



CMC NEWS

Cheltenham Motor Club Newsletter

Issue 1

September 2003

It's Back!

At last, the club newsletter is back! This first issue is just a quick and dirty offering, cobbled together by Rich and myself to re-establish some of the regular features that used to appear in previous issues and to encourage new items from members.

How about contributing an item to the newsletter? Whether you are into rallying, grand prix, biking, or are a social member – we want to hear from you. Perhaps you can send in a review on a recent event, new car or bike, have the odd photo or funny story to tell? This is *your* newsletter, so if you have something you would like featured, contact Rich Clayton, or myself with your ideas and we will see what can be done about getting them included.

George

From the Chair

There I was minding my own business at the bar the other night when George volunteered, with the able assistance of Rich, to put together another Newsletter for all the members. One of the provisos was that I write an article but blimey, it is so long ago since I wrote one that I had almost forgotten what to do. I remember now, try and avoid any in jokes, references to local councillors and no dirty jokes.

Lets start with the things that have happened and then move on to the plans for the future. As most of you will have noticed we have refurbished both the bars and the final piece in that particular jigsaw was the new carpeting throughout both bars. We have plans in hand to obtain some new furniture; current thinking is leather chesterfield type sofas, to replace the bench seats in the corner near to the Committee room. Also on the drawing board is a complete refit of the ladies toilet. Not being a frequent visitor there, I am told they need uplift. Well I can tell you that we have received quotes for the work and are currently establishing whether the budget can take the hit. Personally think that it can and the work should start soon.

The Motorcycle section continues to grow and I know that Phil Cork has a number of events planned for the future.

The Car section continues to actively promote our name by supporting a number of events as both competitors and marshals. Unfortunately we do not have any major events in planning at the present, due to lack of venues. However the Tony Brewer Summer Series continues apace with a range of events being run each month.

Unfortunately it would appear that we will not have a resident darts team this winter, but like swallows they will return in the spring. "Swallows" is a good analogy judging by how much is drunk during a darts game.

I think that is about it for now. The creative juices have dried up. However one more thing, please be aware that your Management Committee are always looking for new ideas and suggestions regarding how to move the Club forward, so if you have any ideas please contact either myself or any other member of the Committee.

Mike M

What's On

September

- 19 CMC Summer Series - Games Evening
- 20 Plains Rally, Welshpool
- 21 Cirencester CC Sprint – CANCELLED
- 27 Trackrod Rally, Yorkshire

October

- 5 Cirencester CC Auto test - Kemble
- 11/12 CSMA Derbyshire Run
- 17 CMC 12 Car Round 1
- 18 Bulldog Rally, Shrewsbury
- 18 CMC Darts Knock-out (7.30 start)
- 25/26 Tempest Stages Rally, Aldershot

November

- 1 Neil's Halloween Quiz

For more information on anything you have seen featured in this newsletter, or to send in your own articles for the next issue, please contact:

George (Editor) by emailing:
georgeandneil@way7059.fsnet.co.uk

or

Rich (Co-Editor) by emailing:
richard.d.clayton@btinternet.com

or why not drop your article into the club?

Goodwood Festival of Speed – July 2003

Somewhere I have wanted to go for years. The plan was to go on the Friday, but at the last minute something came up at work and Friday was out of the window. After some hasty rearrangements I managed to get time to go on Saturday.

Ted was able to go as well, so I picked him up on the way, about a 2 hour drive on a good day, but we got stuck in traffic on the A27 dual carriageway about 7 miles from Goodwood. By the next roundabout, the OS map was out, and we were off through the lanes. We managed to avoid the main delays.

From Formula 1, to the Wacky Races, Montoya, Moss & Mikola. Jackie Stewart, JK, Murray Walker, Jodi Kidd, 2,3 or 4 wheels. Auto jumbles, helicopter rides, Red Arrows. I'm not going to go on about it all, but if you haven't been – you will have to go. If you have been you already know how good it is.

Rich C



Two-wheel drive!

Woodpecker Stages Rally – 30 August 2003

After a successful debut win previously in Belgium and an outing at Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb, this was to be the first event on gravel for Dosh's Subaru WRC and my first outing with the team since Rallye Sunseeker in February.

The Woodpecker Stages Rally, organised by Sixty & Worcester Car Club, longstanding for many years, is a round of the BTRDA championship, based at Ludlow Racecourse.

Scrutineering took place on Friday. Darren trailed the Rally Car up early in the afternoon. I followed on later with the service van arriving about the same time as Dosh & Ted. Andy Carr from Ace Motorsport was also there as a replacement for Les Weaver who was on holiday. No Kevin Smith this time, due to work commitments. The car had already passed Noise Check & Scrutineering, so we loaded it back on the trailer to take it the 6 mile or so journey to our overnight accommodation. After some adjustments to the car to prepare for the next day we were ready for a Curry!

Early start next day for us down to Ludlow Racecourse to get a good place to service. Running late, we staked our claim by parking up and putting up Dosh's posh new Subaru Octagon tent. Then a rush back to the digs for 7.30 breakfast (full English awaiting.)

Quite a late start for us, running at car 7 our start time was 9.15 as the 1400cc championship cars were running in front of the BTRDA. All we had to do was fuel the car & check the tyre pressures before the start. Darren was to stay in the service van all day; I was navigating the Chase car for Andy Carr.

The first stage, Hopton was 8 miles west of Ludlow, we followed them to the start of the stage then cut across to Management point 1 in the village of Bucknell, about a mile after the end of the stage. Dosh was complaining of oversteer after the first stage, but nothing for us to do to the car, so they went on their way to stage 2 Wigmore. Dosh was still complaining of oversteer. We decided to change some of the suspension settings at the main service, as we did not have time to do it at any of the management points, so we refuelled and checked the tyre pressures and sent the car on its way to stage 3, Haye Park. Dosh reported that he'd had a couple of high speed spins on the stage and was lucky not to hit any of the scenery. Afterwards a short road section to stage 4 Bringewood, just across the road from Haye Park, then back to the 45-minute main service at the racecourse. Dosh & Ted were down to 10th, a lot of time being lost with the spins in ss3.

A very long run out to the short stage 5, Kerry, 5 miles south east of Newtown. The rally was now running about an hour late, the competitors had been held at the start of the stage as the organisers wanted to regroup the field to reduce a large time gap between the top crews and the rest after an accident on stage 3.

The car handling had improved by now, after some adjustments. We refuelled for stage 6 Radnor Forrest, the longest stage of the rally at nearly 14miles. Until that point it had been dry, but a heavy downpour hit Radnor just as the BTRDA contenders arrived at the stage start. At the end of the stage the car was now covered in mud, both Dosh & Ted complained how slippery it was in the Radnor stage.

Another long run back through Knighton to stage 7, Haye Park (a repeat of stage 3). Then back to Ludlow Racecourse for the Finish.

With better speed in the afternoon and combined with several of the frontrunners having accidents, on ss5 Kerry, putting them out of the event, Dosh and Ted finished 4th overall. A good result. Lots learnt about the car. Andy found a few minor faults after studying the data logging. Hopefully these will be rectified before the next event later in September.

- 1st o/a Burton - Peugeot/Cosworth
- 2nd o/a Petch - Hyundai WRC
- 3rd o/a Gardner - Lancer Evo. V
- 4th o/a Dosh/Ted - Subaru WRC
- 5th o/a Rogers - Escort Cosworth

Rich C



Dosh's Scooby!