

Civil Service Motoring Association




newsletter

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792

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83-89

The Big End



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Civil Service Motoring Association North West London Group



NEWSLETTER

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BIG END




CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

89-97

Edition



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



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BY CSMA

North West London Group

February 2025



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
lorraineoconnor@gmail.com

Anne Graves

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

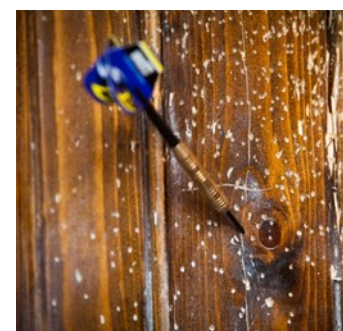
Vacant

Club night

Fun Darts Evening

Tuesday 4th February

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



THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

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



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Boundless North West London Group

NWL Editorial

In the Dakar rally, after the Audi team got their win last year, they didn't bother entering again, so their three drivers had to find new teams to take part in the event. Stephanen Peterhansel has retired, whilst Carlos Sainz and Mattias Ekström were with the new Ford M-Sport Raptor team.

Nasser Al-Attiyah and Sebastien Loeb were in the new Dacia Sandrider team, run by Prodrive, after using Prodrive's own vehicles last year. Both Sainz and Loeb had big accidents and had to retire due to damaged roll cages. The winner this year was Yazeed Al Rajhi in a Toyota Hilux, who although only won one stage, the Saudi driver finally managed to put it all together for a superb run. The last stage saw mass starts, with 12 bikes starting together and four cars starting together. Looked good on the television!



Have to say the parking in Flitwick has either improved, or the idiots are either going elsewhere or shopping at different times. Whichever it is, it has made me happier!

Lewis Hamilton has had his first drive of a Ferrari F1 car, although it was only a 2023 car due to testing restrictions, but he seems to be enjoying himself. It will have to be seen if he is still enjoying it when testing officially starts, as it is a long time since he had to learn the setup of a completely new car and team. The official picture of him at Ferrari in front of a F40 with his dapper suit, has seen Jeremy Clarkson poking fun at Lewis with a similarly staged picture of his own, with a Range Rover and cow in a barn!



Monte Carlo saw Ott Tanak get away with a big accident (does he have small ones!) when he slid into a ditch and hit a telegraph pole with the side of the car, but managed to miss all the vital parts and continued to the end of the stage, where thankfully for him, it was back to service and a rebuild of the complete back of the car. Also receiving repair work was Thierry Neuville, who came into an icy corner too fast and slid into a post. Amazing, he did exactly the same thing when they re-ran the stage in the afternoon! This time there was less damage, as there wasn't a post there anymore to hit..... On the last day there was a lot of icy patches again, that caught out quite of few crews. However, at the finish it was that man Ogier again, taking his record breaking 10th win on the event, from team mate Evans.



The next 12 Car Rally is the NEL one set to run on the 7th February, but we are seriously short of entries. The next NWL 12 Car is on the 7th March, so can all competitors try and help these events to have a decent entry please, seeing as the last one in November didn't receive enough to make it worth running.

The latest version of the Polestar saloon, now at V4, has seen the designers do away with the rear window and instead it has a high-res rearview display, in what looks like a regular mirror. They say the camera will not be affected by water or dirt, but looking at the way dirt builds up on cars in this country, I bet there will be problems.



Keep safe.
Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the March newsletter is Thursday 20th February



Chairman's notebook

.....

I believe we all enjoyed the beetle drive last month and my thanks to Alan Thurbon for organising it and providing all the paperwork and dice etc.

This month we have what we call Fun Darts and once again with some possible help from Ian O'Connor (large boards of polystyrene), Alan is providing the dart board and darts etc. It is usually great fun, with plenty of support or hindrance from everyone watching, which usually makes it entertaining, but less so for the unfortunate one of us actually trying to throw the darts with any kind of accuracy!

Unfortunately, I am unlikely to be there this year, as I am having my right knee joint replaced on Monday the 27th January. Hopefully I will be there, but it all depends on how successful the operation is and if I can persuade Ann to drive me there and back.

This year's round of the WRC in Monte Carlo Rally provided us with lots of entertainment. Not sure who won in the end, but I am sure Mike Biss has already covered that in his editorial. There was good coverage on U-Tube and they also have covered Lewis Hamilton's first outings in a Ferrari, which may or may not be of interest to you.

Dave Smith finally got his hands on Doug's rebuilt engine and hopefully we will see the Chevette HS running in the next few weeks, in good time for the Dixies Stage Rally in early May. This is a round of the HRCR Stage Masters Championship. Sadly, the Manx is not included this year for some unexplained reason, but they have included a two day closed road rally based in Ledbury on the 13/14th September, which if we manage to get an entry, will provided both Doug and I with a very nice 70th Birthday present!



Not sure yet what other tarmac stage rallies we might attempt, but I suspect we will just see how we get on with the Dixies first, before looking elsewhere.

A word to the wise, apparently the police are now using the speed cameras to prosecute people if they are caught on camera using a mobile phone or are not wearing a seat belt.

Ann and I missed the post-Christmas meal at Dunstable Golf Club last month, as Ann was recovering from a minor operation which happened on the Friday before the meal, but I understand it was very nice and everyone has a good time and thank you for the flowers, Ann really appreciated the thought and she has now fully recovered.

Sadly, I must report that after a long illness, Bernard Ward's wife passed away on Christmas Day surrounded by her family. I did send a card of condolences from the group to Bernard, giving him our best wishes in this difficult time. For those of you who don't know, Bernard is the Chairman of our neighbouring North East London Group.

If I don't manage to get to the darts on the 4th February at the Red Lion, then hopefully I will get to our Chat and a Drink at the Red Lion on the 20th February if I can persuade Ann to drive me there and back. Apparently, I am not a good passenger!

Mike H

Secretary's spot

By the time you get to read these notes it is likely that our Chairman Mike will have undergone some knee surgery and will be frustrated at not being able to drive. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well and making a swift and successful recovery.

I have just spent most of my weekend watching the Monte Carlo Rally on TV. The event was the first round of the 2025 World Rally Championship and it certainly made for exciting viewing. If the forthcoming year's events are just as good then we are in for an exciting and competitive season.

Our January clubnight was the traditional new year opener, where our regulars enjoyed a light-hearted game of beetle drive. Participants competed in pairs, which were drawn out at the start, and our eventual victors were Editor Mike, accompanied by Dave Robins. Full results may well appear elsewhere in this publication.

The following weekend, on Saturday 11th January, saw many of our regular supporters enjoy a pleasant post-Christmas meal at the Dunstable Downs Golf Club. The food, surroundings and company were all top class and a good night was had by all.

Tuesday 4th February will see our clubnight in The Function Room of the Red Lion pub. This evening will take the form of a fun darts competition. Seventeen year old world champions are banned so I am sure it will give us all a bit of a chance to go home with a prize. If you can, please come along around 8:00pm for an enjoyable evening.

The next 'Chat and a Drink' gathering will be held on Thursday 20th February at The Red Lion, so do please join us if you can for an informal and sociable evening, normally commencing around 8:30pm.

Please make a note in your new diaries of the NWL Annual General Meeting on March 4th, where it is likely that there may be vacancies on the Committee, so please give some thought to helping the running of the Group, by offering your support.

I will be organising the March 12 Car rally on Friday 7th starting and finishing at The Farmers Boy pub in Kensworth. It would be great if you could take part, especially if you have not competed on such an event previously. Beginners will receive an Ordnance Survey map with the route to be taken clearly shown and full regulations and further details can be obtained from Mike B or myself.

Our planned future programme is as follows;

- Tuesday 4th February – NWL Clubnight – fun darts**
- Thursday 20th February – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 4th March – NWL A.G.M. and quiz**
- Friday 7th March – NWL 12 Car Rally**
- Thursday 20th March – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 1st April – NWL Clubnight – dvd quiz**
- Thursday 17th April – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**

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

Alan T

January Clubnight Results - Beetle Drive				
Team	1st Half	2nd Half	Total	Position
Mike B & Dave R	189	205	394	1st
Mike H & Doug	186	184	370	2nd
Trevor & John	165	202	367	3rd
Kit & Alan R	158	169	327	4th
Jean & Anne R	171	153	324	5th
Alan G & Hazel	167	147	314	6th
Master of Ceremonies - Alan T				

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 7	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
	Sat 15	*	20:20 Rally (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
	Fri 28	*	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

February 12 Car Rally The start for this event is hoped to be from The Catherine Wheel PH, Pelham Rd, Gravesend, Albury, Ware SG11 2LW, MR 167/ 439257. Using maps 166 (edition MAY 2018) and 167 (edition FEB 2016) for the 50 mile route, with the first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Entry fee is £18 per car and the regs will be out early January. The organiser is Graham Robinson and you can contact him on graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com.

March 12 Car Rally With Mike Harrison recovering from an operation, it has been decided to replace Mike's event with the cancelled December event. Starting from The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166 / 028182, it will use map 166 (edition MAY 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.

20:20 Rallies These events are an intermediate style event between a 12 Car rally and a full night rally. The title refers to a maximum of 20 cars and 20 controls, and is usually held on a Saturday night and run for about 100 miles. The Blackbird AC one in February will be reverting to full old school format with marshals and paper handouts, with food and drinks at the finish. They are looking for some support from marshals.

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 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!

HRCR Open Day

The HRCR Open Day this year was held on Saturday 11th January. The venue was the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, so you could also visit the museum if you wanted to (well worth it). It was a chilly -5 and foggy day across to Banbury and a short trip up the M40.



There was the usual collection of members cars outside, which included a couple of Lancia Fulva's and a nice Audi Quattro. Inside it was a lot warmer, with an autojumble and the exhibition halls were filled with event organisers from the various championships and series. I also spotted Nicky Grist walking around. I also ran into Alan Smith and Dave Smith for a pleasant chat. Unfortunately, I just missed Mark and Nicky, as I left at lunch time.

Mike and I have signed up for the Stage Masters Championship, in the hope that Dave can re-assemble the Chevette, now I have finally got the engine back. First event is likely to be the Dixies Challenge on the 4th May, 10 stages with approx. 40 competitive miles, run over the Epynt Ranges in Wales, all on sealed tarmac. Then on the 13/14th Sept, we have a new event in the Championship, the Hills Ford Stages, nearer to home in Ledbury. This event consists of 3 stages on the Saturday run twice and three stages on Sunday run twice, totalling approx. 80 miles on sealed tarmac (closed public roads). The event includes a ceremonial start in the town Centre if you want to come along and give a cheer!

Doug



NEL 12 Car Rally

Friday 7th February

The Catherine Wheel PH, Pelham Rd, Gravesend, Albury, Ware SG11 2LW MR 167 / 439257

Maps 166 MAY 2018 and 167 FEB 2016 required

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £18 entry fee

Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes

Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Graham Robinson (graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com)

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

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

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 7th March

The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166 / 028182

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £18 entry fee

Navigation tailored to suit classes - Map 166 MAY 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



Diary NWFL 2025



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

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

February

Tue 4th **NWL Clubnight - Fun Darts - The Red Lion, HH**
Fri 7th **NEL 12 Car Rally**
Thu 20th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
 14th-16th WRC - Sweden
 26th-28th F1 - Bahrain pre season testing

March

Tue 4th **NWL Clubnight - AGM and Quiz - The Red Lion, HH**
Fri 7th **NWL 12 Car Rally**
 Sun 16th F1 - Australia
Thu 20th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
 21st-23rd WRC - Kenya
 Sun 23rd F1 - China

April

Tue 1st **NWL Clubnight - DVD Quiz - The Red Lion, HH**
 Sun 6th F1 - Japan
 Sun 13th F1 - Bahrain
Thu 17th **NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH**
 25th-27th WRC - Canary Islands
 Sun 20th F1 - Saudi Arabia

Dates to reserve: