



boundless

BY
CSMA

North West London Group



February 2026

Newsletter Edition 804



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Clubnight

Music Quiz

Tuesday 3rd February

At our clubnight venue
The Red Lion PH
Starts 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

Had a trip over to the HRCR open day with John Clavey this year and although it was a very cold day, it was quite warm inside. Met up with several faces who I usually only see when I go to this event. It was nice to catch up with everyone and have a look at the cars on display, with several up for sale. Unfortunately, Doug and Mike didn't get there, as they had tow car trouble, so the Chevette, which is up for sale, didn't get a chance to be in front of the crowd.



The upcoming NEL 12 Car rally now sees me taking over the running of the event, something I could have done without, as so much is happening at the moment, like doing this newsletter. The original organiser couldn't see why I was trying to get him to alter his control locations, as there was too much competitive through 30mph areas very near the end of sections. I haven't got the time to change the route, so will be doing my best to make the best use of the route I have. I'm sure you will enjoy it, as there are some nice roads over this side of the map that we don't often use.

The Dakar rally had the closest finish in the bike race in its history, when after 49 hours of racing, Luciano Benavides beat Ricky Brabec by two seconds! Brabec went into the last stage with a three minute lead, but 2km from the finish, he turned left 90m before he should have and went off route enough, that by the time he got back on route, the damage had been done. There was confusion at the finish, as crews tried to work out who had won and then it was jubilation for Benavides and tears for Brabec. In the cars, it was a nine minute gap, with Nasser Al-Attiyah taking his fifth win and the first for the Dacia Sandriders team. Nasser Al-Attiyah has now won the event with four different manufacturers.



Had a railtour train come through Flitwick on Saturday morning, doing a very odd route from Norwich to Chesterfield, via Stratford! The return journey was a more normal direct cross country route, so no return sighting. The name of the railtour was The Peak Blinder, a pun on the nickname of the loco class, which were originally named after peaks in the UK. This one was built in 1962 and had the old BR blue colour scheme, with an 11 car rake of the old Inter City carriages behind. Makes a change from the bland trains we have today.



Saw these ramps on my walk the other day, which I think would be frowned upon by the highways authority and especially by cyclists, as being an obstruction on the public highway. Why won't they just pay for a dropped kerb, especially as this is a busy A road and a bus route.

The Monte Carlo rally started off the WRC championship season and saw Oliver Solberg take the win, making him the youngest winner of the event, something his dad Petter never managed. The event weather conditions were the worst for a long time and there were plenty of incidents, including Oliver going off into a field, making a big circle and having to take a run up the bank and through a fence to get back on the road, and he still won the stage. For the first time since 2002, the Ford team failed to score any points on a championship event, with both their drivers taking wheels of their Puma's on the last day.

The new design of F1 cars to revised rules have started to appear and it's the first time both the engine and chassis rules have changed at the same time. This means there will be a lot of learning for teams and drivers to understand what is going to work best and drivers will have to do a lot more thinking whilst driving. They now have an Overtake Button, when they are within one second of the car in front and also a Boost Button. The driver can now operate the rear wing opening on any straight, so no more DRS zones or ground effect aerodynamics! Could be strange results over the first few races, whilst everyone gets used to how it all works!

Keep safe.

Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the March newsletter is Thursday 19th February

Chairman's notebook

We had a good turnout for our January clubnight and we managed to fill three tables of four people for the Beetle Drive, which ensured we all enjoyed a good atmosphere in the room on the night, with plenty of movement within the tables, as those teams who lost, moved table at the end of each round. The full results can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, but my thanks to Alan Thurbon for organising yet another great evening of hunting down the last item which usually involved wanting one to roll out a 1 of the dice and not a 6!!

This month we have a music quiz to enjoy and this is being organised by Mark and Nicky (well mostly Nicky) and this is on the 3rd February.

The New Year is here with the inevitable rain, snow and generally gloomy weather, but the days are getting longer and the cold snap has gone, but the bad weather is forecasted to return! Ian O'Connor and I drove the March 12 Car route the other day and there were a few inevitable stretches of flooded road, but they were all passable and should hopefully remain so for when the event runs on the 6th March.

Ann and I had an enjoyable Sunday the other weekend, driving around the Thames Valley countryside with twenty or so other like-minded members of the Classic Vehicle Group, on Allan Goddard's New Year Run. This started at the Taplow House Hotel in Taplow, ran out to a light lunch at the Chiltern Winery, just outside of Hambleden, and finished at the Lambert Arms Hotel/restaurant for a very enjoyable afternoon cream tea.

The day's weather forecast was not good, so like many others, I left the Sprite in the garage and we took the Focus out for the day, (nice and warm and we could hear the radio), Allan had as ever managed to provide us all with a great route (despite the last minute changes due to road works) and the timing was very relaxed and the tulip road book was excellent, which enabled us to enjoy both the views and avoid the inevitable large pot holes!



With the Focus giving us problems before Christmas, last month the Audi decided it wasn't to be left out, so on the way over to Doug's to take the Chevette to the HRCR open day at Gaydon, the alternator decided to stop working. The alternator has now been replaced, but as you can see from the photograph, the whole front of the car had to be removed to gain access to allow one to remove it. Gone are the days when things like alternators and starter motors were accessible and easily accessed, by simply opening the bonnet and leaning in with the appropriate spanner or socket in one's hand!



Mark and I have entered on the next 12 Car rally, which is scheduled for the 6th February. It is now being organised by Mike Biss, as the original organiser had a change of heart and stepped down (what would we do without Mike). As a NEL group event, the start is over at The Catherine Wheel PH, which is located just outside of Ware. Full details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. The final 12 Car of the series is being organised by me, with some grateful assistance from Ian O'Connor and will start at the John Bunyan PH at Coleman Green, just north of St Albans on the 6th March. Please note this is a change from the venue stated on last month newsletter advert, which was a mistake.(ED: Sorry about that.....)



Unfortunately, I never made it to our Drink and a Chat last month, but hopefully I will make it this month, which is at the normal venue, the Red Lion PH on the 19th February.

Next month on the 3rd March, we have our Annual General Meeting, so please put this important date in your diary now and please make the effort to come to this very important clubnight. There will be a light hearted quiz afterwards.



Finally, there were some important changes made to driving standards, regulations and penalties that were introduced without publicity in the New Year and I would recommend you take time to look these up on Google and have a good read for yourself. Also, there is pressure from road safety groups to increase the minimum tyre tread depth from 1.6mm to 3mm, but this is still under debate.

Mike H



Secretary's spot

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Not a great deal to report at the moment, as apart from our regular monthly Clubnights on the first Tuesday of each month and our Chat and a Drink get togethers on the third Thursday of each month, there is not a great deal else to mention.

Last month's clubnight was the now traditional post-Christmas affair and took the form of a Beetle Drive! Great fun was had by all, and the competitive spirit was its' usual high level. The winners were Ian and Alan G, who won by quite a margin. Yours truly accompanied Alan R to the wooden spoon position, to pick up the booby prize.

Looking to the future, we have a new feature for the February clubnight, where Mark and Nicky will be putting together a Music Quiz for our entertainment. The date will be Tuesday 3rd February, commencing at 8:00pm in The Function Room of The Red Lion. Do please come along to this event, which will be Mark and Nicky's first attempt at organising a clubnight and deserves as much support as possible.

Later that week, on Friday 6th, North East London Group will be running the next 12 Car rally of the winter series. You may just be able to get an entry if you contact Mike B immediately!

Our March clubnight on Tuesday 6th, in The Function Room at The Red Lion, will see the running of the Group's Annual General Meeting. This is the opportunity for you to have your say in what you would like your Committee to organise for everybody's enjoyment. The AGM is always superbly conducted by our Chairman, who will also organise an after AGM quiz, as the AGM itself should not take too long!

Friday 6th March will see another NWL 12 Car rally run by Mike H, with assistance from Ian. Regulations, and further details, are available so do please support this rally if you can.

Clubnight in April will take the form of another Fun Darts evening, which always generates some laughter, so put the date of Tuesday 7th in your diaries now and come along to The Red Lion for an enjoyable evening.

Our planned future programme is as follows:

Tuesday	3rd February	- NWL Clubnight – Music Quiz at The Red Lion
Friday	6th February	- NEL 12 Car Rally
Thursday	19th February	- NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion
Tuesday	3rd March	- NWL Annual General Meeting
Friday	6th March	- NWL 12 Car Rally
Thursday	19th March	- NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion
Tuesday	7th April	- NWL Clubnight – Fun Darts
Thursday	16th April	- NWL Chat and a Drink at The Red Lion

Hope to see you at some of our events

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 6	*	12 Car (Cm)	CSMA NEL
	Sat 14	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Loughborough CC
	Sat 14	*	20/20 (Cm)	Blackbird AC
Mar	Fri 6	*	12 Car (Cm)	CSMA NWL
	Fri 13	*	12 Car (Cm)	Blackbird AC
	Sun 29	*	Bocardo Autosolo (Cm)	Oxford MC
Apr	Fri 10		12 Car (Cm)	Blackbird AC
May	Sun 10		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Blackbird AC
Jun	Sun 14		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Blackbird AC
Jul	Sun 12		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Blackbird AC

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

* = Regs available

Past Events

February 12 Car Rally The event has not been held yet.

Future Events

March 12 Car Rally Starting from The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES, MR 166/189125, it will use map 166 (edition MAY 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be the usual four classes:- RallyRun / Novice / Semi-Expert / Expert and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £18 per car and the regs are currently available. The organiser is Mike Harrison and is contactable on mlh.bhm@btconnect.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 is on 14th February and will be reverting to full old school format with marshals and paper handouts, with food and drink at the finish. They are looking for some support from marshals.

Grass Autotests We still don't have a venue yet, but we are invited to all the Blackbird ones, which are held at Towcester.

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 guide to the new format

- Any standard car can be used. Event limited to only 12 cars. Around a 45 mile route, timed at an average speed of 30mph. Friday evening, starting at 20:30, with the start/finish at the same location at a pub, for a social before and after the event.
- Novice class now split into **Semi-Expert** and **Novice** classes. Expert/Semi-Expert/Novice class based on navigators experience only. Expert/Semi-Expert class have to work out the route from navigation issued at controls around the route. Novice class will have the route issued before the start, so they can plot the navigation before leaving the start (and get help if required). Semi-Expert/Novice class have a more straight forward navigation style.
- Beginners class now called **RallyRun**, for anyone to use marked maps for as long as they like, which allows people to just enjoy doing the event. You can do all the same things as the other classes, but don't have to work out the route.
- Penalties are incurred for missing loops and booking in early/late at time controls. Time recording and route checks are done using a Smart Phone and the Timing App, which give notice when approaching a control/check, so you know you are on the right route.



RS Clubman Licence Requirement

<https://motorsportuk.sport80.com>

Almost all the 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 the above webpage, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute.

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 6th March

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

Map 166

There are four classes:- RallyRun / Novice / Semi-Expert / Expert - £18 entry fee

Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Map 166 MAY 2018 required

Standard Navigation Guidelines for organisers – see regs for details

Mike Harrison (mlh.bhm@btconnect.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

January Clubnight - Beetle Drive Results

1st	Ian / Alan G	402 points
2nd	Mike H / Mike B	386 points
3rd	Trevor / Kit	383 points
4th	Dave R / Hazel	353 points
5th	Anne G / Anne R	328 points
6th	Alan T / Alan R	324 points



Classic Vehicle Group & Motorsports Group

Morgan Works Visit

Thursday 23rd April

Explore the fascinating world of Morgan, where rare craft skills blend seamlessly with the latest modern technology to create each handcrafted sports car. On this guided tour, you'll step inside the historic workshops and witness first-hand the unique processes that go into building a Morgan, from the shaping of the ash wood frame to the final hand-finished details. Your knowledgeable guide will share insights into Morgan's heritage, innovation, and dedication to craftsmanship, offering a truly immersive experience.

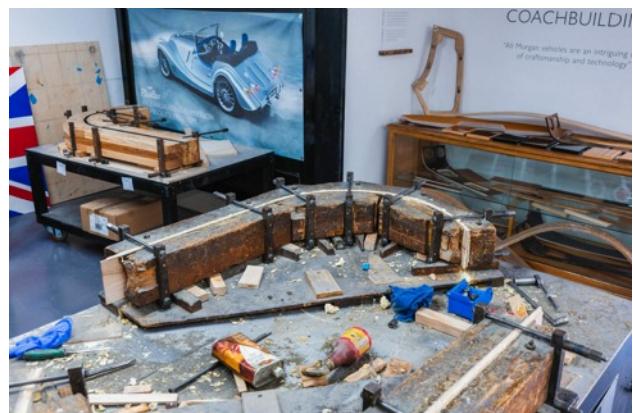
Tour starts 10:20am for two hours

Cost is £29.25 per person

More details are available from

Mike Biss

mike.biss@btinternet.com





Diary NWL 2026



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

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

February

Tue 3rd NWL Clubnight - Music Quiz - The Red Lion, HH
Fri 6th NEL 12 Car Rally
11th-13th F1 - Bahrain pre season test 2
13th-15th WRC - Sweden
18th-20th F1 - Bahrain pre season test 3
Thu 19th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH

March

Tue 3rd NWL Clubnight - AGM and Quiz - The Red Lion, HH
Fri 6th NWL 12 Car Rally
Sun 8th F1 - Australia
13th-15th WRC - Kenya
Sun 15th F1 - China
Thu 19th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
Sun 29th F1 - Japan

April

Tue 7th NWL Clubnight - Fun Darts - The Red Lion, HH
10th-12th WRC - Croatia
Sun 12th F1 - Bahrain
Thu 16th NWL Chat and a Drink - The Red Lion, HH
Sun 19th F1 - Saudi Arabia
Thu 23rd CVG & MSG visit to Morgan Motor Company Works
24th-26th WRC - Canary Islands

Dates to reserve: