

Civil Service Motoring Association




newsletter

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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



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



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BY CSMA

North West London Group

February 2024



# 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  
lorraineoconnor@gmail.com

**Anne Graves**

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

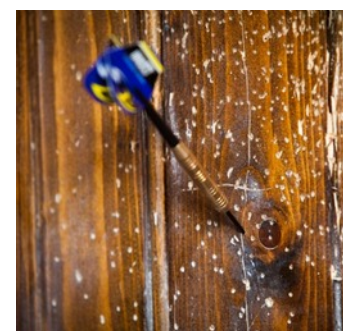
Vacant

## Club night

### Fun Darts Evening

Tuesday 6th February

At our clubnight venue  
The Red Lion PH  
Starts from 8pm



## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

February's birthday people are **Cheryl Baldwin, Ian Buxton and Owen Turner.**  
Happy Birthday!



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**Boundless North West London Group**

# NWL Editorial

In Flitwick, there seems to be a problem with some drivers being unable to park properly in their addict rush to get their next vape fix! Why these brain dead idiots think it is OK to park like this, I don't know, but it seems to be down to the users of the vape shop only. They could easily park on the road, but then they might get a parking ticket and blocking the footpath is so much easier!



I went along to the HRCR open day with John Clavey, in his Polestar electric car, which was my first taste of this technology. John reckons that Milton Keynes is the ideal home for these cars, as every time you lift off for a roundabout, you put a lot of energy back into the battery and you don't need to use the brake peddle to do it. The Polestar is one of the nicer looking electric cars, but it is still a lot heavier than a normal car. The range and charging is fine for most trips, but you wouldn't be able to nip back home from Gaydon if you forgot something!

The HRCR open day was nice to catch up with lots of people, and to help John on his Rally App stand to drum up interest in the system for other events. It is quite a while since I last went and the show is a lot bigger than I remember. Doug must have had a slight tear in his eye when he saw a nice complete Chevette in the hall....



Unfortunately, we had to cancel the January 12 Car rally due to flooded roads on the route. The picture shows a road in the area taken by Jim Drake earlier that week, showing what the organisers where facing in the lead up to the event. Hopefully the other events will all run without interruption from the weather.

The first round of the WRC in Monte Carlo saw almost dry conditions throughout, with the odd bit of ice to catch crews out, as it wasn't bad enough for studs. It was a second win for Thierry Neuville, who is the only winning driver since 2011 that is not called Sebastien! The championship is a bit thin of top crews in the rounds these days, with only eight drivers from the three teams in WRC1 cars, which is a shame. Could do with a couple more teams.

Having not used the MX5 in a competition for a couple of years and so sold it to Cath, I then got to use it again on an Autosolo last week, in exchange for some driver tuition. It was great fun to drive it properly and Cath certainly enjoyed driving it, by the grin on her face.

In the Dakar rally, the Audi team finally got the win at their third attempt, with Carlos Sainz notching up his fourth victory. The other two cars in the team had problems during the event, but finished, and it was interesting that Sainz didn't win any of the twelve stages.



There seems to have been an influx of grey squirrels into the Close recently and you can see them scurrying up the walls of houses and onto the roofs. I think they are looking for access into the loft area, but if they can't find one, they come down again and then move on to the next house!

Keep safe.

Mike B.

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





# Chairman's notebook



My thanks to Alan for once again giving us a very entertaining clubnight with the usual Beetle Drive, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Well Christmas has gone and past again with no snow, well nothing to really write home about, especially in Hayes anyway, but it was very, very cold at times! Glad we don't live further north is all I can say!

Ann and I ventured out to the Ace Café on New Year's Day on the basis that it wouldn't be as crowded as Brooklands. Unfortunately crowded it was not, as you can see from the photograph, there were only three cars present and a few motor bikes, however, we did enjoy a good breakfast, but next year we will be either be back at Brooklands, or taking part in the London Bridges Run.



The London Bridges run is where you start from Rotherhithe, run across Tower Bridge and then every bridge to Richmond Bridge, finishing at a nice pub in Richmond. Its great fun, especially if the weather is good, and you can't beat crossing Tower Bridge with the roof down!

During the school holidays I took our eldest grandson Jacob to Brooklands, where he enjoyed driving Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes around the Brooklands circuit on the simulator, as he was just tall enough to reach the pedals with a booster behind him. He did quite well, getting the car up to full speed before crashing on the next run. I declined, because I wasn't sure I would be able to get out again once in the car!

Given, most schools had already gone back, we very nearly had the place to ourselves and enjoyed the various garages, the two aircraft hangers and the bus museum. I believe we have a Boundless event there on the 11th May, but book early to avoid disappointment, as the tickets are bound to disappear very quickly.

Doug and I had entered the January 12 Car organised by Pete and Graeme, but because of extensive flooding caused by recent rain, the rally had to be cancelled, which was a shame as it had a good entry of nine cars. No doubt Pete will keep everything for later this year, so their efforts have not been wasted.

Doug and I visited Gaydon for the HRCR Open Day on the 13th January and as you can see from the photographs, there were some very nice cars on display. John and Gill Cotton were there, along with Ian and Lorraine and Dave Smith as well. Mike Biss was helping out on John Clavey's stand, selling the idea of his Rally App. Having checked out the Stage Rally Championship format for this year, we enjoyed a nice hot coffee and sausage roll before departing for home.



The following day, Ann and I took the Sprite out for its second outing of the year to take part in the CVG's New Year's Run, which was once again organised by Allan Goddard. Allan had a good entry of some twenty or more cars of all descriptions, however, because of all the rain, the second half was curtailed in terms of mileage because of flooding, and to be honest, AG did a sterling job modifying the Tulip road book the night before to enable the event to run in the first place!

All though sunny all day, it was very cold and we kept the roof up all day, which was a shame because Allan had as usual, found some great roads in and around the Thames Valley and I have to say it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Whilst writing this, I am pleased to report that Elfyn Evans is currently leading the Monte Carlo Rally on day two of the event, closely followed by team mate Ogier. Cross fingers he can hold on to the lead, although Ogier is not competing on all the WRC events this year.

The F1 Championship of 2024 starts with the Bahrain Grand Prix on the 2nd March, with pre-season testing on the 21st-23rd February, at which time we will get a preview of the new cars for this year's championship. Hopefully Mercedes and the rest will have narrowed the gap with Red Bull, but only time will tell.

Anyway, we had a good committee meeting last month at Anne's house and we should have some nice events for you all to participate in this year. Please remember we have a darts evening for our February clubnight on the 6th at the Red Lion and our drink and a chat also at the Red Lion on the 15th February.

Mike H

(ED: See page 8 for more pictures)



# Secretary's spot

I write this months 'notes' having spent a bit of time over the weekend watching the first round of the 2024 World Rally Championship which, as is traditional, was the Monte Carlo Rally. Two things spring to mind! One – when I first became keen on rallying, the Monte was a pure road race on a complete carpet of snow and ice making it wonderfully exciting to watch. However, it now seems that global warming has moved the snow to the higher mountainous areas, leaving the current special stages virtually snow and ice free. Two – no doubt because of the superior condition of the roads, the present top world rally cars are reaching phenomenal speeds on the stages, with often just fractions of a second separating some of the crews! It certainly seems that we are in for an exciting year at the top level of the rallying calendar.

Our first clubnight of the year was the normal post Christmas beetle drive. We had a good turn out and the competition was as fierce as ever. Eventual comfortable winners were Mike B and Ian O'C, who put in a late spurt to overtake Loraine O'C and Alan G. Everybody had a good evening and fun was had by all.

Unfortunately, a few days later on Friday 5th, Pete Gregory and Graeme Presswell were supposed to be organising the first 12 Car rally of the winter season, but sadly the event had to be cancelled at the last minute due to flooded, closed and impassable roads. It is proposed to revise the dates of 12 Cars for next winter, so this event should now be run in November 2024, however, there are still three more 12 Cars in the next few months. The first of these will be run on Friday 2nd February by Graham Robinson, on behalf of NEL Group.

Next clubnight on Tuesday 6th February will be a fun darts evening, where you will not need to be a darts world champion to possibly win a prize. This has been a really enjoyable activity in recent years, so do come along and have some fun. Usual time 8:00pm and usual place, the Function Room at The Red Lion.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' will be held on Thursday 15th February back at The Red Lion, so do please join us if you can for an informal and sociable evening, normally commencing around 8:30pm.

North West London Group's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th March, where you will get the opportunity to have your say in the running of the Group. Our Chairman normally clears the business pretty quickly and a short quiz should be run to round off the evening.

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

- Friday 2nd February – NEL 12 car rally**
- Tuesday 6th February – NWL Clubnight – Beetle Drive at The Red Lion**
- Thursday 15th February – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Friday 1st March – NWL 12 car rally**
- Tuesday 5th March – NWL Clubnight – AGM and quiz**
- Thursday 21st March – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**

***Take good care and hope to see you at some of our events***

Alan T

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 2	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NEL</b>
	Sat 10	*	20:20 Rally (Cm)	100 mile Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 16	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Chelmsford MC
Mar	Fri 1	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 8	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 15		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Chelmsford MC
Apr	Fri 5		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 12		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	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

**January 12 Car Rally** Unfortunately, this was cancelled on the morning of the event, when flooding of bits of the route made it difficult to re-route, plus there was always going to be a lot of water on the roads elsewhere, so the decision was taken to cancel..

### Future Events

**February 12 Car Rally** The start for this event is from the Rose & Crown PH, Upper Green Rd, Tewin, Herts AL6 0LE, MR 166/272148. Using map 166 for the 45 mile route, with the first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Currently we only have eight entries for the event, but enough to run. The organiser is Graham Robinson and you can contact him on [graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com) with regard to marshalling.

**March 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 the usual three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £16 per car. The organiser is Mike Harrison and is contactable on [mlh.bhm@btconnect.com](mailto:mlh.bhm@btconnect.com).

**April 12 Car Rally** Starting from The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166 / 028182, 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. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on [alanthurbon@yahoo.com](mailto:alanthurbon@yahoo.com)

**Future 12 Car Rally Season** We are planning to change the 12 Car Rally dates for next season, due to the January event is the most likely to be hit by bad weather, so it is planned that the events will now run in Nov, Dec, Feb and Mar. The existing January event will move to Nov and the existing April event will move to Dec, with the existing February and March events staying as is. This also allows for the two uses of the John Bunyan PH start to be better separated. Just need to sort out the Nov and Dec dates with the other clubs.

**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. The 2024 renewals became available from the beginning of December.

**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)



### RS Clubman Licence Renewal

<https://rsclubman.motorsportuk.org/>

Remember, to enter any MSUK permit event these days, you need the above licence as a minimum (which is free).

If you had one in 2023, you can now go onto the above site and renew your licence.

You will get an email with a digital version of your licence (in a nice yellow colour).

## **NEL 12 Car Rally**

**Friday 2nd February**

**Rose & Crown PH, Upper Green Rd, Tewin, Herts AL6 0LE MR 166/272148**

**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

Graham Robinson ([graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com))

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

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

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

## **NWL 12 Car Rally**

**Friday 1st March**

**The John Bunyan PH, Coleman 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

Mike Harrison ([mlh.bhm@btconnect.com](mailto:mlh.bhm@btconnect.com))

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

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

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

## **NWL 12 Car Rally**

**Friday 5th April**

**The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ**

**MR 166 / 028182**

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

Alan Thurbon ([alanthurbon@yahoo.com](mailto:alanthurbon@yahoo.com))

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

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

Regs available mid Feb from Mike Biss or website



## January Clubnight Results - Beetle Drive

Team	1st Half	2nd Half	Total	Position
Lorraine & Alan G	209	190	399	2nd
Mike H & Doug	175	189	364	5th
Julie & Anne R	178	204	382	3rd
Dave R & Hazel	132	207	339	6th
Mike B & Ian	205	208	413	1st
Steve & Alan R	160	205	365	4th
Master of Ceremonies - Alan T				



More of Mike's pictures from the HRCR Open Day and the Brooklands visit





# Member Communities Communique

## January 2024 Update

### New Club Treasurer

Following the usual nomination and election process, we're delighted to announce that **Janice Stace** has been elected as the Club Treasurer for a term of office until Summer 2025 (completing Geoff Gaunt's original term as is required by the Articles of the Association, following Geoff's recent election as Club Leader).

As part of this role, Janice will become a NonExecutive Director on the CSMA Board.

Congratulations Janice!

### LGR election

Following Janice's election as the Club Treasurer, she is now required to relinquish her role as a Local Group Representative on the Club Council. Therefore, nominations for this role will soon be circulated.



### 2024 Dates for your diary.....

#### 2024 Association AGM:

The AGM has now been confirmed as 2.30pm, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. This year it is to be held in our own offices in Britannia House, Brighton.

We're also intending to broadcast the AGM online for members to participate in who are not able to attend the AGM in person. More details will follow.

#### 2024 Club Council Meetings:

The 2024 Club Council meeting dates are now confirmed as the following:

- 10.00am Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom
- 11.00am Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May in person, venue TBC
- 10.00am Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom
- 11.00am Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October in person (with AGM)
- 10.00am Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December via Zoom

Any Group Committee member can request to attend a Club Council meeting, please contact Nick to indicate your interest, email: [nicholas.hoath@boundless.co.uk](mailto:nicholas.hoath@boundless.co.uk)

#### Magazine Content Deadlines:

The deadline for the Spring 2024 issue of the magazine has now passed. The deadline for Group's content for the Summer 2024 issue is 10<sup>th</sup> March. The provisional deadlines for content for the Autumn 2024 issue is 25<sup>th</sup> June, and the Winter 2024 issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

These deadlines may change as productions schedules are finalised; however, you should use these dates as a guideline.

## Groups Activities

Regular readers of the Communique will know that we like to include photos and brief reports of our Group's activities.

The photos don't need to be professional, just try to include members enjoying themselves, plus a sentence or two about the event.

Our **Dorset Group** celebrated the Boundless by CSMA 100th Anniversary with a visit to the world-renowned RNLI Headquarters at Poole.



Members were treated to an in-depth tour, including the fascinating lifeboat training simulator, and concluded the visit with a very convivial meal together. A great time was had by all!



And here's our **Tamar Group** enjoying their Christmas lunch, held 2 weeks before Christmas at the Boringdon Park Golf Club.

As you can see, all enjoyed the festivities, in superb surroundings, another great event!



And for the last update for this month, we're back with **Dorset Group** again.

The Group's recent Charity quiz in aid of the Dorset County Hospital Dialysis Unit, where one of the group's regular members is receiving treatment, was won by Debbie and Martin.

And here they are being presented with their winning prize of a Christmas hamper at the Group's annual Christmas Lunch.





## Member Events 2024

### Member Days

If you're delaying in purchasing your tickets for our Member Days our advice is don't!

As you'll see below, several events have already sold out, or have very limited tickets available.

*16<sup>th</sup> March: Chatham Dockyard – last few tickets available.*

*13<sup>th</sup> April: Warwick Castle – last few tickets available.*

*20<sup>th</sup> April: Chester Zoo – SOLD OUT*

*27<sup>th</sup> April: Wookey Hole – SOLD OUT*

*11<sup>th</sup> May: Brooklands – SOLD OUT*

*18<sup>th</sup> May: Drayton Manor – SOLD OUT*

*8<sup>th</sup> June: Tatton Park – plenty of tickets available.*

We're hoping to launch the next few Member Days for later in the year, in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on your Boundless emails!

We're also still looking for a few volunteers to help support these events, please contact [emma.quirk@boundless.co.uk](mailto:emma.quirk@boundless.co.uk) to indicate your interest.



### Online Events

Our series of Online Events continues on Thursday evening with another fantastic presentation from our extremely popular submariner, Jonty Powis, on life aboard a nuclear submarine.

Upcoming Online Events:

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm: Life aboard a nuclear submarine.*

*Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm: Driving into the future.*

*Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 7pm: Boundless Antiques Roadshow.*

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 7pm: Under the Wig, with a criminal barrister.*

*Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm: Small inventions that changed the world.*

*Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 7pm: The James Webb Space Telescope.*

Check out the Member Events page on the Boundless website for full details of more events:

[Boundless Events & Member Days | Boundless by CSMA](#)

## About the Communique

The Communique is sent to around 350 of our volunteers, Group and Association Officers and other interested members. Many of our Group Secretaries also forward the Communique to those members who regularly attend their Group events. Can we improve it in any way?

Let us know by emailing: [membercommunities@boundless.co.uk](mailto:membercommunities@boundless.co.uk)





# Diary NWL 2024



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

## February

Fri 2nd NEL 12 Car Rally  
**Tue 6th NWL Clubnight - Fun Darts - The Red Lion, HH**  
**Thu 15th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
 16th-18th WRC - Sweden

## March

**Fri 1st NWL 12 Car Rally**  
 Sat 2nd F1 - Bahrain  
**Tue 5th NWL Clubnight - AGM and Quiz - The Red Lion, HH**  
 Sat 9th F1 - Saudi Arabia  
**Thu 21st NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
 Sun 24th F1 - Australia  
 29th-31st WRC - Kenya

## April

**Tue 2nd NWL Clubnight - Film Night - The Red Lion, HH**  
**Fri 5th NWL 12 Car Rally**  
 Sun 7th F1 - Japan  
**Thu 18th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**  
 19th-21st WRC - Croatia  
 Sun 21st F1 - China

Dates to reserve: