

Civil Service Motoring Association



newsletter

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The Big End



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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

April 2025



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## Clubnight MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

Tuesday 1st April @ 8pm

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

### THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

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



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**Boundless North West London Group**

# Editorial

After the bumper AGM issue, we are back to a small issue this month.

Well the NWL AGM has been and gone for another year and we had a very good turn out again. Whether this was for the quiz afterwards, I couldn't say, but the AGM is a light hearted event on a serious business. A big thank you to Lorraine for her stint on the committee, after she stepped down at the AGM. The quiz results are shown on page seven.

Do you remember an item I put in the April edition back in 2022, about the B road in Wiltshire that had suffered earthquake-like damage? Well, it is still shut and not expected to open before December 2026, at the earliest. The locals in the nearby village are loving being able to just park their cars on the road and have a quiet time with no through traffic. I bet they are in two minds now about having the road reopening!



With two races now completed In the F1 championship, it does look like McLaren have the best car and also two of the best drivers, as they have one win each. Red Bull are already looking at ditching their second driver and promoting from their other team, as they need two drivers scoring points. The Ferrari team looked like they had made progress since the bad showing in Australia, with Lewis winning the Sprint race from pole position, but the main race was back to a poor showing and then the disaster of both cars being disqualified.

As both Mike and Alan mention in their articles, the Chat and a Drink evening was spoilt by the fact the pub has decided to run a karaoke night every Thursday and we were lucky last month, in that it started the following week. We were subjected to some terrible singing, if you could call it that in some cases, and at times it was difficult to know what they were even singing! It was cringe worthy funny at times, but not something you would want to go to, trust those that were there! Amazingly, the pubs Facebook page says there were some good singers that night. Blimey, if that is true, the other nights must have been appallingly bad.....

In the WRC rally in Kenya, it was a trouble free run for Elfyn Evans, who took his second win, to move further ahead in the championship. There was a lot of mud about this year and plenty of competitors getting multiple punctures during the event. Even though it is nothing like the old marathon events, it does still offer a sense of the challenge. When a two minute lead is usually seen as an almost guarantee of a win on other events, here it is still seen as a very small gap!

I was at the second round of the British Autotest championship in Hereford at the weekend and it was cold and the test venue covered in mud. A lot of the drivers weren't enjoying it, due to the total lack of grip and the car either not sliding or sliding too much. There were five drivers who had made the crossing from NI/Ireland and the Nova driver Mark King nearly won the event in his Nova, until a long slide and a cone on one test saw him drop to fourth. Some pictures are on page six.

Driving cross country back from the event, it was frustrating to get a clear road ahead, to only then come across some roadworks, with some cars queuing. You plod behind the slow moving convoy until the cars then eventually turn off and you can push on again, only to then see a car turn out in the distance and you then get stuck behind them for awhile. Nobody seems to want to drive anywhere near the limit for the road these days, sticking to the 'Sunday Driver' mode and sometimes having a long queue behind them.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

**NOTE:** Deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is Thursday 24th April



# Chairman's notebook

Well, another year has passed and I am still here as your Chairman, my thanks for your confidence and vote and please don't ask me how many years have I been in this post, all I can say it's that it's a lot! Although it has to be said, it's the same for the majority of the rest of the officers and committee members!

It was sad to see that Lorraine has stepped down from the committee and as stated in my report, my thanks for her input over the last years and she will be missed. However, I am also pleased to announce that Mark Brumwell and John Dossett have joined the committee, so once more the committee is up to full strength again.

My thanks for the suggestions at the end of the formal meeting in terms of possible new trips and activities and I am sure that the committee will consider these at the next committee meeting.

I think the quiz after the AGM went well and congratulations to the winners. Steve and Anne Graves and Steven Harrison (my taxi driver for the night) sorry I forgot the prizes but I will bring them along to next month's cubnight for you. A full set of results can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

This month we were down to have a DVD Quiz at our clubnight, but for technical reasons, Alan has had to change this to a standard type (if there is ever a standard quiz) and it's on the 1st April.

Those of us who attended the Chat and a Drink on the 20th March last month, were horrified to discover that the pub now run a Karaoke evening on the same night! The singing, if you could call it that, was truly horrendous and needless to say we will be moving to another pub, most likely one we have used previously on walking treasure hunts, which is located in the centre of Kings Langley, a mile or so away on from the Red Lion towards Watford. There is a large public car park opposite just up the hill on the left hand side. So please check the newsletter or your emails for confirmation of the change.

Next Saturday, some of us are at the Gaydon Motor Museum, where Boundless are holding a Members Day. This is where you get two entries and your car in for £10.00, which is remarkable value for money. The general public are not excluded, so if you have been unable to obtain a ticket via Boundless, you can still come, but you will need to pay the full market rate. Tickets, as you can imagine, were soon sold out. I am there with the Sprite, taking part in the CVG display, along with Alan Thurbon and about 18 other CVG members, so if you are going, please do come and say hello.

The museum is full of historic British Motor Cars and is well worth a visit and there is the Jaguar Museum there as well, although I am not certain your ticket includes entry.

Ann's insurance on the Focus ST came through for renewal last month and it is already expensive given the car and where we live (once described by a certain insurance company as a war zone) and as you all know, premiums were going to increase this year anyway, but I have to say I was still shocked to find that the premium was going to increase by another 50%! So, using a certain well known comparison site, I am pleased to report, that I managed to keep the increase to just £40 over what we paid last year. The company I used is called RIAS and specialises in insuring those of us over 50.

It was good to see Elfyn Evans secure his second WRC Rally win of the year, with a win on the Safari Rally in Kenya. Driving conditions were horrendous at times and all of them did well to finish the rally. Lewis won the sprint race in China at the weekend and was then disqualified from the Grand Prix Race on the Sunday, because the running board beneath the car was half a millimetre too thin at the end of the race. Seems harsh, but I suppose rules are rules. Charles Leclerc and Pierre Gasly were also disqualified for being under weight as well. Not a good day for Ferrari!

I am pleased to see McLaren doing well, with a win for Lando Norris the weekend before on the opening round in Australia and then Oscar Piastrri wining on Sunday in China.

So, hopefully I might see you on the 1st April for the quiz night and if not, then perhaps we can catch up at our Chat and a Drink on the 17th April, although not at the Red Lion!

Mike H



# Secretary's spot

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Much of my time this last weekend has been spent watching TV and the super coverage of motorsport events. I was engrossed with the Safari Rally Kenya and the roads that were used, but this is exactly how the event gained its' unique reputation. It was great to see a British victory, with Elfyn Evans enjoying a relatively faultless run to take the spoils. F1 was also covered with the China Grand Prix, where the McLarens seem to be holding the ace card at the moment and it seems we should be all set for a highly competitive year ahead.

At our March clubnight, the group Annual General Meeting took place and as usual, the Officer's reports were discussed and a full Committee was elected, where it was encouraging to note that John Dossett and Mark Brumwell put their names forward to join the committee and I am sure they will soon become a valuable asset to the running of NWL.

The 12 Car rally I was due to run on 7th March, was cancelled due to lack of entries. We are due to have a discussion regarding the running and organisation of 12 Cars in the coming months, so if you have any ideas on how to make the rallies more popular, then please let Mike B or myself know.

Next clubnight on Tuesday 1st April, at The Red Lion, was due to be a DVD based quiz, but unfortunately I have run into a few organisational problems, so I will revert to a multiple choice quiz and try to find some easy questions. Fun starts at 8:00pm, so do please come along for an enjoyable evening.

Our normally peaceful 'Chat and a Drink' gathering at The Red Lion was somewhat disturbed at our last get together, as the pub has decided to run a karaoke night every Thursday. The next C and a D evening will be on Thursday 17th April, but we may well opt for a different venue, so please keep an eye on these pages to see where we are going!

Moving into May, our clubnight will be another visit to the Adventure Crazy Golf at Edgware on Tuesday 6th May. This was great fun last year, and bears no relationship to the proper game of golf, so no previous skill or practice is required. Look out next month for final details and arrangements.

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1st April</b>	<b>- NWL Clubnight - multiple choice quiz at The Red Lion</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17th April</b>	<b>- NWL Chat and a Drink at ????</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6th May</b>	<b>- NWL Clubnight - crazy golf</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15th May</b>	<b>- NWL Chat and a Drink at ????</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3rd June</b>	<b>- NWL Clubnight - walking Treasure Hunt</b>

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

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Apr	Fri 11	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
May	Sun 4	* Bocardo Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC
	Sun 11	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jun	Sun 8	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jul	Sun 13	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Aug	Sat 9	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 10	* 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** Another 12 Car has fallen victim to a lack of entries and we will have to have a look at ways to try and keep these events running. Any ideas of changes we can make to make them more enticing for people to have a go or keep going when a class change is required. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting, but any suggestions or comments would be most welcome.

## Future Events

**Grass Autotests** For this season we are trying to find some more venues that we may only be able to use once each year, but with several to use, this may help us get a season together. We currently have the Olney venue for two events in September, but watch this space for any others we can get.

**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

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## 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!



# NWL Fish and Chip Supper Cruise

## Saturday 12th July 2025



**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)***

### March Clubnight Quiz Results

1st Place	63 points	Steve G, Anne G and Steven H
2nd Place	59 points	John, Jean and Hazel
3rd Place	57 points	Doug, Mike B and Pete
4th Place	54 points	Anne R, Dave R and Alan R
	54 points	Kit, Trevor and Dave S
	54 points	Mark, Ian and Gwilym
7th Place	46 points	Alan T and Alan G



# Diary NWL 2025



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

DRINK & CHAT Venue

T.B.A.

## April

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

## May

Sun 4th F1 - United States (Miami)  
**Tue 6th** **NWL Clubnight - Crazy Golf - Edgware**  
**Thu 15th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - TBA**  
 16th-18th WRC - Portugal  
 Sun 18th F1 - Italy (Imola)  
 Sun 25th F1 - Monaco

## June

Sun 1st F1 - Spain  
**Tue 3rd** **NWL Clubnight - Walking Treasure Hunt- TBA**  
 6th-8th WRC - Italy  
 Sun 15th F1 - Canada  
**Thu 19th** **NWL Chat and a Drink - TBA**  
 27th-29th WRC - Greece  
 Sun 29th F1 - Austria

Dates to reserve:  
 NWL Fish and Chip Supper Cruise - Saturday 12th July