

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

November 2024



NWL Group Officers & Committee 2024/25



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
mike.harrison@boundlesscommunity.co.uk

Treasurer

Doug Harrison

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

Newsletter Editor

Mike Biss

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

Ian O'Connor

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

Pete Gregory

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

Lorraine O'Connor

Home: 01923 519874
lorraineeoconnor@gmail.com

Anne Graves

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

Vacant

Clubnight Pub Games

Tuesday 5th November

At our clubnight venue
The Red Lion PH
Starts 8pm



THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

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



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

Boundless North West London Group

NWL Editorial

Do you remember in mid October the slightly wrong BBC weather app forecasts, which somehow had wind speeds of 15,237mph in Flitwick and temperatures of 404C in Nottingham! I know we have climate change in the news, but this was a bit silly in the extreme.

The WRC has now come down to a fight between the Hyundai duo of Neuville and Tanak on the last event in Japan. Neuville still has the advantage, with a 25 point lead, but that could all change if the weather conditions are tricky. The hopes of Ogier taking another championship ended with him crashing on the last stage on the previous event. The calendar for 2025 has been expanded to 14 events, one up on this year, and features a visit to the Canary Islands, making the step up from the European championship, so be prepared for fog up in the hills.



After driving the Suzuki a bit more, I'm coming to the conclusion that it doesn't quite match what I'm looking for from a car to do the events I want to do. I can't see a way of changing anything on the car that would help here, so I may be putting it back on the market and looking for something else, but not sure what it is yet! My first thought has now been proven to not be the answer.

Meanwhile in F1, the Norris progress in taking the championship race to Verstappen seems to have stalled and it will need others to play a part in helping him get anywhere near the Red Bull driver. However, having just watched the Mexican GP, it seems Max is happy to sabotage his own challenge, by reverting to his previous bad driving mode and not only got a 10 second penalty for an offence, he got another one for the same offence later on the same lap! It has got so bad that Red Bull have now fallen behind Ferrari in the Constructors table, down to third. With Perez not performing well, as usual, and although he has a contract for next year, the talk is that he may not be in the seat by the end of next year, or even at the start of the season. It might also be a case that Max gets disheartened with F1 and decides to leave the sport at the end of the year, which is something he has said he might do, if he isn't enjoying it any more.



When councils put up signs advising drivers of a future road closure or road works, they must go into "we have advised you" mode, but totally ignoring the fact that this wording is so small when driving past it, as to make it useless. The only way you have a chance of reading it, is to come to a stop, which could easily be a chance of causing an accident on a straight bit of road, as the cars behind won't know what you are doing!



The recent Buzzer Quiz for the October clubnight was to the usual format and also as usual, our Chairman Mike managed to come up with surprising answers to well known questions, i.e. he was wrong, but as question master, he was right! But it was fun....

Remember that the first 12 Car rally of the season is this Friday and it is a shame we only have six entries. But at least the weather looks ok, for this time of the year.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the December newsletter is Thursday 21st November



Chairman's notebook

My thanks to all of you who attended last month's clubnight. Hopefully you all enjoyed the Buzzer Quiz and Ian and Trevor came out in top place, with a score of 23, followed by Mike B and Dave R on 21. You should find a full set of results elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last month, Ann and I took part in the 25th running of the Retro Run, which this year was based in and around Exmoor in Devon and Somerset and hopefully Mike will have managed to find space for my article elsewhere in the newsletter on the weekend. Needless to say, despite the weather, we had a fantastic time.

Unfortunately, I must report that the Castle Combe track day was not well attended, with only some 18 cars taking part on the day, most likely down to the weather forecast, which was not good. However, on the day, although it wasn't exactly sunny, it was however dry and after a couple of sessions, the track was nice and dry with plenty of grip. I took Chris Baldwin out with me, as he's thinking of doing a track day next year. Hopefully I haven't put him off! My thanks to AG for organising the event and hopefully if we can, maybe run it in May/June next year, we will have a better entry.



The Goodwood track day fared no better, and even though we only had 10 places allocated to us, we only managed to fill four of them, so a disaster for us money wise and I don't think we will be going there again next year. However, it was dry on the day and everyone taking part had a really good time and my thanks to MGs on Track for allowing us to take part.

I know money is tight this year for everyone, and let's face it track days can be expensive, and you have to pay up front, even if it's raining. Unless the circuit cancels the day, we still have to pay for the use of the track. At Castle Combe, we take the entire allocation, but at Goodwood we only take one session of 10 cars, with MGs on Track taking the rest, but it's still a financial risk, which perhaps we can no longer take. We have over 100 members on the Track Day mailing list, but I have to say this year, the participation has been very disappointing.



Unfortunately, Alan Thurbon's efforts in organising the afternoon trip out on the canal at Bedford, together with a fish and chip dinner, came to nought because the boat company couldn't supply us with a skipper on the day due to illness, so sadly we had to cancel it, but hopefully we will try again in the Spring.

Ann and I have started to try and de-clutter the house, ready for selling it next year, when we are looking to move out to the other side of the M25, to be nearer the kids and hopefully find a bungalow or at least a house with either a double garage or space for me to build one. Steven and I deposited 50 boxes at the storage facility the other day, but unfortunately having lived in the house for 45 years, this hasn't exactly made a huge impact on what the two of us have hoarded in the past 45 years!!



I know that there is often a debate about what make or grade of petrol you should use, but after talking to Pete Gregory the other day, I now only use the higher octane petrol in the Focus and actually it has made a difference in not only how it runs, but surprisingly, in the miles per gallon it achieves!

This month we have the first of our 12 Car rallies on the 1st November, with the next one running on the 29th November. I believe Pete and Graeme are possibly still looking for entries, so please support the event if you can.

For our November clubnight on the 5th November, Alan Thurbon has organised an evening of Pub Games at the Red Lion for us all to enjoy and if you can't make that, then perhaps we will see you at our Drink and a Chat on the 21st November at the Red Lion.

Mike H



Secretary's spot

Well, the clocks have fallen back and we will shortly witness it getting dark around 4:30pm – a very depressing time, but hopefully some of the activities we have planned for you in the next few months will help to slightly relieve the darkness!

Our October clubnight was an entertaining buzzer quiz, put together by our Chairman and as per usual, there were a few contentious questions and answers. A very good turn out supported the evening and I am sure full results will appear within these pages. Thanks to Mike H.

If you get this edition in time, please remember the AGM of the Association is to be held at 2:30pm in the Clermont Hotel, Charing Cross, London (directly above the main line station) on Thursday 31st October and we have our Chairman seeking election for an Independent Council Member role.

The first 12 Car rally of the winter series will be held on Friday 1st November, in the capable hands of Pete Gregory and Graeme Presswell. Start and finish is from The John Bunyan PH at Coleman Green just outside Wheathampstead and I am sure it will be a good event.

Our next clubnight, on Tuesday 5th November, will see us gathering in The Function Room at The Red Lion, where a selection of indoor table games will be laid out for your participation. The fun will commence at 8:00pm, so please put the date in your diary and come along for an enjoyable evening.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' gathering will be held on Thursday 21st November at The Red Lion, so do please join us if you can for an informal and sociable evening normally commencing around 8:30pm.

At the end of November, on Friday 29th, I will be organising the December 12 Car rally. Full details with regulations and entry form details will be found within this Big End, so please support the event if you can. Please contact myself or Mike B if you need any extra information.

It seems a bit early to be talking about Christmas, but our December clubnight on Tuesday 3rd, will see our traditional festive evening take place at the Red Lion, with Anne and Steve putting on a quiz and possibly other festive delights for our enjoyment.

Date for your diary!!

Please make a note of Saturday 11th January 2025, as we propose to hold a post Christmas meal at Dunstable Downs Golf Club to say thank you to as many of our loyal supporters as possible. Only stipulation is you have to be a Boundless member, however spouses / partners are also included. A heavily subsidised three course meal (menu choices next month, together with further details), however a £10 per person charge will be requested as a contribution towards the cost of the evening. Watch out next month for further details.

Our planned future programme is as follows;

- Friday 1st November – NWL 12 Car rally**
- Tuesday 5th November – NWL Clubnight – indoor pub games**
- Thursday 21st November – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Friday 29th November – NWL 12 Car rally**
- Tuesday 3rd December – NWL Clubnight – Christmas social**

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

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Nov	Fri 1	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 8	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 29	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
Dec	Fri 6	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 7	* Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Jan	Fri 10	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 18	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Feb	Fri 7	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
	Fri 14	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 15	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Mar	Fri 7	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 14	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Apr	Fri 11	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

November 12 Car Rally Starting from The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES, MR 166/189125, it will use map 166 (edition FEB 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Entry fee is £18 per car. Offers of entries would be appreciated by Pete Gregory and you can contact him on either pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk, 01525 861673 (Work) or 07709 221115 (Mob).

December 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 £18 per car. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on alanthurbon@yahoo.com.

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://motorsportuk.sport80.com>, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute. The MSUK have introduced a new system for licence registration and it is still a work in progress, much to the users frustration. You will have to change your log-in details and the whole ordering process is different. From an organisers point of view, they don't issue you with a licence that is easy to show in advance, it is more geared to showing it on your phone in person!

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



RS Clubman Licence Renewal

<https://motorsportuk.sport80.com>

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 2024, you can soon go onto the above site and renew your licence.

This is a new system and you get a file to store in your phone wallet!

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 for organisers – see regs for details

Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell (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 now available from Mike Biss or website

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 29th November

The Farmers Boy PH, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166/028182

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 for organisers – see regs for details

Alan Thurbon (alanthurbon@yahoo.com)

Competitors required - Arrive before 7:45pm, first car starts at 20:31

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

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

Buzzer Quiz Scores - October Clubnight

1st Place	Ian and Trevor	23 points
2nd Place	Mike B and Dave R	21 points
3rd Place	Doug, Mark B and Steve G	19 points
4th Place	Hazel, Alan R and Nicky	18 points
5th Place	Alan G and Anne R	9 points
6th Place	Alan T and Anne G	5 points

The 2024 Retro Run

This year the 24th running of the Retro Run was run between the 27th – 29th September and made use of the brilliant roads through the fantastic scenery of Exmoor. It was based out of a nice hotel just outside of Tiverton, called the Hartnoll Hotel & Spa. With the weather forecast looking very miserable, with heavy rain predicted for most of the weekend, I took the decision to take the Focus and leave the Sprite behind in the garage. Anyway, it was a good excuse to try the Focus out on the Exmoor roads and we weren't the only ones to leave the classic car behind and take the modern alternative instead.

As it so happened, the forecasted rain really didn't appear and the weather was much better than forecasted, so I should have taken the Sprite, but I have to say the Focus was great fun and certainly more comfortable than the Sprite! Also, we go down to Exmoor every June to celebrate our wedding Anniversary and we have driven over most of the roads used



anyway, so it was nice to try them in a different car!

We had a very nice drinks reception and dinner on the Friday night and come Saturday morning, after a very good full English breakfast, at approximately 10am, some twenty cars were waved off by Madeleine and Malcolm, in no particular order or time out, towards the seaside town of Minehead, via Washford and the lovely village of Dunster. Most of us stopped in Dunster for lunch and some even took time to visit the castle. Dunster really is a very pretty village and well worth a visit if you haven't been before.



Once through Minehead, we headed off down the coast to Porlock Weir, where Ann and I took the opportunity to have a very nice Devon ice-cream and enjoy the sea views. After a brief stop, we then headed off up the Toll road, which avoids Porlock Hill, although to be honest it's not really very much easier than Porlock Hill. The toll road is used as a special stage on the Somerset Stages Rally, where the road is closed, and I have been driven up it in anger many times by Russell in various 205 GTi's on slicks, needless to say, we were a lot slower this time, especially with a couple of cars in front of us and nowhere to overtake!

At the top of the toll road, we turned left and headed back towards Porlock Hill, but then turned right heading away from the coast into the Exmoor National Park, travelling through Exford and several other beautiful villages, using some lovely roads across the moors, before finally arriving back at the hotel around about 3pm, for a well-earned rest before the group dinner later that night.



That evening we enjoyed another good meal, with a fancy dress competition and quiz afterwards.

The next morning, after another excellent breakfast, we once again headed off towards the coast, but this time avoiding Minehead. Using some great roads, we travelled further Westwards across the moors, through Simonsbath and ending up at Lynmouth, where Ann and I stopped for a rest and a ride up to Lynton via the famous Cliff Railway, where at the top we enjoyed the views out across the sea towards the famous Countisbury Hill over a nice coffee at the cafe, which is located at the top of the railway.



After this short break, we then took the road out of Lynmouth up through Lynton to the Valley of Rocks, which is very scenic before heading out further along the coast to the Lynton and Lynmouth preserved narrow gauge steam railway, which is located at Woody Bay. Here they were running a Steam Gala Day, so we stopped and enjoyed the short ride up and down the track behind a narrow gauge locomotive on loan from the famous Ffestiniog railway. At the station, we also enjoyed coffee and cake, whilst taking in the garden railway and a mini traction engine giving rides to children and adults (larger children) and looked around the display of classic cars.



Having enjoyed the steam railway, we then headed out once more towards Combe Martin and Parracombe, before travelling through Brayford and Hamslade Cross and finally arriving once more at the hotel in time for our cream tea, which sadly signalled the end of the very enjoyable weekend.

I have to say we really enjoyed the weekend, it really didn't matter that the weather wasn't exactly brilliant, the roads across the moor and along the coast were fantastic and this combined with great company, both during the day and at the arranged evening meals, meant we had a really good time and I mustn't forget Anne and Derrick's excellent general knowledge after dinner quiz, which took place after the Saturday evening meal and fancy dress competition.

My sincere thanks to Madeleine and Malcom for all their hard work in organising and ensuring the event was a huge success and we are both looking forward to next year's event.



Mike H



Diary NWL 2024/25



CLUBNIGHT Venue
 Function Room, The Red Lion,
 56 London Road,
 Hemel Hempstead
 HP3 9TD

DRINK & CHAT Venue
 The Red Lion,
 56 London Road,
 Hemel Hempstead
 HP3 9TD

November

- Fri 1st** **NWL 12 Car Rally**
- Sun 3rd F1 - Brazil
- Tue 5th** **NWL Clubnight - Pub Games - 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**

December

- Sun 1st F1 - Qatar
- Tue 3rd** **NWL Clubnight - Xmas Social - The Red Lion, HH**
- Sun 8th F1 - Abu Dhabi
- Thu 19th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**

January

- Tue 7th** **NWL Clubnight - Xmas Social - The Red Lion, HH**
- Sat 11th NWL Post Christmas Meal - Dunstable Downs GC
- Thu 16th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
- 24th-26th WRC - Monte Carlo

Dates to reserve: