

# The "Nelly" Newsletter

## April 2024



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Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



**Next Clubnight: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**Special Guest Speaker**

**Bill Hamilton**



# NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

Web Sites - Club: [www.boundless.co.uk/nel](http://www.boundless.co.uk/nel) or,  
North London Region: <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>



**Chairman: Bernard Ward**  
07532 117 868  
Email: [bernard.ward3@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.ward3@btinternet.com)



**Secretary: Robert Daines**  
07944 732 890  
Email: [robert.daines12@googlemail.com](mailto:robert.daines12@googlemail.com)



**Treasurer: Stafford Steed**  
07964 612 619  
Email: [stafford.steed@btinternet.com](mailto:stafford.steed@btinternet.com)



**Competitions Sec.: Mike Biss**  
07753 137 415  
Email: [mike.biss@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)



**Committee: John Foster**  
07984 723 449  
Email: [fosterjohn92@gmail.com](mailto:fosterjohn92@gmail.com)



**Committee: Lesley Steed**  
07984 760 950  
Email: [lesley.steed@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.steed@btinternet.com)



**Committee: Philip Perry**  
07434 632 479  
Email: [perryphilip47@gmail.com](mailto:perryphilip47@gmail.com)



**Newsletter Editor: Dave Rosher**  
07724 164 576  
Email: [nel.editor@boundlessevents.uk](mailto:nel.editor@boundlessevents.uk)

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*Hi Everyone – Happy Easter...!*

*With the clocks going forward, it won't be long before the lighter evenings and (hopefully) warmer weather allow for some more outdoor activities and events. Although, as you will read further on, seasoned traveller Mick O'Blath is already well into holiday mode.*

*Despite the pouring rain, Rosie & I enjoyed our visit to Tangmere Museum for the new Aviation Group's inaugural event. A few familiar faces were there, as well as plenty of new ones too, let's hope they come back for more. The Group also have a Facebook group, which is proving quite popular*

*Whilst Rosie & I were queuing at the checkout in Lidl recently (why is there never more than two out of six tills open...?), I spied this eye-catching display of vegan snacks and couldn't help but wonder if this might be a new sideline that our online, Cooking and Baking, group have come up with...?!*

*Do let me know if your "gut" has ever been tempted to sample them...*

*Now, where are those hot cross buns...?*

*Dave*



Please send copy for next issue to Dave Rosher at the email address above: **to arrive by 24 April**

*The opinions and recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the North East London Group Committee, or the Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd. (Boundless by CSMA).*

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## Chairman's April Chatter

A happy Easter to you all, I hope you will all enjoy the odd Easter egg without too much of that guilty feeling?

We held our AGM last month, and elected or rather re-elected our group committee to see us through the coming year. In other words, you have the same friendly smiling faces to organise you all for the next twelve months. We already have a full calendar of activities to the end of the year and we are now looking ahead to 2025 and what we might arrange for you. If you have any suggestions about whom or what we should consider then just let me know and we can take it from there.

In the past, at our AGMs, we have been in a position to present our trophies to the winners of the various competitions but over the last few years the number of members entering our competitions has dwindled such that we had exhausted our pool of competitors for the drivers' and navigators' championships. With just one active competitor it was no longer a competition and our other trophies, for one reason or another, had also ceased to be valid. I said before that we would be introducing a proposal at the AGM for a new type of competition that would re-purpose one of our redundant trophies and this was duly presented, with the re-purposed Eric Blake Cup duly displayed as the trophy for this new competition. A copy of the 'rules', as circulated at the meeting, are included further on in this newsletter, so that hopefully you will all be encouraged to take part and earn your points. Mike will be keeping tally.

If the system worked, those of you in our catchment area should by now have received an e-shot from Brighton which highlighted our forthcoming events and in particular the speaker next month, Bill Hamilton. We are delighted that he has agreed to give us a talk and share his memories, stories, anecdotes etc of his life and career as a BBC news reporter. Please do come along and enjoy his wonderful storytelling.

Three things for you to note.

1. North West London April clubnight on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, is when Alan Smith will be giving one of his splendid talks about the 100 year history of the Paris to Peking rallies, when rallies were rallies and roads were ..well there weren't any!
2. The recent formation of the Historic Aviation Group which you may not have known about. The idea is to visit aviation museums and maybe see areas that the general public wouldn't normally see, and their first event was a recent visit to Tangmere Museum in Hampshire. Editor Dave was present and reported on a well supported and organised visit. Obviously free to join but with entrance fees as applicable.
3. A long time ahead but a joint visit is planned with North West London Group for 13 June to the British Motor Heritage works at Witney, near Oxford. They fabricate car body panels for classic cars, using the old techniques and the original equipment. I went last year and they were making old Mini shells, E-Type bonnets, and some panels for the MGB. It's a short talk in the boardroom, hence numbers are limited, followed by a guided tour around the workshops. An excellent couple of hours if you like that sort of thing, and followed by a pub lunch, probably in the local golf club. There will be a charity donation of £10 per head. Contact me for further details.

So, onwards into summer and, with that, the change from monthly lunches to evening meals.

What's coming up?

### **Clubnight Tuesday 9 April – Speaker Bill Hamilton**

We're really hoping for a big support from our Group, and from those who aren't regulars as such but are following what we do through this newsletter. Bill Hamilton is a great speaker, with some very interesting stories – he is our *Star of the Year*. He has enjoyed a 60-year career as a journalist and broadcaster. His work with BBC Television News, successively as Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Special Correspondent took him to some of the worst trouble spots at home and abroad, so many stories on that. Bill is also a football referee and is now officiating in his 65th season having refereed over 2,000 matches- what does he think of VAR I hear you asking!

### **Monthly Dinner Tuesday 23 April**

Now the days are getting longer we are moving to our evening dinners at The Galley Hall, Hoddesdon - John would like to know if you are intending to join him.

### **Clubnight Tuesday 14 May – our Balloon debate**

Robert will be describing more about what will happen and how the audience decides on the most worthy person to stay in the balloon.

*Bernard*

## **ROBERTS RAMBLEINS**

Ah April has arrived, Spring is here, the clocks have been put forward to British Summer Time, and it is time for April Showers. As if we have not had enough rain already this year. Mind you some of the trees are beginning to show a bit of green. Funny how Mother Nature has a way of catching up with Herself. Last months' Club Night saw a double header. Firstly, the Annual General Meeting which went very quickly. All the existing committee were re-elected with no change in their roles. We must still be doing it correctly. A few ideas were put forward in Any Other Business, which your committee will try to put into our programme. In fact, one has already been done and the advanced advert for it is detailed at the end of my article. This was followed by another of Staffs' photo shows. This time he showed us "Competitions of North East London through the years." It was nice to see all the old pictures, particularly when we won the Curtis Bennett Rally for the first time. Thank you, Staff. At the end of the month, we enjoyed our last, till November, monthly lunch at The Plough. Thank you, John.

So, what does April have in store for us. Well for Club Night we have a special speaker, Bill Hamilton. There has already been an advert last month about him, so all I will say please come along. I have baked a fruit cake, which we shall consume on the day. All I ask is a donation to charity for a slice. The charity will be disclosed on the night. After that on the fourth Tuesday, we return to The Galley Hall for our evening meal. In this case, please let John know if you will be there. So, what of the future.

### **RIVER BOAT TRIP WITH FISH AND CHIPS BY NORTH EAST LONDON**

Why not join us for an evening Scenic Trip on the "Lady of Lee Valley." Starting at Broxbourne on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July at 18.00 we shall enjoy a two-and-a-half-hour cruise with Cod and Chips. Other options are Chicken, Sausage or Vegetable Patty, all for price of £36 per person. Next month I shall publish a booking form, with the details of payment and food options. Full details of where to meet and park will be sent to you, but you will need a permit which I will obtain for you on your behalf.

Well, that is all this month, but next month I shall hopefully be reporting on some museum visits. Keep smiling. *Robert*



## April Clubnight with Guest Speaker – *Bill Hamilton*



**Bill Hamilton**, who hails from Dundee, has enjoyed a 60 year career as a journalist and broadcaster. He started from very humble beginnings as a junior reporter on the Fife Herald before later becoming presenter of BBC Scotland's flagship news programme, *Reporting Scotland*.

He moved to London in 1979 and served successively as Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Special Correspondent with BBC Television News.

His role took him to some of the worst trouble spots at home and abroad – from arctic winter in Scotland (where he took part in the extraordinary rescue of snowbound train passengers) to inner-city riots in Brixton and Toxteth, and from IRA bombs in Brighton and London to a tragic war in Lebanon, the terrible consequences of HIV/AIDS in Africa, the Soviet Union's nuclear testing programme in Kazakhstan and the plight of dying and neglected children in Stalinist Albania.

It was his exclusive reports from Albania that sparked a huge international aid effort – involving among others, Norman Wisdom (Albania's favourite comedian) and the Duchess of York – and won him the Order of Mother Teresa, the country's highest civilian award. He was also honoured by The Royal Television Society and Rotary International.

A Paul Harris Fellow, Bill is the author of three books, *I belong to Glasgow*, *Albania Who Cares?* and his recently published autobiography, *Man on the Spot*. Bill is also a football referee. Having begun as the youngest in Scotland at age 14, he is now officiating in his 65th season, having refereed over 2,000 matches.

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## Forthcoming Evening Dinners at The Galley Hall P/H Hoddesdon.

For the next two months our evening dinners will be held at the above mentioned pub, which is situated midway between Ware and Hoddesdon south of the Gt Amwell roundabout. I can recommend the food, drink and the friendliness of the staff.

This will be our watering hole at 7.30pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> April & 28th May which is always the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. I look forward to seeing everyone especially newcomers.

Please let me know if you would like to come, if you can give me a bit of notice that would be appreciated, so I can book everyone in.

Address of Galley Hall P/H is Hailey Lane, Hailey, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY.

My email & Telephone No is [fosterjohn92@gmail.com](mailto:fosterjohn92@gmail.com) ; 07984723449.



Thanks *John*.

## CLUB NIGHT 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Balloon Debate

Welcome to a brand-new event. Never has it been done at a North East London Club Night. It is a Balloon Debate. What is that you might ask. Well read on. It is a debate where several speakers attempt to win over the audience, by pretending to be a famous person from history. The person they choose must be dead, as you cannot libel or slander the dead. The only restriction is that you cannot choose somebody who was deeply religious, as it might upset those present. So, each person, which in this first attempt will be the members of your committee, will be required to do some research and then stand up and speak for a MAXIMUM of five minutes. That is a long time. After all the committee have had their say, then the Chairman of the day will summarise each person's main points, You the audience will also be allowed to make notes as well. In other words, anything goes. Then you the audience will vote as to who will stay in the Balloon. Remember you are voting for the character, not the committee member. The character with the lowest votes is kicked out of the Balloon. Then you vote again to kick the next character out of the Balloon. You can change your mind if you like. Voting and so kicking out the balloon continues until we get a winner.

I hope this makes it clear. *Robert*

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## AN "ALFA" HOLIDAY - UP TO THE USUAL STANDARD

This holiday , 26th February to 1st March , was booked under normal conditions , not a Super Saver . The venue chosen was the Queens Hotel , on the front at Blackpool . 2 included Full day excursions , a choice of a free drink with dinner each evening and a half price bar , at a cost of £235 p.p.



A neighbour took me down to Ware High Street for the 9.40 pickup , where a lady going to Eastbourne was already waiting . A private taxi arrived 5 minutes late and our next stop was Hoddesdon , where we were joined

by 3 more people going to Blackpool , 2 of which I had met on a holiday to Weston last year and in Hoddesdon on our return . We drove to South Mimms for the usual changeover of luggage and coaches .

We departed at 11.20 and drove via the M25 , M1 , M6 , to the Services on the M6 Toll road by 1.45 . We had a lunch break , departing at 2.30 . We continued on the M6 then M55 and an A road into Blackpool . Arriving at 4.30 , to be greeted by the Hotel Manager and then informed by the driver that he lived 20 miles away and would return for the excursion at 9.45 the next morning . I found my room , 2nd floor back single , before collecting my case from the lift area on the 2nd floor . Unpacked and part changed before our dinner sitting at 6.20 , with my free small glass of wine . At the table I was joined by a man from Borehamwood , his first time with Alfa , and a man from St.Albans , who I was sure I had met before . After an enjoyable meal , I went out for a 30 minute walk along the promenade.

On my return I read the entertainment details in the Lobby and was surprised to find that there were 2 people each night , a compere/singer from 8 to 9.15 , including Bingo at 8.30 , a cabaret artist from 9.15 to 10.15 then the compere to 11 p.m. I went down at 9 , had my half price drink and left at 10.20 .

I went to our breakfast sitting at 8.20 then to the coach at 9.45 . We drove to Oswaldtwistle Mills , a large indoor shopping complex with 3 choices of Restaurant . After a short stop we picked up a tour guide for a commentary on the Ribble and Calder Valleys , which with better weather would have been excellent . We returned to the Mills at 12 to be told we had 2.5 hours of free time , far too long as we were due free time in St.Anne's on the return journey.

We left at 2.35 and drove to St.Anne's , where most people were not happy to stop . The driver ( miserable like the weather ) drove straight back to the Hotel , not even considering a run up and down the promenade . After another good meal and a short break I returned downstairs for the entertainment . The compere was doing some magic and games with prizes . This was followed by a female artist who sang and played ( not at the same time ) a penny whistle , flute , clarinet and saxophones. Very talented and enjoyable .

Wednesday was our free day , also the day that the Fleetwood Indoor Market was closed ( bad planning ) . Most of us decided to buy a One Day Tram & Bus Pass for £6 . I decided to take the tram first to the Northern end at Fleetwood Ferry , then across on the Ferry , returning to the centre of Blackpool by Bus . Only one problem: the RNLi were still testing the Ferry , and it would not be running until 18th March , I used a different bus instead , I walked from the town past our Hotel and had lunch at the nearby Wetherspoons , meeting up with Lawrence ( table companion ) . We got the tram to the Southern end and a bus into St.Anne's . After a look around we returned the same way to our Hotel by 3.40 . Read in the Lounge for an hour or so . Another good dinner and the evening spent enjoying the varied entertainment .

Thursday after breakfast , I went to the coach at 9.40 for a full day excursion to Southport , over an hour's journey due to the River Ribble Estuary coming a long way in nearly to Preston . We were given nearly 4 hours of free time . Unfortunately the very long Pier was being worked on , so I made my way to the sea via the Nature Reserve area . Similar to Weston-S-M the tide goes out a very long way . I continued along the Prom for about a mile then turned inland via some gardens and a Lake . I found a Wetherspoons for my lunch , looked at a few shops then visited the Library , having a rest while looking at the local O.S Map . I bought a Tesco Meal Deal for the journey home before waiting for the coach at 2.45 . Back to the Hotel by 3.50 . I relaxed with a cuppa and a magazine in my room . Another enjoyable dinner before watching the only program I could not record . I went down for the cabaret at 9 and stayed until 10.15 . The last 2 songs were a duet between the compere and the singer which were excellent . All 4 cabaret artists were female , a first at any Alfa Hotel , and very good .

Cases needed to be outside the room by 6.30a.m. and the driver would not allow any bring your own variation of this time . I got up at 5.45 , washed , dressed , packed and case out at 6.28 . I then reset the alarm for just before 8 and laid on the bed . Down to breakfast , then to the coach at 9 . M6 Toll Services for a 45 minute stop , before reaching South Mimms at 2.20 . We had a 16 seater coach for the journey to Ware and I walked home by 4.45 .

I am now looking forward to my next Alfa holiday , which is to Scarborough , 10 of us from the Group , on Self-Drive on 17th to 21st April . I visited this Hotel last June , with John Foster, so things will at least be familiar .

*MICK O'BLATH*

# NORTH EAST LONDON GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

## Group Championship (2024)

The championship is open to all members and friends of NEL group.

The championship will run from January 1st to December 31st.

The championship will be administered by the elected committee. In the event of any dispute, the Group committee's decision shall be final.

Events which count for this championship are;

Treasure Hunts,  
Pitch & Putt,  
Petanque,  
Clubnight Quizzes, etc.

There is no restriction on the number of events to count and points will be awarded as follows:-

1st overall	10	points
2nd overall	9	points
3rd overall	8	points
4th overall	7	points
5th overall	6	points
6th overall	5	points
7th overall	4	points
8th overall	3	points
9th overall	2	points
other positions	1	point



The Eric Blake Cup

Awards are as follows:-

- First Overall - Eric Blake Cup
- Second Overall - An Award
- Third Overall - An Award

## Organisers

In most cases, the organiser can also compete, so will receive: – points as an entrant

If they decide not to compete, they will receive: – 10 points

Events where they can't compete, like Treasure Hunts, they will receive: – 7 points



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](mailto: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

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

## 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](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 now available from Mike Biss or website

Following on from last month's report of the 1937 CB Rally, here is a write up for the rest of that weekend's activities, with some "interesting", to say the least, Gymkhana competitions...!



A SECTION OF THE CROWD

# A GREAT RALLY At Donington

By SPY

ELSEWHERE in this issue is described the Curtis-Bennett 550-mile Road Event, held for the first time this year, and arranged so as to finish at Donington in time for the drivers and passengers to join the big Rally. From 3 o'clock, then, the 56 finishers in this run arrived one by one—no doubt very tired of driving, even under conditions that had been excellent—at the glorious spot which was the rallying point for the C.S.M.A. for the week-end. The qualifying run round the track was soon over and other members began to trickle in from the far corners of the country, in particular, officials who had travelled to such far off spots as Pentre Voelas and Machynneth in mid-Wales in order to check in the drivers on the run during the previous night.

For myself, it was my first visit and I was immensely impressed with Donington Hall and the beautiful park around it. Also there were very many Londoners there exchanging greetings and at that moment, still being somewhat mindful of the length of the journey from London (especially when a detour has to be made to avoid the R.A.F. Show at Hendon), I rather marvelled at their enthusiasm.

Still more did I marvel later in the evening, when we adjourned to the Ballroom and danced till nearly midnight, to see many drivers who had competed in the road run joyfully seeing the dance through to the end.

During the evening all previous attendance figures seemed very likely to be beaten, for

we learnt that no less than 340 people had paid for camping accommodation. The hall was—to say the least—quite full and many others were resting, looking round at the prizes or just wandering round the park in the dusk. Cecil Adair and his doll raised much laughter with his ventriloquism. His very topical jokes about ladies who own cars which run for 550 miles while the driver sleeps, and so on, were well received.

I must here interpose an apology. Mr. Ryall, in collecting the camping fees had the unhappy task of asking for sixpence *per head* while the announcement in the GAZETTE stated that the charge would be sixpence *per tent*. Unluckily, the announcement in the GAZETTE was a mistake and the proper charge was made. An apology is now given to Mr. Ryall, with regrets for his being placed in such a position.

\* \* \*

It is perhaps appropriate at this stage to mention the Hall. The present Hall was built in 1795, it being then in the possession of the Hastings family. There are no less than 203 rooms and the titles, some with names of flowers and others just called "Bachelor Room No. so-and-so" are seen over the long rows of bells on the lower floor. The dining room is fifty feet long and on the eastern side of the Hall is a family chapel. One of the Marquises of Hastings—a somewhat notorious one—staged a cock-fight in the old church at Lockington near by and as he also believed in living on the fat of the land installed a sort of horse trough in which fresh fish were kept alive till required for the table.

The Hall is perhaps best known as a place of internment for German prisoners in the late War



and the famous tunnel, which was by a ruse worked on for ten months, extends for ninety yards under the ground, and led beyond the entanglement of the dreaded live wires that were then in position. The two officers who performed this piece of work did manage to escape back to their own land, having eluded the search, and their handiwork is still left untouched.

The present owner, Mr. J. G. Shields, is said to have started life fifty years ago in a very minor position on the estate and has now been able to fulfil his life-long ambition to buy the place and preserve it from the speculative builder. He has of course built the famous race-track away in the park out of sight and this is one of the very few places where racing is possible in this country. In September the Car Tourist Trophy Race will be held there.

It is perhaps fitting to conclude these remarks on the history of the Hall by announcing that the hall porter donned his red jacket for the occasion, having decided that we were people who justified a full dress parade.

\* \* \*

The Gymkhana itself started promptly at 10 a.m. on the Sunday. The first event, the Egg and Spoon Race, was for motor cycles, as were all the events in the morning. The spoons had been bent at right angles to make it all the harder and the pillion passengers had to carry them—until the egg was dropped. As with all the events, there were several heats, and the crowd on the natural slopes round the course had already become very enthusiastic, although it was not till the afternoon that the huge muster arrived.

The final of this event led to a close fight between K. J. Dover and G. O. Hayward for second place. In Heat 3, F. H. Commander dropped his egg half way round, while Miss Barnett came off a few yards from the start. The Waiters' Race was more complicated. This was over two and a half laps and during the race a competitor had first to pick up a napkin and lay it over his arm in the usual manner, then collect a tray. Lastly, a bottle had to be balanced on the said tray while riding round for a half-lap. F. A. Whitehouse was very good, but until a very early skid on a corner, D. S. Bridge had all the signs of a winner in the final.

Tent Pegging and Balloon Spearing called for considerable signs of partisanship from the crowd for their own riders from the centres. J. Burden, of Merseyside, pulled it off and richly deserved his prize, for spearing balloons tethered to the ground and then picking up three out of four cards while moving all the time is not an easy task.

The most amusing event of the day came next. It was called the Obstacle Race. The said obstacles appeared mainly to be jumpers, skirts and hats which the riders—of the male sex, of course—had to don during the course of the race. The final roars of laughter were at the spectacle of the

passenger trying to open an old umbrella and hold it over his head for the last lap.

Collecting The Mails brought out some really clever riding. D. S. Bridge was again to the fore and looked like winning this time but dropped one of the bags and so had to go on round the course and pick it up again. This was another popular win for F. A. Whitehouse of Birmingham.

Musical Chairs must be well-known and was notable for the way the rather large field was dealt with by the organisers, who did not omit to take a sack, *i.e.*, "chair," away after each halt. Turf Board Riding was definitely thrilling and must have required considerable pluck and strength as the riders hauled along their assistants as fast as they could on turf boards behind them over the ground. The bend and the rough places were almost as exciting as the dirt-track.

After lunch very much the same programme of events was carried out for the cars, and the whole of the arena was sometimes used so that they could travel abreast right across, instead of going round the track, like the cycles. Mr. Barnett, our popular Manchester Chairman, continued to officiate at the loud speaker and carried out this duty exceedingly well. By now the crowd had grown to huge proportions. Just as much interest was taken by the large crowd in the snappy driving and antics (in some cases) of the car drivers and their passengers as with the cycles. Musical Chairs led to a most exciting and breath-holding finish, the two last cars creeping slowly along past the one remaining "chair" (actually a flag) stuck in the middle of the arena. As soon as they were past it on one side they raced round to the other and dropped to a crawl again. Actually the music stopped when one driver was so far away from the flag that he did not stand a chance.

But as the afternoon wore on the spectators looked expectantly towards the Signals Trick Riders who had arrived and ridden in single file in excellent style into the grounds. On enquiry we ascertained that they had *not* ridden all the way from London like that, but only from the



MUSICAL CHAIRS ON MOTOR CYCLES



station! But they had had a wonderful reception at the White City the previous night and when we saw their show we were not surprised.

To attempt to describe it is difficult. I can only ask you to imagine the inter-lacing at speed, the describing figures of eight—and all other sorts of figures. Pairs of riders on each motor cycle performed acrobatic tricks while their machines were going round the arena.

Then single riders entered knitting and drinking which I am sure the most expert of our trial riders has never yet attempted while riding. Then one of them shot up the ramp and cleared about fifty feet before landing—all this on perfectly standard Triumph motor cycles mind you. Another followed with a member's car at the end of the ramp. Needless to say, he cleared it easily. Then there was balloon shooting—the balloon stand *walking* off just to show how it was done—and a ride round the track with 14 men on the one byke, a weight of one ton, two hundredweight. And then to close there was more formation riding and with that Lieut. Crawford thanked us for our applause and the show was over.

\* \* \*

After the prizes had been distributed by Mrs. Roberts, the wife of our Vice-Chairman, we all had to think about getting away. But we did stop to tea and next year we shall, by hook or crook, arrange to be spared for a little longer so that we can do justice to the place—and the occasion.

I cannot conclude without mention of the organisers. The Hon. Secretary of the Rally Committee, Captain Coxon, spoke very fittingly at the close and I am sure all will join in thanking them for a splendid show. Most of the organisers, incidentally, are to be seen in one of the photographs in this issue.

### RESULTS OF GYMKHANA

EVENT No. 1. EGG & SPOON RACE (Cycles)  
Final, 1st, R. Davies and Mrs. Parker (Birmingham).  
do. 2nd, K. J. Dover and Miss Rowling (Leeds).

EVENT No. 2. WAITERS' RACE (Cycles)  
Final, 1st, F. A. Whitehouse (Birmingham).  
do. 2nd, J. Burden (Merseyside).

EVENT No. 3. TENT PEGGING & BALLOON SPEARING (Cycles)  
Final, 1st, J. Burden (Merseyside).  
do. 2nd, G. A. Perks (Birmingham).

EVENT No. 4. OBSTACLE RACE (Cycles)  
Final, 1st, K. J. Dover and Miss Rowling (Leeds).  
do. 2nd, —. Bracebrook and —. Jones (—).



### THERE'S NO CHIVALRY IN MUSICAL CHAIRS

EVENT No. 5. COLLECTING THE MAILS (Cycles)  
Final, 1st, F. A. Whitehouse (Birmingham).  
do. 2nd, N. O. Harris (Birmingham).

EVENT No. 6. MUSICAL CHAIRS (Cycles)  
1st, F. H. Commander and J. Commander (Birmingham).  
2nd, G. A. Perks and R. Davies (Birmingham).

EVENT No. 7. TURF BOARD RIDING (Cycles)  
1st, N. O. Harris and L. A. Cross (Birmingham). (Time, 50 1/5 seconds.)  
2nd, K. J. Dover and A. Metcalfe (Leeds). (1 min. 16 2/5 secs.)

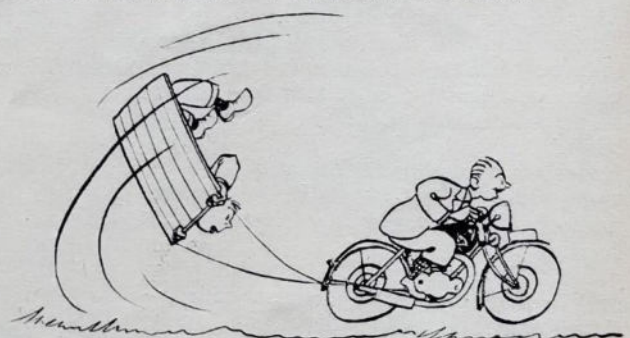
EVENT No. 8. MUSICAL CHAIRS (Cars)  
1st, K. J. Dover and Miss Dover (Leeds).  
2nd, A. Fryer and E. Dench (Sheffield).

EVENT No. 9. EGG & SPOON RACE (Cars)  
Final, 1st, V. G. Trevelyan, Snr. and V. G. Trevelyan, Jr. (Gloucester).  
do. 2nd, A. Fryer and T. Avery (Sheffield).

EVENT No. 10. OBSTACLE RACE (Cars)  
Final, 1st, W. E. F. Daniels and Mrs. Daniels (Nth. London).  
do. 2nd, T. Morris and Miss Morris (Nottingham).

EVENT No. 11. POTATO SPEARING (Cars)  
Final, 1st, C. R. Y. King, Snr. and —. Ward (Nottingham).  
do. 2nd, —. Harry and —. Margetts (South London).

EVENT No. 12. MYSTERY RACE (Cars)  
Final, 1st, W. Mills and F. Shepherd (Manchester).  
do. 2nd, Miss North and —. Townsley (Sth. London).



### TURF-RIDING IS SUCH FUN

During the initial experimental period for this journal, the design of the front cover is being kept under review and in this connection members, or others, are invited to submit designs. These should be drawings suitable for reproduction in one colour only on either art or antique paper. Designs should be sent in before the 31st August and a fee of two guineas will be paid for any that are used.

In addition to the teams in "the International" the Association was represented by A. J. G. Belsey, who had the considerable responsibility of having charge of all the route marking arrangements. T. Davies, Birmingham Motor Cycle Secretary, started the week as marshal, but ended as Belsey's right-hand man. Several other members assisted the Auto-Cycle Union in the organisation of this important event.



# 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](mailto: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 long-standing 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:membercommunities@boundless.co.uk)

The deadline for nominations is **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

## Boundless Online Events

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

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

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March: The real-life X-Files with Nick Pope.*

*Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Disease X with Kate Kelland.*

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Wings of History, WW1 Aviation.*

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April: Get Cruising with Barrhead Travel.*

*Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:membercommunities@boundless.co.uk)

# Dates for your Diary - 2024

**Club Night Venue: Bishop's College  
Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ**

Lunch / Dinner Venues may vary month by month so keep a close watch on the Newsletter each month for precise details of location.

Evenings start at 7.45 for 8.00pm

Clubnights – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

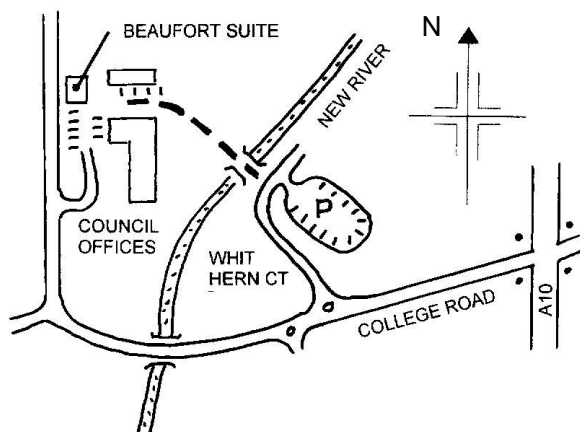
Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4th Tuesday  
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Month	Event
<b>April</b>	<p>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> – NWL Group 12 Car Rally</p> <p><b>Tue 9<sup>th</sup> - Clubnight: Special Guest Speaker –</b> <b>- Former BBC Presenter, Bill Hamilton</b> <b><i>“My life as a journalist at the BBC”</i></b></p> <p>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p>
<b>May</b>	<p>Tue 14<sup>th</sup> - Clubnight: Balloon Debate</p> <p>Tue 28<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p>
<b>June</b>	<p>Sun 9<sup>th</sup> - Walking Treasure Hunt – Tewin</p> <p>Tue 11<sup>th</sup> - Clubnight: Speaker – Tricia Thompson <b><i>“Conkers and Skipping Ropes”</i></b></p> <p>Tue 25<sup>th</sup> – Pitch and Putt, followed by a Noggin &amp; Natter at Kingsmead, Ware</p>
<b>July</b>	<p>Tue 9<sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker – Paul Baker</p> <p>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> – Petanque, followed by a Noggin &amp; Natter <b>at The Old Bulls Head, Ware, SG12 9DZ</b></p>

Our Indoor Club Night venue is: **Bishop's College**, EN8 9XQ (Civic Offices), located on Churchgate, at its junction with College Road, about 300m West of the A10 junction with College road (Traffic lights and pedestrian footbridge).

Our Clubroom is in the Beaufort Suite, which appears to be an old Chapel from outside.

There is a **Free Car Park** in Whit Hern Court off College Road (**Ignore “Permit Holders Only” sign**) then a short walk over the New River footbridge to the venue.



For further details, see inside or, ring the Secretary; Robert Daines on: 07944 732890

Or, contact him via E-Mail on: [robert.daines12@googlemail.com](mailto:robert.daines12@googlemail.com)

Visit the Websites at: [www.boundless.co.uk/nel](http://www.boundless.co.uk/nel) or, <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>