

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

Edition



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP

97-99



boundless

BY CSMA

North West London Group

May 2025



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Club night Crazy Golf

Tuesday 6th May
Starts 7pm

The Lost Jungle
Edgware HA8 8DD



THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

This month it's happy birthday to the following people: Sara Austin, Shirley Baldwin and Gill Coghlin - congratulations all round!



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 **Boundless North West London Group**

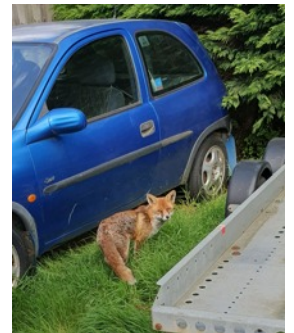
We have a mixed bag for the issue this month.

Well, the B4069 reopened about a week after I wrote last month that it could be another year until completion. The project cost around £5m, which included 1,500 cubic metres of excavated ground re-used in the project (saving around 200 lorry movements), 650 cubic metres of concrete used and 2,370 bags of grout, it used 560m of linear drainage and 1,000 tonnes of drainage stone, took around 25,000 person-hours to construct, 900 metres of micro piles were used and around 7,500 tonnes of stone was used for the road construction.



I saw a shirtless chap walking along the pavement the other day, who kept stopping, dropping to the ground and doing some press ups, before getting up, walking a bit more before doing more press ups. Definitely meets the criteria for being called a Weirdo!

Lewis seems to be having a bit of trouble understanding his new Ferrari and how to get the best out of it. It is amazing he can be quick and win a sprint race, but has been nowhere in all the other races. Mind you, Max in the Red Bull is not having an easy time of it either, as it appears his car is on the ragged edge and he is having to use all his skill to get the best out of it. Makes being his team mate all the worse, as the others can't drive the car the same way and are falling well short in comparable performance.



I have been having a visitor to my garden recently, with a fox deciding to use the underside of the trailer as a place to sleep in the shade during sunny days.

In my Skoda, if you put the rear seats down, they don't fold flat, as they rest of the seat squab. This doesn't lift up and fold behind the front seats like my other cars have done, so I did a search on the 'web' to find out how it comes out. There are some very helpful YouTube videos of people doing just that and it soon became apparent that it is not straight forward, as you have to remove two plastic covers from each of the four ISOFIX mounting points and then push the seat squab backwards to release the bottom mounting and then pull it upwards over the seat belt mounts. At least no tools are required to do all this. The seat backs now fold down flat but there is still a 115mm height difference between the boot floor and the back of the seats. Still not suitable for putting large loads in flat! I'll have to look at raising the rear floor board up to compensate.

Meanwhile in the World Rally Championship, Elfyn Evans has extended his lead after a third place finish on the new round in Grand Canaria. The Toyotas were in a different league to the Hyundais, who were left to puzzle on why their cars were so uncompetitive.

Keep safe.

Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter is Thursday 22nd May



Chairman's notebook

My thanks to Alan Thurbon for his excellent quiz, which he ran for our clubnight last month. It was enjoyed by all and the results if I remember correctly, were quite close and you can find these elsewhere in the newsletter.

We held our new committee meeting on the 7th April last month and both John and Mark came along and I have to say, they made some excellent contributions to the general discussion on a number of items and I am sure we will all see the benefit of this new blood on the committee in the coming year.

I didn't make the Chat and a Drink last month, as I was double booked, but I am pleased to report it was held at the Red Lion, as apparently the karaoke has moved to another venue!

The Boundless member's day at Gaydon on the 29th March was a great success, with over 600 members visiting the museum. Both the Classic Vehicle Group and the new Aviation Group were in attendance, with a good and varied display of vehicles put on by CVG, immediately adjacent to where the member's entrance was located.

The location of the display and the tent was perhaps not the best location, as very few members actually visited us on the day. However, the motoring displays both in the main museum and the adjacent Jaguar building, were very well attended and hopefully Mike will have found room for some of the photographs I took, that give a good indication of what was on display, both within our area and in the museums.

With a discounted entry fee for members of just £10 for your car, driver and one passenger, the day was certainly great value!

The picture of the Meccano Lancaster bomber is included to show just how Meccano has changed since I last played with it as a boy. Doug and I inherited a huge set from our elder brother and we spent many hours' constructing cranes and Lorries etc. from the gigantic set; however, it was all flat plates and lengths of angle iron girders etc. These days, it's got a lot more sophisticated, with pre formed curved sections where needed, which allowed Jacob (eldest grandson) with some help from me and his mum, to construct this impressive model of a Lancaster bomber. Mind you, having small fingers certainly helped!



Chairman's notebook - continues on page 9

As I write this month's 'Notes' I am aware that May is almost upon us and before long, it will be mid-summer. At least it seems we have been promised some bright weather in the week ahead, so let's all look forward to that!

Last month's clubnight was an exciting affair, where I had put together a multiple choice quiz, which seemed to have the desired effect of having some fun, despite a number of the answers being rather difficult. We had four teams of three players (names drawn out of the hat!) and it was surprising that there was only one point difference between each of the four final positions. Our victors on the night were Alan and Dave Robins, with Alan Goodrick assisting – well done chaps!

Moving into May, our clubnight will be another visit to the Adventure Crazy Golf, located on the Watford-by-pass, Edgware, HA8 8DD 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. The cost per person is about £12 each and all equipment (and ball hire) is included in this price. A round of 18 holes takes about one hour, so please try to arrive by about 7pm to get round in good daylight. At the end of the sporting activity, we will be retiring to The Battle Axes Inn, Butterfly Lane, Radlett WD6 3AD, where we can discuss, analyse and diagnose our performances over a nice drink. Let's hope the weather remains fine and warm, and an enjoyable evening is had by all. If you have any further enquiries, please contact Ian O'Connor who I am sure will be able to put you straight.

On Thursday 15th May our Chat and a Drink evening will be held at The Red Lion, where it may even be pleasant enough to sit out in the garden. You probably noticed the 'discussion' last month, where we had concerns the pub was being taken over on a Thursday evening for a Karaoke night, but luckily this has been moved to a different location, leaving us able to carry on with putting the world to rights at The Red Lion. Do try to join us from around 8:30pm if you are able.

Our June clubnight, on Tuesday 3rd, will be a walking treasure hunt superbly put together by Anne and Steve Graves, so please look elsewhere in this newsletter for further details or note the date in your diaries, and give Anne or myself a call for further information.

Our planned future programme is as follows;

- Tuesday 6th May – NWL Clubnight – crazy golf**
- Thursday 15th May – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 3rd June – NWL Clubnight – more details to follow**
- Thursday 19th June – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**
- Tuesday 1st July – NWL Clubnight – Two Brewers Scatter event**
- Saturday 12th July – NWL Fish and Chip supper river cruise**
- Thursday 17th July – NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion**

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

Alan T

April Clubnight Quiz Results

1st Place	41 points	Dave R, Alan R and Alan G
2nd Place	40 points	Doug, Hazel and Gwilym
3rd Place	39 points	Anne R, Ian and Mike B
4th Place	38 points	Kit, Jean and John

Organiser: Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
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
	Sun 24	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Falcon MC
Sep	Sun 4	Londinium Pedo ()	Walking Treasure Hunt in London	UHULMC

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

Past Events

Future Events

Future of 12 Car Rallies We have been thinking about ways to generate more entries for our 12 Car Rally events, especially among our own club members and we have come up with the following ideas:-

- Run the event on a Wednesday evening (to hopefully get away from date clashes)
- Have an additional class for Novices to allow plotting the route before the start (to prevent time loss sitting plotting)
- Change Beginners class to 'Rally Run' class (or similar) to allow anyone to use marked maps for as long as they like (to allow people to just enjoy doing the event)

Please let me know if these would entice those of you that have been missing from recent events back out, or for anyone else to add their own thoughts on what may be beneficial.

This will also be sent to everyone on the 12 Car Rally mailing list, to gather responses from other club members.

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 hopefully, 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

Tel: 07753 137415

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com

12 Car Rally – A Very Quick Description

Any standard car can be used. Event limited to only 12 cars. Class based on navigators experience (*currently*). Around 45 mile route, timed at an average of 30mph, Friday evening (*currently*), 20:30 start. Experts/Novices have to work out route from navigation, issued at controls around the route and Beginners have a marked map with the route on (*currently*). Penalties for missing loops and booking in early or late at time controls. Start/Finish same location at a pub, for a social before and after the event. Smart Phone & App used to record timing and route checks.

Grass Autotest – A Very Quick Description

A standard car (no chunky off-road tyres) and 2 wheel drive only. The course is laid out with traffic cones and the aim is to get around the 'All Forwards' course as quickly as possible. This usually only involves using 1st gear and the handbrake for some tight turns (although you should be able to just 'drive' around them if you want to). Having a passenger is optional. Penalties are incurred for hitting any of the cones.



RS Clubman Licence Requirement

<https://motorsportuk.sport80.com>

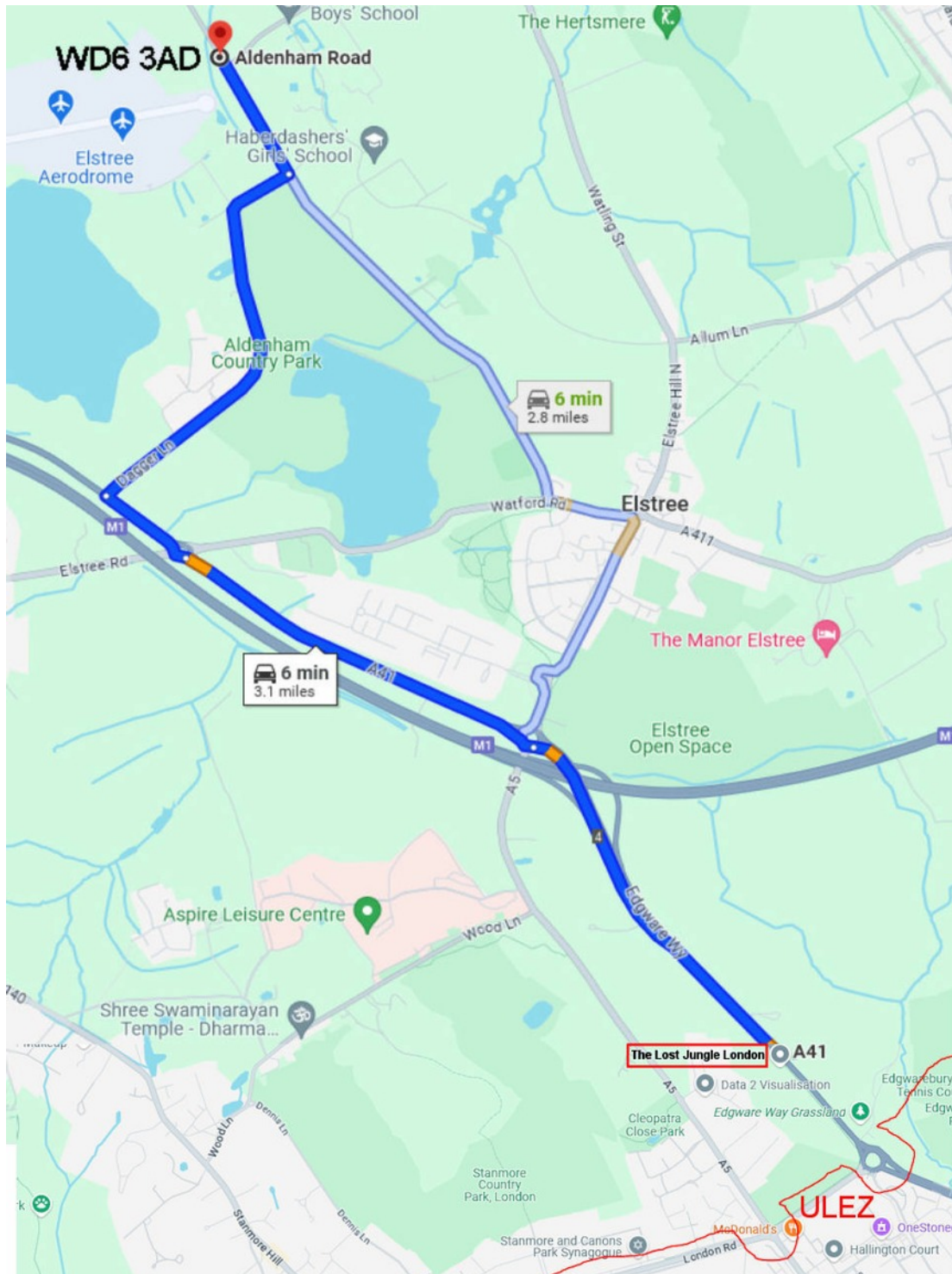
Remember, to enter any MSUK permit event these days, you need the above licence as a minimum (which is free).

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!

Crazy Golf Clubnight - Tuesday 6th May

The Lost Jungle, Edgware HA8 8DD



A41 Watford Bypass or leave M1 South at Junction 4 for Edgware.
The Lost Jungle is just ¼ mile off of the M1

The cost is: 18+ £13 - Senior £12

Important Note: The last booking-in time is **7pm**, so if you can be there slightly earlier than advertised, to ease the rush. If you are running late, call me on **07770 750800** and I'll book you in and buy your ticket. Ian

Afterwards we can retire to the 19th hole, The Battle Axe's Inn WD6 3AD, which is 3.1 miles heading back towards Watford.

3rd June Clubnight - Walking Treasure Hunt

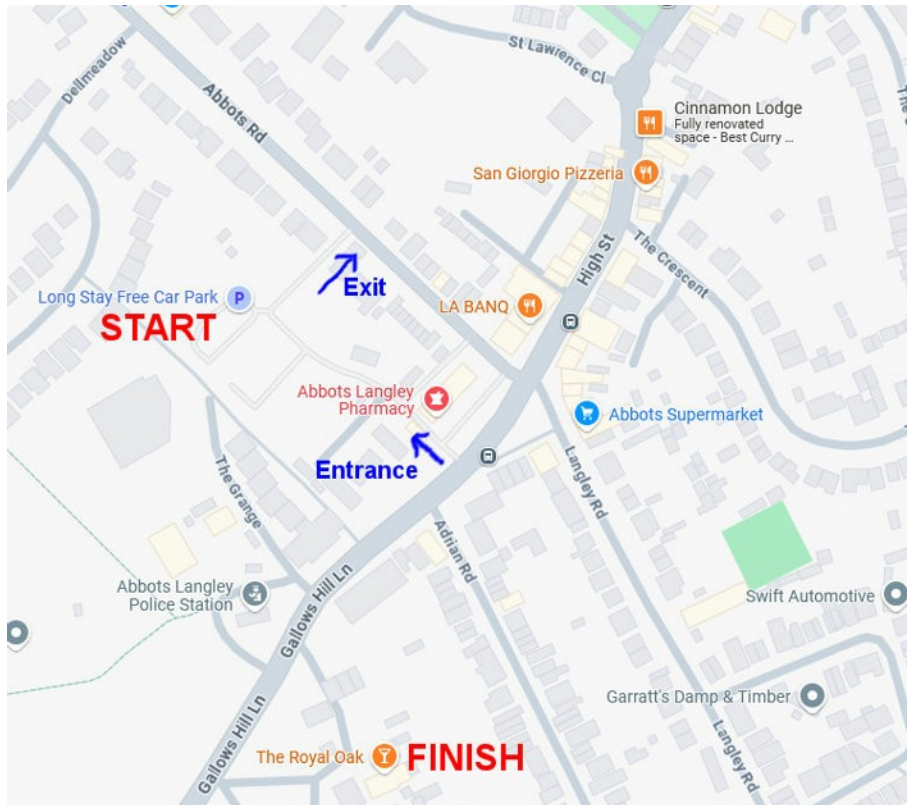
**Abbots Langley
High Street**

7:30pm start

There is a free car park at the lower end of the High Street.

We will finish at the Royal Oak pub, which is close to the free car park.

Anne & Steve



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)***

May's clubnight is an evening of Crazy Golf at Edgware and hopefully the good weather we are currently enjoying will continue, so that we have an enjoyable evening. Don't worry if you don't play golf, as you will most likely do better if in fact you don't actually play golf!

If you can't make the golf, perhaps we will see you at our Chat and a Drink on the 15th May, back at the Red Lion.

Doug has finally got his car back, as one can see from the photograph. It still needs some work but the end of the tunnel is in sight!

Mike H



NWL Invite to NEL Riverside Treasure Hunt - Sunday 27th July

The Riverside Treasure Hunt, for teams of two people, comprises 24 questions at Great Amwell and then 40 questions at Stanstead Abbots, concluding with lunch at the Red Lion in the High Street. **Please let us know by 17th July at perryphilip47@mail.com if you wish to join us, so that we can make the lunch arrangements.** By then, you will have needed to visit <https://theredlion.net/kitchen/> to check out their Sunday menu, so that you can tell us in advance what you would like to eat. After 17th July, late entries are permitted, but you would have to contact the Red Lion to make your own arrangements for lunch or, of course, just stay for a drink.

Great Amwell

Please park by 10:00am in Amwell Lane in the vicinity of the War Memorial and the sign-post pointing to the Nature Reserve. If you park facing south (i.e. with the New River on your right), you will be ready to drive straight off to the second part of the Treasure Hunt. We will note what time you start at Great Amwell and what time you finish at Stanstead Abbots, and will use overall time taken to determine the winners in the event of two teams being tied on number of correct answers. Please take particular care, as you will walk around the village as, for the most part, there are no pavements. At the end of this stage, we shall be looking to collect your answers, so that we can start marking, but if you cannot find us, do not worry.

Stanstead Abbots

Drive down to the southern end of Amwell Lane and then left into High Street. Drive past some shops and then turn left into the public car park opposite "Abbots Stoves". The charge is £1.50 – both cards and cash accepted.

In this section of the walk, you will be visiting the main branch of the River Lea, and also one of its mill streams, as well as spotting clues along both sides of the High Street. The deadline for finishing at the Red Lion is 12:45.

Phil & Jeanette Perry



Diary NWL 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

May

Sun 4th F1 - United States (Miami)
Tue 6th NWL Clubnight - Crazy Golf - Edgware
Thu 15th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
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 - The Red Lion, HH
27th-29th WRC - Greece
Sun 29th F1 - Austria

July

Tue 1st NWL Clubnight - Two Brewers Scatter
Sun 6th F1 - Silverstone
Sat 12th NWL Fish and Chip Supper Cruise - Bedford
Thu 17th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
18th-20th WRC - Estonia
Sun 27th NEL Treasure Hunt (NWL invite) - Amwell
Sun 27th F1 - Belgium

Dates to reserve: