



CMC NEWS

Cheltenham Motor Club Newsletter

Issue 21

May 2009

Chairman's Report.

So, how does one start a first newsletter as the new Motor Club Chairman? Very cautiously, very quietly, or with all guns a blazing? Maybe a big mission statement and a new strategy like this one.

“It seems that the overall philosophy behind the new strategy is likely to be that it needs to be effective in improving delivery systems rather than tinkering with a largely fit for purpose legal and regulatory framework.”

No I did not write that one. It appeared in a motoring magazine and I for one can't make head nor tail of it; if you can, answers on a post card please.

With the slight problem that arose at the AGM swiftly and amicably sorted, we now have eight members of management. This is most we have had for a very long time. Some new blood, new ideas, and a very positive attitude can only benefit all of us at CMC in the long run. If any members have any ideas for events whether motorsport or social please contact me or any member of the management.

Get it Sideways 2009 was a huge success with a full entry of 65 cars starting on the day. Several club members had their first visit to Down Ampney and they want to do it again. A lot of good, positive comments on the British Rally Forum out weighed the one negative comment posted before the event.

Regards
Kevin Smith

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Memberships

Membership fees as follows:

£8 - social membership

£20 - full membership

£25- family membership

Valid to
31st December 2009

Henry Smith, RIP.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of the Club's elder statesmen, Henry Smith. Henry joined the Motor Club in 1946 and became Club Treasurer a few years later. He held this post for over 40 years until he retired in 1991.

As best we know, as much as Henry loved motorsport he never competed, but as well as his Club Treasurer's duties he was a staunch supporter of the Club on the organisational side. He was particularly well known for supervising the gate at the numerous motorcycle race meetings the Club held at various venues around the Midlands.

Henry's love of motorsport was equalled by his love of cricket and his highlight of the year was of course the Cheltenham Cricket Festival which he always looked forward to attending.

Up until a couple of years ago Henry could always be seen at the Club on a Monday evening tucking into a hearty meal with his great friend Sid Millard. Failing health meant his appearances at the club became less and less. The club has lost one of its most cherished members and will be a duller place for his passing.

RIP Henry.

The AGM in March 2009 saw some changes in some of the Committee posts.

Here's an update on who is currently doing what at CMC and a little bit about them.

(The Club President is not a committee member as such but it would be wrong not to include Dave Cooper's 'cv' in a feature like this.)

Club President – Dave Cooper.

Not easy to write a resume of motorsporting activities as I haven't kept any diary as such and the old memory is not what it used to be. The following is a reasonably accurate record of what I've been doing in the club over the last 36 years but the dates may be a little out!

Joined in 1973 and by 1977 joined the management committee. From 1977 for maybe 6 years ran the Cheltenham Stages Rally and also the Thunderball Road Rally which were both popular local events in their time. In the early eighties I became one of the youngest MSA Stewards representing the sports governing body first at SV Rallies and then in all forms of motorsport over the south west. During the mid eighties I became chairman of the Cotswold Motor Sport Group and of the Association of West Midland Motor Clubs in the early nineties. It may be a sad reflection on others that these two posts I still hold today!

Most of my competitive motorsport has taken place on the roads, first as a driver graduating from Minis, through an Allegro 1750 to an Audi 100 Avant. Moving to the left hand seat saw me contesting local events with whoever would have me. In the earlier days it was in the Mk 1 Escort of Bob Blackstock and then the Mk 3 XR3i of Mike Cocker. For maybe the last 10 years I have been competing in Historic road events mainly navigating in a PV Volvo 544. It is true to say that my main interest is in road based motorsports although any sport on 4 wheels catches my attention with special attention to grass roots rather than the higher echelons.

www.cheltnmc.com

Somewhere in this list should also have been a stint of about 10 years as Comp Sec, a short time as Vice President and finally taking over as President on the sad death of Tony Brewer.

Committee Members.

Chairman – Kevin Smith.

Joined Swindon Phoenix Car Club in 1971 and marshalled on some events (RAC) Rejoined SPCC in 1979-83 and did some 12 cars with Pauline in a Triumph Dolomite 1850, Escort Mk1 1300 and Mexico Mk1.

I moved to Cheltenham in December 1984 Joined Cheltenham Motor Club in 1990 and have been doing 12 cars and road rallies in a variety of car mostly Novas 1300/1600cc. I drive and navigate. I've organised Club open days (the first in 1993) and Pistons in the Prom since 2007.

My first visit to Down Ampney was round 1967; my brothers and I use it ride motocross bikes over a fuel dump close by and driving my dad's van on the airfield. My first time marshalling a rally at Down Ampney was in 1990. I've done most jobs to do with the rally at Down Ampney including Clerk of the Course for ten years and I've been Stage Commander on the Wyedean Forest Rally for nine years.

For ten years I've been part of the Service Crew for Gary Midwinter and his various WRC Escorts/Impreza and Audi Quattro S1E2.

I have been on and off the management team during my time at CMC.

Vice Chairman – Dave Gregory.

I have been a member of CMC for many years. I am currently serving on the management committee as Vice Chairman and also on the car committee as Chief Marshal. I (very) occasionally stage rally a MkII Ford Escort with Tim Purvey and have entered a couple of Endurance events with Pete Green in a 1000cc Nissan Micra - don't laugh because in both events we were the only 1 litre car and finished in the top 20 on both events with around 50 starters.

I try to enter as many rounds of both the Winter and Summer series as I can and can be seen out marshalling on many of the CMSG stage rallies along with several other club members. For the last 3 years I have been Safety Officer on the Get it Sideways rally and was co-driver with Tim in the Escort last year and Chris Rice in his Impreza this year.

Club Secretary - Rich Clayton.

Joined CMC 1982, competing in 12 Cars and Stage Rallies. Then after house purchase forced sale of Rally Car; Marshalling, Organising and Service Crew on Stage Rallies and other Motor Club events as well as competing in Autotests in a 1972 Mini (AKA Mr Bean).

(Newsletter Ed's comment – I'd just like to add to Richard's typically modest entry that as well as being awarded Life Membership a few years ago for his contributions to the Club, he has also been a key player for the Single Venue Rally for many years and is a very well known and much respected marshall.)

Committee Member, Newsletter Editor, Motorcycle Chairman – Phil Cork.

I joined CMC in 1982 and, with Graham Ford as co-driver, was a regular competitor on 12 cars, road rallies and scatters until the early 1990's. For several years in the 1980's I was also Newsletter editor, Thereafter I stayed very much in touch with club level motorsport as a some time competitor, marshal and organiser.

Between 1996-2003 I was the Route Liaison Officer (RLO) for the county of Gloucestershire. This involved working closely with event organisers and the Motorsports Association's Permit Authorisation Department to ensure motorsport in the county ran with as little impact on residents as possible.

In 2003 I started working abroad on a regular basis but closely followed Club activities and whenever I was home would do whatever I could for the club. I'm now retired and able to give the Club more time than ever before. With my Newsletter Editor hat on can I ask that if anybody has anything they would like to see in the Newsletter please either leave it at the clubhouse for me or email it news@cheltnmc.com.

Committee Member and Membership Secretary – Ewan Hopes.

I have been a member of the club for a fair few years, would love to say exactly but have no idea when I first joined. In the past I have competed on 12 Cars, Road Rallies and marshalled on various events.

I spent several years as Car Committee Chairman.

Theses days you can find me at the club on a Monday, Sunday and occasionally on a Friday.

Committee Member – Phil Robbins.

I first joined CMC in 1972 when I was competing in motorcycle trials. I have remained a member pretty much since then only missing one or two years in the mid seventies.

I started road rallying in 1976 with a Mk1 RS2000 with very little success. I competed in the R.L. Brown Rally in the Lake District in 1977 which was a round of the Motoring News Road Rally Championship which I managed to finish just inside OTL.

The Mk1RS was sold and a brand new Mk2 RS2000 purchased in 1978 which I still own. It was a couple of years before I hit the road rally scene again but this time with much greater success. The highlights being 1st overall on the Cheltenham Challenge Rally ably navigated by Dave Rozier organised by CMC in 1981 and again 1st overall on the Rally Across the Cotswold's this time navigated by our resident wine connoisseur Ken Sheather organised by the now defunct 143 Motor Club in 1984. This turned out to be the last road rally I finished as the next event saw my first and last competitive accident. A straight on at 'T' after about 30 miles of The Cotswold Charities Rally whilst running 2nd overall at the time.

It was about this time that I finally retired from the motorcycle scene. It was taking me all week to recover from the knocks of the previous weekend plus there were far too many good youngsters about so enough was enough. I married Jan in September 1985 and she persuaded me to stand for committee in 1986. I was duly elected and have been on the

committee ever since. From 2004 until the 2009 AGM I was Vice Chairman to Mike Mitchell.

For the last 4 years I have been actively looking for new venues to run a stage rally but at the time of writing have been unsuccessful but watch this space!!!!!! .

Car Committee Chairman and Competition Secretary – Rich Smith

I first remember going to Cheltenham Motor Club nearly 40 years ago at the age of about 8, when my great uncle was steward at the Priory, London Road. In those days I was there to visit the relatives, which would usually be in the private attached flat but sometimes in the bar. Later on and into my teens I would go and help my uncle and cousin with the Saturday morning chores. This would involve some cleaning and restocking of the bar. Once the work was done we would then play table tennis for what seemed like hours in the old 'ballroom'.

From my mid teens I developed an interest in cars and bikes and would go along with the family to watch the Staverton Airport motorcycle road races. Now I was hooked on all things motorsport and would spend a lot of my spare time involved in some aspect or other. I would help all weekend when we moved the motorcycle racing to Long Marston and as soon as I could drive I was off spectating and marshalling on stage and road rallies too. A number of us would follow the whole of the 'RAC' rally around the country for five days.

In the early eighties I started entering the CMC 12-car events and progressed on to the all night road rallies and stage rallies. Over the years I, along with many other CMC members, have been involved with a great many aspects of motoring and motor sport. This included an annual pilgrimage to watch 'The Greatest Race' the Le Mans 12 Hour which I continued to do for 20 years.

I became a member of the CMC management team shortly before we moved to Upper Park Street and have been Chair of the car committee for four years. As well as being chair I still enter and organise a number of events in both the summer and winter series. I have made a good number of likeminded friends through CMC and regard it as a great place still to do so.

The social element has always been integral and important to the club and long may it remain the case. You can catch me in the club at random times of the week sampling the real ale

Social Members Representative – Rosemary Fry.

Rosemary attends club committee meetings as a representative of the Social Members

..... which leads nicely to

.... Quiz Nights at CMC.

Rosemary has started the Sunday Night Quizzes going again.

The next one is on Sunday 17th May and every fortnight thereafter.

The quiz starts at 20.45 and entry is £1.00 per person.

Proceeds to the County Air Ambulance.

Tony Brewer Memorial, Summer Series

- Round 1 - Friday 15th May
Treasure Hunt – Start at CMC
Round 2 - Friday 19th June
Precise Driving Test - Racecourse
Round 3 – Friday 17th July
Grass Autotest - Smiths
Round 4a – Friday 21st August
Motorsport Weekend
Round 4b - Sunday 23th August
Motorsport Weekend
Round 5 - Friday 18th September
Navigational Scatter

For more information please contact Craig Cameron: craig@cheltmc.com . Phone – 07976206931

Marshalling Call

Club Chief Marshal - Dave Gregory
cmc_marshall@cheltmc.com

Competition Secretary

Rich Smith
rich_d_smith@hotmail.com

Chief Marshal

Dave Gregory
cmc_marshall@cheltmc.com

Webmaster

Rich Clayton
cmc@cheltmc.com

May 2009

Sun 10th CMSG Craven Stage Rally, Longcross - Craven MC

Fri 15th CMC - Summer Series - Treasure Hunt

Sat 23rd CMSG EMCOS Stage Rally, Down Ampney

June 2009

Sat 13th CAR-nival, Sprint & Autosolo, Abingdon. Dolphin MC

Sun 14th CMSG CAR-nival, Stage Rally, Abingdon (*His)

Fri 19th CMC - Summer Series - Precise Driving Test, Racecourse

Sat 27th CMSG Stage Rally – TBA

July 2009

Sat	11th	<u>CMSG</u> Azimghur Stage Rally, Colerne - Bath MC
Fri	17th	CMC - Summer Series - Grass Autotest
Sat	25th	<u>CMSG</u> Fat Albert Stage Rally, Keevil - Tavern MC (*His)

Cheltenham Motor Club

Get it Sideways Single Venue Rally, 18th April 2009

I'm sure the majority of Club members will have heard about the 'Single Venue' rally held on April 18th at Down Ampney. Congratulations to overall winners Jim Munden and John Leigh. Unfortunately no CMC Crews managed a finish – better luck next time guys.

The organisers were cautiously satisfied with how well the event went; when feedback from the competitors started to come in it was clear that they weren't the only ones who thought how well it had gone. Here's a selection of typical comments typical about the event as posted on the British Rally Forum and emails received by Rich Clayton. Comments like these are the ones that make it all worth the effort.

Car 6. Had a cracking time today at Down Ampney... Thanks to Rob for the ride around... Had a slow start dropping lots of time on the first couple of stages but then things slowly fell into place and set a couple of fastest 2wd and top 3 Overall times on our way to 3rd Overall. Good to see a few Tavern members doing well also. Very well run on the day, and thanks to the Marshals etc.... especially the one we nearly ran over. Any Pics or Vids floating around of car 6 would be great. Also see Rob's report below.

Car 22. An echo of above... blinding day... Thanks to all the officials / marshals etc. and event organisers and other teams... everyone we came across on stage had perfect etiquette! Not that 2008 was bad (or we have that much experience, only our 4th rally!) but this years event was loads better... congrats to whoever designed them... Loved the stages even if it did take 8 of them before I got use to the swamp areas.

Car 23. Thanks Leighton for the opportunity to experience Down Ampney for the first time, it certainly is a sideways venue and tyre choice was very tricky, we soon realised why a lot were going out on forest tyres and took the slicks off after stage 1 and a lot of sliding around. some great runs through to lunch saw us get into the top 10 and by the end of stage 6 we were 5th overall - fantastic driving by Leighton making us fastest front wheel drive. A fantastic venue and very well organised and marshalled. Thanks to John and Shirley Blackwell (Rugby Recovery) for the tow of shame.

Car 24. Firstly I'd like to say thank you for what was a great event on Saturday!!! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves all day.... It seemed to be all very slick and well run operation, a great course layout and friendly and helpful officials etc. I think it was a successful format, a little different from last year (which was also great) but much improved!

Car 28. It was an awesome day, thanks to all the marshalls if they see this..... was a very slippery start tho...we did ok 1st in B Class and 7th overall if you take 4wds out!!

Car 29. What a great day rally thanks to every 1 that helped out and thanks to marshal's that helped us get out of the mud thanks to all our service crew for helping and well done to malcom for a great drive hope to be back next year. Any photos or videos of car 29 would be greatly appreciated. Jamie

Car 39. As said above i would just like to add my thanks to all the organisers,officials,marshals,medics and

rescue crews for a cracking rally. I love this place and it was great to see such a wide variety of cars entered including the historic and the great little minis. We were saying today how this is a great true clubmans rally where you don't need a 50k car to get a result and it's a real challenge especially in the wet. Thanks to Dave for the sideways trip around the venue and only my second class award (1st being same rally 2008). We loved the wet in the morning but lost out a bit in the dry but still got a class award so we are both well chuffed. Out of the 10 Tavern crews or part crews 6 came away with awards so well done to all.

Car 44. CMSG hat firmly off (as there is an update elsewhere concerning the Championship!) - a great event, enhanced even more by helping Phil bring his Ford Ka home 10th overall (1st in Class A) once the 4WD cars have been removed...thanks to all involved with the event, for putting on another cracking Down Ampney...roll on May hey!

And finally a write up from Rob Dennis (3rd O/A) on how his event went.

Car ?????. Event on or off! We were very close to pulling our entry as the ongoing problem in replacing the Tractive 6 speed box that was stolen out of our car when it was at JRE in Plymouth continued.

I took delivery of the car on the Friday of scrutineering, it had a JRE customer box in it as a substitute for the replacement box which was waiting shipment from Tractive in Sweden. The last time I drove the car was at 100 mph into the trees at the November "Carfax Stages" held at Longcross. We had different rear suspension fitted along with a new Gartrac rear axle and pedal box and to find ourselves sitting in the car on stage 1 without turning a wheel following the accident at Longcross was a little daunting to say the least, and my stage 1 and 2 time reflected this !!! but we kept in on the island with no major drama, objective met.

The day from then on was one of improvement, I had a mind set of just getting to the finish with no offs, I'm sure we could have driven harder but the continued slippery conditions and unfamiliarity of the car suggested that this would not be a good idea. The day turned out to be one of choosing the correct tyres and keeping it tidy, we experimented with tyres on the early stages only to find the optimum tyre for us was soft wets. I am sure it was the same for all crews as we notice a wide variety of different rubber appearing on fellow competitors cars !!! I had given my crew strict instructions to not give me any times or positions, this was to aid my "just finish" mind set, which it did, I was more than pleasantly surprised to be told from my co-driver Lee (who I had never met until 0600 hrs on the day of the event) that we'd finished 3rd overall.

A couple of 'Club Matters'.

Dog Ban.

The complete ban on all dogs (except Guide Dogs) inside the Club premises has been lifted. For a trial period of three months, well behaved dogs will be allowed into the Club between 1800-2000. This takes effect from the issue of this Newsletter on 11th May 2009. The situation will be monitored and subject to review at any time. Guide Dogs are allowed in anytime.

Club car park

We have had several complaints about the poor use of the space available in the Club car park. On several occasions recently vehicles have been parked in the entrance of the car park blocking access to vacant spaces at the rear. Please park courteously & respect the residents of Upper Park Street and the surrounding area.

Some words from Club Steward Neil Way.

Nearly Beloved, We are gathered here today to discuss what is going on socially within the club.

On Saturday June 13th our annual Cotswold Pub Crawl is taking place. Instead of the usual Donnington Run we are going to 10 pubs in the Camra Good Beer Guide for a change. We have only spaces on the reserve list left I'm afraid, but, I will of course report back on the trip at a later date.

The Ladies Darts Team have been promoted this season from Division 2. Well Done ladies.

I was asked recently what was my favourite beer. I said that it would be difficult for me to choose so I quoted a top 10. So, here they are in no particular order. What do you think?

Why not let me know your top 10 & I will put them in the next newsletter.

1. Donnington SBA
2. Exmoor Gold
3. Stonehenge Pigswill
4. Spingo (Middle)
5. Stroud Organic
6. Cotswold Spring Dodington Stout
7. Stanway Cotteswold Gold
8. Berrow Topsy Turvy
9. Oakham JHB
10. Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby

Stop Press. I have Top 10 ales from 3 other regulars here

Dave James.	Graham Price	Martyn Herbert
Wye Valley Butty Bach, Greene King IPA (yes, I can't believe it either!!), Caledonian Deuchars IPA Berrow Silver Berrow Theakstons Old Peculiar FFF Moondance Coachouse Squires Gold Bath Ales Barnstormer Cotleigh Golden Seahawk Butcombe Gold	Dark Star Hophead Wye Valley HPA Berrow Silver Berrow Shepherd Neame Late Red FFF Moondance Coniston Blue Bird Coachouse Squires Gold Cotleigh Golden Seahawk RCH East Street Cream Cains Traditional Border	Stanway Stanney Bitter Stroud Organic Harvisetoun Bitter & Twisted Wye Valley Butty Bach Severn Vale Severn Sins St Peters Organic Best Butcombe Bitter Malvern Hills Black Pear Elgoods Golden Newt FFF Pressed Rat & Warthog

ciao for now.

Neil

That just leaves space for me to say sorry for not having enough space in this Newsletter to include the results of the 2008 Pete Singfield Series or the eWheels MSA publication (which can be found at <http://www.msauk.org/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=509>)

Bye for now. Phil

Part 1



CHELTENHAM MOTOR CLUB
Membership Application Form

Please indicate application type: NEW RENEWAL
(Discount for renewals before 31st December, £2 off amount shown)
FULL £20 FAMILY £25 ASSOCIATE £8

Name

Address

.....Post Code

Phone No. and/or Email Address

Please write email address legibly

How would you like to receive Club information? Post Email Collect from Club

Would you like to be added to our email group (also open to non-members)? Yes

Please tick area/s of interest: General Car Motor cycle Social

Groups - Motorcycle Home Guard Hawks Wessex Drag Racing Bredon Autograss

I apply for membership of Cheltenham Motor Club. Myself and my family or guests agree to abide by the Motor Club

rules. I enclose my subscription which expires on 31st December, unless advised otherwise.

Signed Date

For NEW Full & Family applications please also complete part 2 of this form

For office use:			
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Part 2

New applications for **Full or Family** membership must be supported by two club members, one of whom must be a member of the management committee (who should be introduced to the applicant if not already known to them)

Proposer Signed

Seconder Signed

This application will be posted on the Motor Club notice board for 7 days from the date of receipt, after which it will be presented at the next available management committee meeting (Monday evenings - twice monthly).

Information from this form will be held on a computer system. If you have any objection to this please inform the Club Secretary in writing together with this application.

A receipt, rule book & membership card will be forwarded after the application has been approved. If the application is refused, the fee will be returned, not necessarily with an explanation.

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