

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



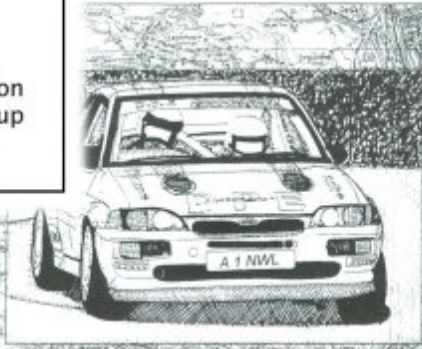
BIG END




CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

89-97

Edition



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



boundless

BY CSMA

North West London Group

April 2024



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Vacant

Club night

**100 years of the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge
A talk by Alan Smith**

Tuesday 2nd April @ 8pm

At our clubnight venue: The Red Lion PH
56 London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TD

THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

On our April birthday celebration list we have Antony Cox, Joyce Manktelow, Lee Craker and Suze Endean - many happy returns to you all!



Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Boundless by CSMA, North West London Group Committee or those of the Editor. In addition, articles on maintenance, etc. are published in good faith and no liability can be accepted by the Boundless by CSMA, North West London Group Committee or those of the Editor for the accuracy of such contributions or for damage or malfunction arising from their use, no matter how they are used.

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

Boundless North West London Group

Editorial

Well the NWL AGM has been and gone for another year and we had a good turn out. Whether this was for the quiz afterwards, I couldn't say, but the AGM is usually a light hearted event on a serious business. The quiz results are shown on page eight.

When you start seeing bad parking, you start to see it everywhere. This time it is in my road with the house on the corner and it seems that these things have no input to the mental process of parking. Are these people deliberately inconsiderate to others, don't care or just plain stupid, in which case how do they get a licence.



Three races in to the F1 season and gasp, Max doesn't win a race. In fact he didn't even finish, retiring on lap three with a rear brake on fire. Seems the 'handbrake' on that wheel didn't come off at the start of the race. Oh dear, what a shame, hard luck. In fact he had been easily overtaken on the first lap by a recovering from appendicitis Carlos Sainz, who went on to win the race from his team mate, to give Ferrari a one-two victory. Amazingly, Sainz is the only driver to have beaten Red Bull in a race since November 2022! For Alonso, it looked like a good race until the last lap, when he seemed to "brake test" George Russell on the entry to a bend, that ended up with Russell hitting the barrier and stopping in the middle of the track on his side, shouting to the team RED FLAG, RED FLAG. Amazingly they didn't red flag the race, but put out a delayed virtual safety car.



To say that George was a bit scared at that point would be an understatement. With yet another dire performance from Mercedes, you can see why Lewis wants to go to Ferrari, although perhaps Ferrari are now worried they have made a mistake, having a race winner in Sainz and now a star in their reserve driver Brit Oliver Bearman, who stood in for Sainz at the previous race at very short notice and came home seventh, in front of both Norris and Hamilton. Perhaps they are hoping to sell more road cars from his "brand"!

The March 12 Car rally went off very well, even though it proved quite tough for some of the crews with all the water about. Our last event of the season is a week on Friday and although we haven't got the same number of crews out, we have had several apologies. Hopefully some more will appear after a bit of a chase up.

They spent loads of money making the M1 between J10 and J14 a smart motorway, but they weren't smart enough to put a new central concrete crash barrier in at the same time, like they did for all the other bits of the M1 smart motorway upgrades. So now we are left with the same stretch of road with speed restrictions and night time closures again, for another 12 months! WHY?



Keep safe.

Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is Thursday 25th April



Chairman's notebook

Well, after yet another successful AGM, I am pleased to report that I am still Chairman and most importantly, the rest of the committee are also still in place and a big thank you to all of you who attended the group's AGM and voted us all in for another term of office.

I must also add that we have a really good and proactive committee and I am really grateful for all their hard work and effort for the benefit of all of us in North West London Group.

As with previous AGMs, it was quite lively and we had a good debate on what events etc. that you might like us to explore for clubnights etc. and we will be discussing these at the next committee meeting which is on the 26th March and I might be in a position to give you all an update at our April clubnight the following week, on the 2nd April.

For April's clubnight, we have Alan Smith who is going to give us another presentation on one of his many trips abroad. His talks are great and they give an enjoyable and very interesting insight into the international historic rally scene and I can recommend the evening to all of you and please do bring along any interested friends as well. The more the merrier as they say.

Our 12 Car rally on the 1st March, which started and finished at the John Bunyan PH Coleman Green just North of St Albans, attracted seven entries on the night. With the tremendous amount of rain we experienced before the event, we were extremely lucky that we managed to run the event, although I had to give out nine flood warnings on the route and this didn't include any large puddles, these were for when water was right across the road and some meters in length!

Anyway, all the crews bar one managed to get round, the crew who didn't had to go home early with a sick navigator. Full results, see elsewhere in the newsletter, but my thanks to Mike Biss for all his help and assistance and also Ian O'Connor, who took me round the route at least twice, in an effort to find a way around the worst of the floods prior to the event!!

This was the first 12 Car I had run with it all on the Rally App, so no marshals and with Mike running the start for me and I have to say it was ok and the app certainly takes away the stress and worry of are you going to have enough marshals to run the event. However, I still think actual marshals are a good thing, but not essential anymore, this is especially true if you have any beginners out on the rally, which I didn't this time, so for me, marshals will always be welcomed on one of my events.

Our next 12 Car rally is on Friday the 5th April, curtesy of Alan Thurbon and Doug and I are out on it, which is the first time for us this year, so no doubt I will be a bit rusty as they say, well that's going to be my excuse anyway!

The new Aviation Group ran its first event last month, which was a trip for 20 people to the historic Military Museum at the old WW2 Aerodrome at Tangmere, which is just to the South East of Chichester on the South Coast. The ride down first thing in the morning was horrible, with heavy rain and spray all the way, and it was fortunate that the majority of the visit during the day was spent inside!

It is a great little museum, with every space crammed full of interesting things to look at, so if you are ever down that way, it's well worth a visit and highly recommended if you have three or four hours spare. Unfortunately, there is not much of the original airfield left, the control tower is still there, but only just and more and more of the airfield is disappearing under new housing, which is a real shame, but that's progress as they say!

If you want to know more about the Aviation Group, have a look on the Boundless website or join the Facebook page and there is a Zoom talk on WW1 Aircraft on the 4th April at 7pm and then there is a visit to the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre on the 10th April at East Kirkby.

Also, the Motorsports Group have organised a visit to the Jim Stokes Workshop, which is near Goodwood, where they build and repair classic racing cars. The visit is on the 30th July, costs £30 per person, with the tour lasting approx. two hours and this includes a buffet lunch afterwards. For more details, go to the Boundless website where you will find an entry form etc.

So, do please come along to clubnight on the 2nd April for Alan Smith's presentation, and if not, and I manage to survive the five day trip to Disney Paris this month with the family, perhaps I will see you at our usual Drink and a Chat on the 18th April at the Red Lion PH.

Mike H



Secretary's spot

Another North West London Group Annual General Meeting has been and gone and once again it is good to report that all previous officers and committee members were willing to stand for (at least) another year, so we can continue to provide enjoyable events and activities for our members. It was also good to see a super turnout of members who all contributed in one way or another to the meeting. Many suggestions were voiced about what the members would like to do, so the Committee now have their thinking caps on to try to organise some popular activities.

After the formalities of the AGM our Chairman Mike once again put on a great quiz and this was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Mike had also been busy the previous Friday when he organised a very good 12 Car rally. There were still many flooded roads on the route, but luckily all the drivers took care and no-one drowned out.

On the topic of 12 Cars, I will be organising the last event of this winter series on Friday 5th April. Full details and further information are shown elsewhere in this Newsletter but at the time of writing these notes we could do with a few more competitors, so if you are able to take part, do please get an entry in quickly.

Our next clubnight will be held on Tuesday 2nd April, where Alan Smith will be coming along to the Function Room at The Red Lion to give us another fascinating talk about the Peking to Paris rally, where Alan had quite a fair amount of involvement. A short dvd film will be shown and questions will be addressed where possible. Action starts at 8:00pm, so do come along in good time to get a good seat.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' will be held on Thursday 18th April back at The Red Lion, so do please join us if you can, for an informal and sociable evening normally commencing around 8:30pm.

With brighter evenings soon to be upon us, it will be time for our summer 'outdoor' clubnights. The first of these will be a walking treasure hunt on Tuesday 7th May, organised by Anne and Steve Graves. The start and finish venue will be The Boot PH situated by the village green in Sarratt. To make the most of available light the start will open at 7:30pm

Our planned future programme is as follows;

- Tuesday 2nd April – NWL Clubnight – Alan Smith illustrated rally talk**
- Friday 5th April – NWL 12 Car rally**
- Thursday 18th April – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 7th May – NWL Clubnight – walking treasure hunt, Sarratt**
- Thursday 16th May – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 4th June – NWL Clubnight – crazy golf – watch this space!!**

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

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Apr	Fri 5	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 12	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 28	* Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC
May	Sat 11	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jun	Sat 8	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jul	Sat 13	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Aug	Sat 10	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 11	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC

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

Past Events

March 12 Car Rally There was a lot of water about on this event and Mike Harrison went around the route on the day and had to put in nine cautions for bad floods across the road. Thankfully they were all passable. The pub gave us its usual good service. As seems normal these days, even if you make things simple, the crews are making their own mistakes, to give organisers a clear result. Appreciated.

Future Events

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. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £16 per car. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on alanthurbon@yahoo.com.

Future 12 Car Rally Season We are changing the 12 Car Rally dates for next season, due to the January event being the most likely to be hit by bad weather, so 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.

Grass Autotest Season Unfortunately, we still currently have no venue for these events. We are still looking.

Alternative Grass Autotest Season Blackbird AC are running a series of five grass autotests this year at their venue on the A5, just north of Towester. They are all on a Saturday, except the last one, where it is a double header weekend with a BBQ and camping available overnight.

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

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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).

NWL Clubnight - 2nd April

100 years of the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge

There will be a talk and film by Alan Smith describing how the competitors managed to reach Paris in 1907 when there were no maps, no roads nor petrol and his experiences marshalling in 2007 from the Russian border back to the finish in Paris.



NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 5th April

The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ
Map 166 / MR 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)

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



Aviation Group visit to Tangmere.

Mike H

Member Communities Communique

March 2024 Update

Groups Activities

The New Year often brings new activities, although for some Groups it brings traditional favourites back to the fore.....

As usual our **Kingdom of Fife Group** celebrated the Chinese New Year in the traditional, colourful manner with their dragon themed lunch (2024 is the Chinese year of the dragon)



Kingdom of Fife Group stalwart, Hilda Johnston once again excelled herself ensuring the Chinese theme was maintained throughout the dinner and even extended to several of the attendees wearing traditional Chinese outfits.

Just a few miles south, and our **Edinburgh and the Lothians Group** were also enjoying Chinese delicacies at their February lunch at the Cool Jade restaurant in Corstorphine.



No, it's not a hold up!!

It's our **North East London Group** enjoying their traditional post-New Year lunch game of Heads and Tails.....

The first **Camping and Caravanning** Rally of the year was once again held at our very own Whitemead Forest Park in late February.

Here are some great photos shared on the C&C Facebook page. From great social nights in the function room at Whitemead, to walks around the forest. Clearly a great rally enjoyed by the more than 70 units on site.



Many thanks to Rally Marshalls Simon Amos and Phil Leech, plus their assistants Rosalie and Doug Parker for what looked like an excellent start to the season!

Don't forget anyone can share their experiences at our Group's events via the appropriate Facebook pages or you can send them to membercommunities@boundless.co.uk for potential inclusion in the group's photo gallery on the website or for inclusion in the next Communique.

Club Award

Long time Camping and Caravanning Group Treasurer, Bob Felton was thanked for his many years of service by Graham Davis, C&C Leader at the February 2024 Whitemead Forest Park Rally.

Bob stepped down from the role of Treasurer in August 2023 having been the Group's Treasurer since 2014.

Club Awards reminder.....

Just a little reminder that you don't need to wait for a longstanding member to step down from their role for you to consider them for a Club Award – although this is often the usual practice. These can awards can be given at anytime!



Local Groups Representative – Nominations Invited

The deadline is approaching for the receipt of nominations for a Local Groups Representative on the Club Council.

The primary purpose of this role is to represent the views and report on the activities of the Boundless Local Groups to the Club Council along with the other 2 LGRs (currently Jeff Kenyon and Bob Thomas) as well as being a point of contact for Local Groups.

Members can nominate themselves, by just jotting down a few lines about themselves and why they'd like to represent our Local Groups on the Club Council and then email these directly to Nick Hoath, email: nicholas.hoath@boundless.co.uk

Candidates should have a good understanding of the workings of a Local Group and ideally be involved, or previously been involved with a group of this nature. The term of office for a Local Group Representative is 3 years and they will become a full voting member of the Club Council.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday 18th March 2024**. Local Group Committees will then be invited to vote for their preferred candidate during March/April.

Independent Club Council Member – Nominations Invited

At this year's AGM in October, the membership will be asked to elect an Independent Council Member to serve on the Club Council for a tenure of 2 years.

This is an important role in the governance of the Club; firstly, to provide an independent voice to the Club Council with regards to all aspects of the Member Communities Groups and their activities, and secondly to be available for undertaking specific projects requested by the Club Leadership that require an element of independence.

Members can nominate themselves, using the required Nomination Form, which is available from the Member Communities team, email: membercommunities@boundless.co.uk

The deadline for nominations is **Thursday 27th June 2024**.

Boundless Online Events

Our series of Online Events continue until the end of April, all starting at 7pm:

Thursday 7th March: A Woman of No Importance? The fascinating story of WW2 Spy, Virginia Hall.

Tuesday 12th March: The reallife XFiles with Nick Pope.

Thursday 28th March: Disease X with Kate Kelland.

Thursday 4th April: Wings of History, WW1 Aviation.

Tuesday 9th April: Get Cruising with Barrhead Travel.

Thursday 18th April: The Greatest Nature Photos Ever Taken.

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



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

April

Tue 2nd NWL Clubnight - Alan Smith Talk - 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

May

Sun 5th F1 - United States (Miami)
Tue 7th NWL Clubnight - Walking Treasure Hunt - Sarratt
 10th-12th WRC - Portugal
Thu 16th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
 Sun 19th F1 - Italy (Imola)
 Sun 26th F1 - Monaco

June

31st-2nd WRC - Italy
Tue 4th NWL Clubnight - Crazy Golf - TBA
 Sun 9th F1 - Canada
Thu 20th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
 Sun 23rd F1 - Spain
 28th-30th WRC - Poland
 Sun 30th F1 - Austria

Dates to reserve: