

Civil Service Motoring Association




newsletter

CSMA

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CSMA Civil Service Motoring Association



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The Big End



CSMA CLUB

Civil Service Motoring Association  
North West London Group



NEWSLETTER

CSMA

THE BIG END



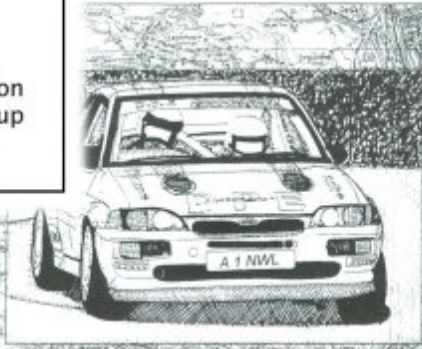
BIG END




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

September 2024



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Vacant

## Clubnight

### September Clubnight - Bowling

Tuesday 3rd September

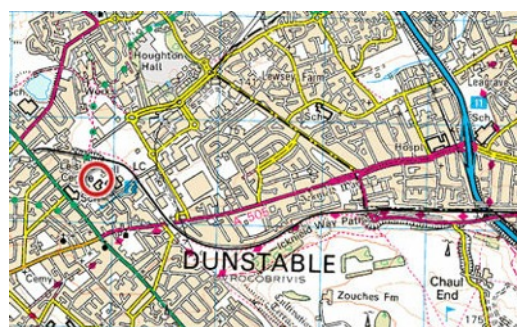
**Meet from 7:30pm**

**Bowling starts at 8:00pm**

Go Bowling, Court Drive, Dunstable LU5 4JD

**£14.50 for 2 games**

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



## THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

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



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

**Boundless North West London Group**

# Editorial

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Entries for the Paddock autotest at the weekend ahead are a bit low on the ground at present, with only a day left to enter, but I think it will go ahead and at least it will help the local church fund, in exchange for our use of the venue. The search is back on for a permanent venue.

I've now got a new car to replace the MX5, and it is suitable for doing 12 Car rallies as well as the usual autosolos. It is a Suzuki Swift Sport (no, it's not John Clavey's one) and I've done one "grass" autotest and found it was both quick, but it also had a problem with being unable to handbrake around right hand turns. I knew it did work, as I had seen it in action on a previous event. Drove around the problem on the day but checked it out when I got



home and found something wrong with the cable adjustment. I took all the rear brakes apart and found the pads were sticking in the carrier on one side. Having cleaned everything up and reassembled it, the parts are all moving freely and the adjustment seems to be correct. Will only find out on the next event. The car has to be driven to an event at present, as I found out that it is about 1½" too wide for both trailers! So I'm selling the two trailers and will get a more modern, slightly wider one. I hope to have a buyer already for the Clubman one I normally use at events, but the Brian James Minno one which sits in the garage, usually with the tarmac Mini on, is up for sale if anyone is interested.

Remember that the first 12 Car rally will be on the 1st November this season, so make a note in your diary and start making preparations for crews, etc.

Nice to see that Red Bull are not having it their own way in the F1 championship this year, as they are seriously worried about the performance of the McLaren cars, especially as they were beaten at their home track by nearly 23 seconds. Every time McLaren bolt on a new part, they go a lot quicker, and they now don't even need to worry about failing to get to the first corner in the lead from pole position, such is their performance. With nine races to go, could we be looking at a proper challenge for a new championship winner? Hope so...

On the recent WRC event in Finland, after a difficult Saturday where he finished outside the top 10 because of a broken driveshaft, Elfyn Evans was on the hunt for strong Super Sunday points on the final day, attempting to mitigate the damage to rival Neuville. Evans was second in those standings,



Tree 1 Car 0

1.2 seconds adrift of rally-leading team-mate Rovannerä, but he crashed very early on the penultimate stage. The Welshman's Toyota appeared to snap through the first corner and he ran wide, losing the rear and drifting across to the other side of the road, where he hit a tree. It's a major blow to his title aspirations, as he was

already 15 points adrift of Neuville before Finland and has now scored no points. Worse still, Sebastien Ogier has moved up to second place and may now do the remaining four rounds, with the aim of picking up another championship win.

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

Keep safe.

Mike B.

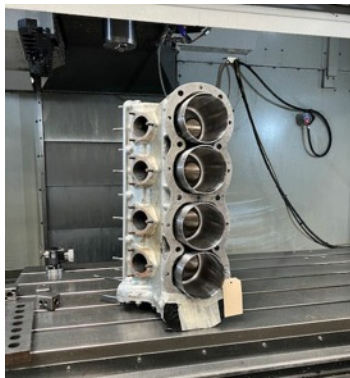
**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the October newsletter is Thursday 19th September



# Chairman's notebook



My thanks to Alan for sorting out the very enjoyable evening of Boule at the Five Bells PH at Stanbridge last month. Can't quite remember how many teams of two we had there on the night, but we had a good crowd and everyone seemed to have a good time, which is the most important thing after all!



Ann and I enjoyed our visit to the Jim Stokes Workshop, which is located at Waterlooville just above Havant on the South Coast. The workshop deals with very, very expensive vintage Alfas and Bentley etc. and surprisingly quite normal cars as well, such as a 1990 Ford Fiesta in for a service and MOT, quite remarkable really? He charges the same labour rate whatever the car is, although one must expect an enormous number of hours must be spent on restoring a class Alfa or Bentley!



A lot of their work involves taking out the original engine and gearbox from say a vintage Alfa and then making a replica engine and gearbox, which the owner can then use on the race track, with the original one preserved in a crate, which can then be placed back in the car, if it is ever sold. I suspect the new engine is both stronger and more powerful as well!



Anyway, Jim Stokes actually took us around in person and I must say he is a great guy and very approachable and no question was left un-answered and we were quite free to take photographs, although one or two cars quite understandably, we were asked not to photograph.

I didn't make our Drink and a Chat this month, as I was in Kafalonia with Ann, Claire and Jacob. We had a great time, but it was very hot, with most days hovering around about 32 – 35 and at night 20 – 24, so it was nice to come home to some cold air one might say. The photo was taken from the veranda of the hotel. Kafalonia is where the film Captain Corelli's Mandolin, starring Nicholas Cage and Penelope Cruz was filmed (well worth watching if you haven't seen it) and is a lot greener than most Greek Islands.



We arrived home on the Sunday, just in time for me to watch the highlights of the Dutch Grand Prix and enjoy Norris winning, despite a poor start, which I have to say was very satisfying!

I believe I am right in saying that we could do with some more entries for this Sunday's Autotest at the new venue, so if you were thinking of entering, but haven't yet, then please do.

This is also true of our track day at Castle Combe on the 17th October, which is organised once again by Allan Goddard. With an entry fee of just £135 for members, it really is very good value for money. If you haven't been before, and are interested, why not come along and take a look and if you are lucky, you might get a ride around.

Not forgetting we have our river cruise on Saturday the 14th September organised by Alan Thurbon and if you haven't yet booked, you may be lucky if you contact Alan ASAP. It starts and finishes in Bedford if you are interested and a fish and chip supper is provided in the cost and there is an alternative if you don't like fish.

Anyway, hopefully I will see you at bowling on the 3rd September at Dunstable for our September Clubnight and if not then perhaps at our usual Drink and at Chat at the Red Lion on the 19th September.

Mike H

# Secretary's spot

.....

Well, we managed to get the Greenacres Autotest off the ground and a successful event it turned out to be. There were a number of comments about the event in last month's Big End, so I won't add further details here, however it is hoped that the Paddock Autotest will take place on September 1st, using the same field as the Greenacres and hopefully just as good!

Last month's clubnight saw a magnificent turn out in the garden of The Five Bells pub in Stanbridge, where we took advantage of the boule (pétanque) pitch. Many competitive games were enjoyed, but there was no overall winner as the evening was designed to give everybody a game if they wished to play. The weather was fairly kind, but as dusk drew on, a retirement to the bar seemed the obvious choice.

We are continuing the mild activity evenings with a visit to the tenpin bowling lanes at Go Bowling, Dunstable for our clubnight on Tuesday 3rd September. Sadly, I have been unable to negotiate a good price for bowling and an included burger meal (as has been traditional), so it was thought best to book two games of bowling for £14.50 and if anybody wishes to purchase a meal or buy some drinks, this will be at their own arrangement. The bowling is booked for 8:00pm, but if you are intending to bowl, then please arrive by 7:30pm and it would be appreciated if you could give me £14.50, per person in cash, that would make matters very much simpler. If you are able to, then please send me an email with names of likely attendees, so that I can arrange sufficient lanes if necessary.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' will be held on Thursday 19th September at The Red Lion, so do please join us if you can for an informal and sociable evening normally commencing around 8:30pm.

October clubnight, on Tuesday 1st, will be a buzzer quiz put together by our Chairman. Always a fun evening with the occasional controversial moment, but please turn up around 8:00pm for an 8:30pm start. Forgot to mention that the venue for this evening will be The Function Room at The Red Lion pub, where we return for our autumn / winter clubnights.

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1st September</b>	<b>– NWL Paddock Autotest</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3rd September</b>	<b>– NWL Clubnight – tenpin bowling at Dunstable</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14th September</b>	<b>– NWL Fish and Chip supper cruise on River Ouse</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19th September</b>	<b>– NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29th September</b>	<b>– NWL Chiltern Autotest</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1st October</b>	<b>– NWL Clubnight – buzzer quiz</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17th October</b>	<b>– NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion</b>

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

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Sep	Sun 1	* Paddock Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - TBC	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 13	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 29	Chiltern Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - TBC	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
Oct	Fri 11	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 13	* Boanerges Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC
Nov	Fri 1	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 8	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 29	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
Dec	Fri 6	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC

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

### Past Events

### Future Events

**Paddock Autotest** We will be returning to the Greenacres site for this event, thanks to the landowner agreeing to one more visit. Regs are now available from the website. This will have two permits again, one for passengers and one without and is held on a grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and are suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £28 (juniors £15) and entries and marshals can register on the website links shown in the advert.

**Chiltern Autotest** No news on a venue for the Chiltern yet. With us back to looking for another permanent venue, it might be that we can source a couple of different ones and spread the use out, to keep the ground in a better condition over the year. We might be able to go to our original venue for this year, but again it is not going to allow us the early usage we would like for a full season.

**12 Car Rally Season** The 12 Car Rally dates for this season, due to the January event being the most likely to be hit by bad weather, the events will now run in Nov, Dec, Feb and Mar. The existing January event has moved to Nov and the existing April event 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. The December event, as Blackbird have moved their event forward a week (most likely to miss the Preston Rally weekend), will now run on 29th November instead, but that is still four weeks from the previous event.

**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)

## NWL Chiltern Autotest - Sunday 29th September (TBC)

Venue - TBC

Organisers: Graeme Presswell / Mike Biss - Entry Fee £28 (Juniors £15)

All forwards tests, passengers (PCA) or no passengers (Clubmans)

Great fun day out driving - Marshals required

Regs available (when site confirmed) from Mike B or from the website - Online entries only

[MSUK Clubman Licence](#) (free) & [Boundless MSUK card](#) (free) required



## 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 Fish and Chip Supper Cruise

**Saturday 14th September 2024**

**from Priory Marina, Bedford, MK41 9DJ**

**on board the John Bunyan Community boat**



**start 6:00pm for two hours**

***Fish and Chip supper included and licenced bar available***

***(alternative meal available upon request)***

**Discounted price of £20 per person**

***Please indicate whether or not you wish to support this trip no later than Tuesday 10th Sept preferably by email to Alan T or to request further details***

## NWL 12 Car Rally

**Friday 1st November**

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

**Map 166**

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £18 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 7:45pm, first car starts at 8:31pm

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

Regs available mid September from Mike Biss or website



# 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

## September

- Sun 1st**    **NWL Paddock Autotest - Weston Underwood**
- Sun 1st    F1 - Italy (Monza)
- Tue 3rd**    **NWL Clubnight - Tenpin Bowling - Dunstable**
- 6th-8th    WRC - Greece
- Sat 14th**    **NWL River Cruise - Bedford**
- Sun 15th    F1 - Azerbaijan
- Thu 19th**    **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
- Sun 22nd    F1 - Singapore
- 27th-29th    WRC - Chile
- Sun 29th**    **NWL Chiltern Autotest - TBC**

## October

- Tue 1st**    **NWL Clubnight - Buzzer Quiz - The Red Lion, HH**
- Thu 17th**    **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
- 18th-20th    WRC - Central European
- Sun 20th    F1 - United States (Austin)
- Sun 27th    F1 - Mexico

## November

- Fri 1st**    **NWL 12 Car Rally**
- Sun 3rd    F1 - Brazil
- Tue 5th**    **NWL Clubnight - Pub Games or Speaker - The Red Lion, HH**
- Thu 21st**    **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
- 22nd-24th    WRC - Japan
- Sun 24th    F1 - United States (Las Vegas)
- Fri 29th**    **NWL 12 Car Rally**

Dates to reserve: