

Civil Service Motoring Association





newsletter

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100 YEARS OF CSMA 1923-2023

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CSMA THE BIG END





CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

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Edition

BIG END



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

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BY CSMA

North West London Group

November 2023



# NWL Group Officers & Committee 2023/24



Secretary

**Alan Thurbon**

Home: 01582 602916  
Mobile: 07904 958895  
alanthurbon@yahoo.com

Chairman

**Mike Harrison**

Home: 0208 841 1657  
Work: 0208 878 4667  
Mobile: 07974 268560  
mlh.bhm@btconnect.com

Treasurer

**Doug Harrison**

Home: 01296 660660  
Mobile: 07917 021312  
douglas.h@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

**Mike Biss**

Home: 01525 720299  
Mobile: 07753 137415  
mike.biss@btinternet.com

**Ian O'Connor**

Home: 01923 519874  
Mobile: 07770 750800  
ianocon@hotmail.com

**Pete Gregory**

Home: 01525 403405  
Work: 01525 861673  
Mobile: 07709 221115  
pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk

**Lorraine O'Connor**

Home: 01923 519874  
lorraineeoconnor@gmail.com

**Anne Graves**

Home: 01923 819735  
Mobile: 07811 905360  
anne.e.graves@btinternet.com

Vacant



## Clubnight

Tuesday 7th November

Alan Smith talk on:

*The organisation and running of  
The London to Cape Town Rally*

At our clubnight venue

The Red Lion PH

Starts from 8pm

## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

November's birthday people include **Russel Fry, Ann Harrison, Tracey Smith** and **Harry Spinks**. Best wishes to all.



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**Boundless North West London Group**

# Editorial

Thanks to Chairman Mike for the fun evening with the Buzzer Quiz last clubnight. The equipment was working okay, although two of the six had broken buttons and the indicator buzzer was on permanently (obviously been like that for awhile, as it was well taped over!). I have now replaced the buttons, but just need to get some suitable covers for them. The buzzer has been fixed, by removing it! Hopefully it will be good for a few more years yet. Results can be found on page 9.



Don't forget we have Alan Smith returning for this months clubnight, to give a talk on the organisation of the London to Cape Town rally, which was held back in 2012. Several well known of our members were involved with the 29 day event, so should be an interesting evening.

Well, Elfyn Evans's hope of taking the fight to Rovannerp ended when he hit a barn and took a wheel off. The event used stages in Austria, Czech Republic and Germany over the three days and the conditions were wet and slippery, especially on the muddy cuts. As soon as Evans crashed out on Staurday on stage 14 (the last of the day), Rovannerp eased off and allowed Neuville into the lead and the win. With one round to go, in Japan, he will have to try and keep ahead of Neuville to make the runners up spot. It's a shame that he just can't get a really good season that is better than his team mate.



The 12 Car season will be starting in January, so please start planning for your entry now. Renewal of licences should be available on the MSUK website later in November.

The recent F1 races in North America, in the USA in Texas and then recently in Mexico, have not changed the top pecking order, but there has been a resurgence by Mercedes, although Hamilton got excluded for the floor being too worn. He wasn't the only one, but a combination of running a new floor and then only have one practice session on a very bumpy track, didn't allow them to do enough testing to find the problem. In Mexico it was a different surface and they didn't have the same problems. In both races, Hamilton finished second, which is a big improvement on where they were, but there is still a big gap in the times to the winner. Still more work to do. McLaren seem to be on the rise, with both drivers putting in very good drives and Daniel Ricciardo in the Alpha Tauri getting a superb seventh, which might play nicely with him aiming



to get back in the Red Bull seat, especially now Perez is making a lot of mistakes. He crashed out at the first corner in Mexico, with a massive groan from the crowd as it happened.

I'm not sure why some drivers go out at night down country lanes, if every time a car comes the other way, they almost come to a stop. It would be better for them to go a longer way, using wider roads, rather than causing congestion for others. I know it is a problem with the brightness of the LED lights used these days, but if you know there is a problem, it is best to try and come up with an alternative, rather than plodding on with the same route and problems.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the December newsletter is Thursday 23rd November



# Chairman's notebook

.....  
A big thank you to all of you who attended the Buzzer Quiz last month, it's been a long time since we have seen so many of you at clubnight! I think everyone enjoyed it and there was plenty of action on the buzzers, with Team 2 consisting of Dave Robins, Trevor, Anne Graves and Mark, coming home first. Full results elsewhere in the newsletter. (ED: See page 9)

Given that Doug made up the buzzer system some thirty years ago now, they have remained in remarkable condition, although Mike B has now very kindly taken them home to affect some repairs to the actual buttons! And before you ask, no these would not have affected the results in any way!

Next month we have a talk and presentation from Alan Smith, on the 2012 London to Cape Town Rally on the 7th November, so please try and attend, as its not nice talking to an empty room. Friends and family welcome to attend as well, so let's see if we can fill the room again!

We had a full entry of 10 cars at the recent Goodwood track day and for once the weather stayed dry and everyone had a great time, although one or two did spin and also got warnings in terms of getting close to the noise limit, which is quite strict at Goodwood.

If you are interested in track days and are not on our mailing list, please contact me and I will add you to the list. If you are not sure, why not come along and take a look at one and I can always get a ride for you if you want, but you will need to bring a helmet etc. Anyway just call me if you want to know more.

Still awaiting the return of the Sprite, as they have had to replace the back axle casing, diff and drive shafts etc. and I'm going to see it this coming Thursday, after the British Motor Heritage Factory visit, just to view the broken parts and get an update on progress. Apparently, there are loads of bent rear axle's out there, but sourcing a straight one is proving to be a challenge!

Short notice I know, but I still have spaces on the British Motor Heritage Factory visit on the 2nd November if you are interested, just call me and I am sure we should be able to accommodate you.

Reading Motorsport News this week, I see that Elfyn Evans has apparently not given up on winning the WRC this year, although personally I see it as a long shot, but with Toyota wining the manufacturer's championship, I suspect they are not worried either way!

Had a bit of a shock when the house insurance renewal popped up on my computer this month, but with a quick look at alternatives through a comparison web site, I managed to get it back down to last year's prices, however, the same could not be said for my car insurance, as when I used the comparison web site, the only way to better the renewal quote was to have a black box fitted to the car! Good news was that when I told the current insurer that I had now retired, so no longer needed business use and I dropped the anticipated mileage down, the price reduced anyway to a figure much closer to last year's cost.

Rumour has it that electric car insurance prices have rocketed this year, however, not sure this is true or not, or just an ugly rumour spread by petrol heads?

It was a shame that both Lewis and Charles Leclerc were denied a good result at the US Grand prix by an infringement of the thickness of the skid pads under the car, but never the less, yet another good result for Lando Norris and the up and coming McLaren team. I wonder if the Mexican Grand Prix will show similar improvements for both Mercedes and McLaren?

I have done a short write up on the Retro Run this month, which hopefully Mike will have found room for elsewhere in the newsletter.

Hopefully I will see you at the talk by Alan Smith on the 7th November at the Red Lion and if not, then perhaps at our Drink and a Chat on the 16th November, also at the Red Lion.

Ah, and I very nearly forgot, if you are going to the NEC this year on the 10 – 12th November, don't forget to call in and say hello to the guys on the Boundless by CSMA CVG Stand and if you have membership of another car club, you might find you can get a discount on the standard entry fee.

Mike H

(ED: Track Day pictures are on page 9)

# Secretary's spot

.....

Last month's clubnight was a really enjoyable experience, where Chairman Mike put together a wonderful quiz, making use of the electronic buzzer system that Doug constructed for us about 35 years ago. Amazingly, the buzzers still work and a really good turnout of quizzers made the evening a great success. I believe Mike B has now taken the buzzer system away for a complete refurbishment, with some 21st century technology!! (*ED: Nope, I'm just putting two new buttons in the broken ones!*)

A number of us ventured up to Dunstable Downs Golf Club on Saturday 7th October, for a meal to replace the cancelled Centenary celebration break that was initially arranged. The food was good, and the company even better, and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

Going forward, we have a reasonably quiet couple of months ahead, but not to be missed is our next clubnight on Tuesday 7th November, in The Function Room at The Red Lion, where Alan Smith will be coming along to talk to us about the organisation, and behind the scenes workings, of the London to Cape Town endurance rally of 2012. A dvd will also be shown of the event, so do come along in good time to get a good seat. We will be gathering from 8:00pm.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' will be held on Thursday 16th November, back at The Red Lion – do join us from around 8:30pm for a sociable evening.

Our Christmas clubnight will be on Tuesday 5th December, where Anne and Steve will be putting on a quiz of some sort (sure it will be good) and some nibbles will be provided to set off the festive season.

It won't be long now until the winter 12 Car rally series will be upon us, so it is time to sort out those driver / navigator partnerships and revise up on the RallyAppLive application, as I believe all the events will make use of this system. The first rally will be held on Friday 5th January 2024, organised by Pete G and Graeme P. Look out for further details within the Motor Sport Coordinators' Bulletins and don't forget you require a MSUK Clubman Licence and a Boundless motorsport membership card, both available free of charge.

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>– NWL Clubnight – Alan Smith talk on 2012 London to Cape Town Rally</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>– NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>– NWL Clubnight – Christmas social evening</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>– NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>– NWL Clubnight – Beetle Drive</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>– NWL 12 car rally</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>– NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion</b>

***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
Nov	Fri 10	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Dec	Fri 1	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Jan	Fri 5	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
Feb	Fri 2	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
Mar	Fri 1	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
Apr	Fri 5	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Sun 28	Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC

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

### Past Events

### Future Events

Not much else happening on our events at the moment, the next ones will be the 12 Car Rallies in the new year.

**January 12 Car Rally** Starting from The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES, MR 166/189125, it will use map 166 (edition FEB 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Entry fee is £16 per car. Offers of entries would be appreciated by Pete Gregory and you can contact him on either [pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk](mailto:pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk), 01525 861673 (Work) or 07709 221115 (Mob).

**MSUK Clubman Licence** Almost all these events in the calendar require you to have one of these licences as a minimum to compete, either as a driver or passenger. If you go to <https://rsclubman.motorsportuk.org>, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute.

**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)

**John Clavey is running a series of Zoom meetings as an opportunity to ask questions and suggest new ideas for his motorsport Apps. These are open to all Clubs and he will do his best to answer as many questions as possible. Also a chance to share ideas on how best to use each solution.**

**TimingAppLive - 4th December at 19:00**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwofumoqjgoEtESKxbG4rh3ZPSPm9P9EJMY>

**RallyAppLive - 11th December at 19:00**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0sdO-gqjsrE9ANC9d5YmFHzP3WqkILmqGL>

**TrialsAppLive - 18th December at 19:00**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUucOmorzwpHdRDRvsKtIJAYjX7smUpybl4>

## NWL 12 Car Rally

## Friday 5th January

**The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES MR 166/189125**

### Map 166

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £16 entry fee  
 Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Map 166 FEB 2018 required  
 Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell ([pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk](mailto:pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk))

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

<https://rally.sapphire-solutions.co.uk/register.php?siteName=boundless>

Regs available mid Nov from Mike Biss or website



## Talk by Alan Smith on the organisation behind the 2012 event

NWL Clubnight: Tuesday 7th November 8pm

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

*From the earliest days of motoring, 100 years ago, there has always been a challenge of who could drive from London to Cape Town and from Cape Town to London in the fastest time. In 2012, after several abortive attempts, the Endurance Rally Association ran an event from London to Cape Town which was open to any age or make of vehicle and any level of competitor experience. Hear how it all came about and in the film, spot some familiar faces, Owen Turner, Gill Cotton, on their epic adventure.*

### The 2012 London to Cape Town Rally

Preliminary Route Outline - Updated October 2011

Date	Route	Country	Kms
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)

## CSMA Centenary Year Retro Run 15th – 17th September 2023

This year the Retro Run returned to the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells in Wales, having been there in 2021 as part of Boundless by CSMA Centenary Celebrations.

Ann and I drove up on the Friday in the Audi towing the trailer, as we picked up the Sprite from Frontline on the way to Wales. The Sprite having had a gearbox rebuild to cure the oil leaks.

At Friday's reception and evening meals, we spent time catching up with old friends and enjoying a very nice meal, after which Malcolm and Madeleine gave us a good briefing of what to expect the next day.

I believe the event enjoyed a very near full entry of 28 cars and everyone started off from the car park at the back of the hotel, after a good hearty breakfast. Madeleine duly flagged us off from 10am onwards, after a group photograph. Duncan Wiles returned soon after in his Mini, as the exhaust had detached itself from the rear strap, just in front of the silencer box. Ann and I also returned to give Duncan a hand, but he had very nearly finished the job and only needed me to hold the box up so that he could do the bolts up.



So, setting off once more, Ann and I only managed 14.2 miles before I lost all drive on a very gentle uphill section, travelling at around 20mph, as we were looking out for one of the photographs at the back of the road book! Numerous people stopped to offer assistance, including Duncan, but there was nothing anybody could do, so I phoned Malcolm and he and Madeleine came out to take us back to the Metropole, where Malcolm and I then took the Audi and trailer back to the Sprite, loaded it up onto the trailer and deposited it back in the car park.



However, after a quick coffee, Ann and I headed off once more, taking a short cut route to Devils Bridge, for the lunchtime stop in the Audi (well, at least we could listen to the radio) and encountering quite a lot of mist, especially on the high sections. After a snack there, we started the second half of the run using the Tulip Road Book.

One fantastic place we did visit was Tretower Court and Castle, where you will find the fantastic remains of a medieval round tower and a medieval manor house, with fantastic first floor

rooms with huge oak rafters and beams on display. It's well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

The Saturday evening meal included a planned fancy-dress competition, with the theme being the "Roaring Twenties". I have to say, some of the outfits were truly amazing and congratulations to the winners.

Sunday proved to be a grey day, with some early sun which unfortunately didn't last long. The morning route was only 62 miles compared to





Saturday's, which was very nearly double that at 110 miles. The first stop of the day was Brecon, which was charming, with some good coffee places to enjoy and a few shops.

I must mention that the Sunday also saw the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit in Wales, where everything that was previously 30mph, is now 20mph. Generally, this only affects towns and villages etc., the derestricted roads across the moors and mountains should hopefully remain unaffected, but only time will tell.

However, we soon found ourselves back at the Metropole with time to take part in another walking treasure hunt, with a set of questions based upon the heritage signs dotted around the centre of Llandrindod Wells, which proved very enjoyable, although it did start to rain again and quite heavy this time. The weekend concluded with an excellent cream tea at the Metropole and both Ann and I are looking forward to next year's event, although hopefully we will have better luck with the Sprite!

My thanks to Madeleine and Malcolm for yet another excellent event.

**Mike**

## Track Day Pictures



## NWL Buzzer Quiz Results for the October Clubnight

1st Place Team 2	19 points	Dave R, Trevor, Anne G and Mark
2nd Place Team 3	18 points	Kit, Alan R, Alan T and Dave
3rd Place Team 4	16 points	Nicky, Julie and John
4th Place Team 5	14 points	Jean, Lorraine and Ian
5th Place Team 1	12 points	Mike B, Ann R, Steve G and Steve J.



# Diary NWL 2023/24



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

## 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

## December

**Tue 5th** NWL Clubnight - Xmas Social - The Red Lion, HH  
**Thu 21st** NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH

## January

**Tue 2nd** NWL Clubnight - Beetle Drive - The Red Lion, HH  
**Fri 5th** NWL 12 Car Rally  
**Thu 18th** NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH  
 25th-28th WRC - Monte Carlo

Dates to reserve: