22	* Boanerges AutoSolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC
	Fri 27	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Oxford MC
Nov	Fri 10	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Dec	Fri 1	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC

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

### Past Events

**Paddock Autotest** This was going so well, nice easy access, a good sized field and a smooth surface. Although a little damp to start with, the grip wasn't bad and the 15 entries started to enjoy themselves. We were just finishing the first round of tests, when the landowner came over and said we had to stop, as we were cutting up the surface more than they expected. We had explained what would happen and that it looks worse than it is and will recover quickly, but they didn't want us to continue. And so the new venue use came to a premature end, with only half the event done! Such a great shame.

### Future Events

**The Chiltern and Autumn Autotests** These events have had to be cancelled, after the landowner withdrew their permission! We are now back to looking for another venue, with a more understanding landowner.

**MSUK Clubman Licence** It is now time to renew your free MSUK licence, so that you can compete on our grass autotests. If you go to <https://rclubman.motorsportuk.org>, you can click on the option to renew for 2023. Please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute if planning on doing the August event.

**Other Events** 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. Most of these events are entered via the Sapphire System, so regs, etc. can be found there. 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](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)

### Chairman's notebook - continued from page 4

Last week, Doug organised a group visit to the de Havilland Aircraft museum, which is near St Albans just off Junction 22 of the M25. 16 of us attended, and they divided us into two groups for the guided tour of the site. I don't usually like guided tours, as I prefer to wander around on my own, but I have to say the guide was excellent and he managed to keep our attention for a good 90 minutes or more, with a fascinating and informative narrative of the history of the Mosquito and de Havilland and at just £20 per head, including a tea/coffee and biscuits at the end, it was once again very good value for money. Thanks Doug for a really good afternoon, which was enjoyed by everyone.



We have our traditional bowling evening for our September clubnight at Dunstable on the 5th of September and please contact Alan Thurbon if you intend coming, so he can think about teams etc. Hopefully I will see you there, otherwise then perhaps at our and our drink and a chat on the 21st of September at the Red Lion.

Mike H



## Talk by Alan Smith

### The organisation behind the 2012 event

### Clubnight: Tuesday 7th November

#### The 2012 London to Cape Town Rally

Preliminary Route Outline - Updated October 2011

<i>Date</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Kms</i>
Jan 1	Scrutineering, Brooklands. London Start: 7.00pm	UK	130
Jan 2	London to Beaune via Dover-Calais ferry, 3.40am	France	610
Jan 3	Beaune to Florence	France, Italy	840
Jan 4	Florence to Ancona (Port) - ferry, 4pm	Italy	300
Jan 5	Igoumenitsa (Port) to Kamena Vourla	Greece	470
Jan 6	Kamena Vourla to Piraeus (Port) - ferry, 12am	Greece	490
Jan 7	On Ferry - Rest Day	Mediterranean	
Jan 8	Alexandria (Port) to Ain Sokhna	Egypt	350
Jan 9	Ain Sokhna to Safaga (Port) - ferry, 4am	Egypt	460
Jan 10	Duba (Port) to Yanbu	Saudi Arabia	520
Jan 11	Yanbu to Jeddah (Port) - ferry, 9pm	Saudi Arabia	350
Jan 12	Suakin (Port) to Gedaref	Sudan	720
Jan 13	Gedaref to Bahir Dar	Sudan, Ethiopia	510
Jan 14	Bahir Dar to Awasa	Ethiopia	760
Jan 15	Awasa to Moyale	Ethiopia, Kenya	510
Jan 16	Moyale to Marsabit	Kenya	250
Jan 17	Marsabit to Nairobi	Kenya	540
Jan 18	Nairobi - Rest Day	Kenya	
Jan 19	Nairobi to Arusha	Kenya, Tanzania	410
Jan 20	Arusha to Dodoma	Tanzania	440
Jan 21	Dodoma to Mbeya	Tanzania	610
Jan 22	Mbeya to Mpika	Tanzania, Zambia	500
Jan 23	Mpika to Lusaka	Zambia	700
Jan 24	Lusaka to Livingstone	Zambia	500
Jan 25	Livingstone to Tsumeb	Zambia, Namibia	1050
Jan 26	Tsumeb to Windhoek	Namibia	650
Jan 27	Windhoek to Ai-Ais	Namibia	840
Jan 28	Ai-Ais to Clanwilliam	Namibia, South Africa	650
Jan 29	Clanwilliam to Cape Town	South Africa	330
Total distance (kms) :			(14,400)



# Diary NWL 2023



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

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

## September

Sun 3rd F1 - Italy (Monza)  
**Tue 5th NWL Clubnight - Bowling, Dunstable**  
8th-10th WRC - Greece  
**Sun 10th NWL Chiltern Autotest - CANCELLED**  
Sun 17th F1 - Singapore  
**Thu 21st NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
Sun 24th F1 - Japan  
29th-1st WRC - Chile

## October

**Tue 3rd NWL Clubnight - Buzzer Quiz - The Red Lion, HH**  
**Sun 8th NWL Autumn Autotest - CANCELLED**  
Sun 8th F1 - Qatar  
**Thu 19th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
Sun 22nd F1 - United States (Austin)  
27th-29th WRC - Central European  
Sun 29th F1 - Mexico

## November

**Tue 7th NWL Clubnight - Speaker (Alan Smith) - The Red Lion, HH**  
Sun 5th F1 - Brazil  
**Thu 16th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
Sun 18th F1 - United States (Las Vegas)  
17th-19th WRC - Japan  
Sun 26th F1 - Abu Dhabi

Dates to reserve: