



April 2011
Number 539



The 2007 Le Mans 24 Hour Race GT1 Class Winning Aston Martin DBR9 (Car 009)
Driven by David Brabham, Rickard Rydell and Darren Turner
It now has pride-of-place in the Prodrive Hall of Fame

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Davetorial

Crumbs, is it really April already? Time doesn't half fly when you are having fun!

My thanks this month go to Simon Mummery and Derrick, without whose missives this newsletter would be very bare. I would also like to give a special mention to AG, for arranging the March Clubnight visit to Prodrive. It is such a shame that although we were allowed to see them, albeit in a state of total de-construction, we were not allowed to photograph the new BMW Mini Countryman Rally Cars. Judging by what we saw at Banbury, they are going to be very successful. Thank-

you Allan, the tour of Prodrive was, like the last time I went there a couple of years ago, utterly fascinating and ultimately frustrating - I just could never afford anything that Prodrive produce! Oh, to win the Lottery...!!!

The deadline for getting next months Sump Articles to me is Monday 18th April. This deadline is very important, because it is not only near to Easter, but, I MUST get the Sump to Derrick before I depart for two weeks in the Ukraine - And, before you ask, it's a long story...!!!

Until May.....

Dave Wiles

A Note from your Chairman

Hello everyone,

Thank you to AG for organising another great night of entertainment for the WMx Group Annual Dinner and Awards evening. From colour coded table settings to a walk in the fresh air, for those that stayed the night, and even a sumptuous cream cake to welcome us there on the Saturday afternoon. Well done!! Also 'well done' to the award winners – a great effort by you all, keep it up.

It's a crazy world isn't it? I've just been reading an article about 'noise cancelling' technology – you've probably heard about it, where headphones play sound which is 'opposite' to surrounding noise and therefore make the environment appear quieter. Boy, could I have used that on some of the bangers I used to run in my yooF. The crazy bit is that modern cars, particularly electric ones, are so quiet that they need to have 'noise generators' fitted to make people aware of their approach! My old cars had three noise generators
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fitted. The one in front consisted of a wheezing old 'four banger' (0-60 eventually) with a (very) ratty exhaust whilst the two in the back later grew up and left home – that's why modern cars are so quiet.

Doesn't the sunshine make a difference? After the long, dark nights it's nice to feel warmth on your face.....and the rain is good for the gardens I'm told! You'll be able to get out and enjoy all the activities lined up for you (but don't let a late frost nip your buds!).

Speaking of going out, don't forget to come along to the AGM this year as there are a couple of issues up for debate – see attachments with this sump. It's your opportunity to vote for the committee that you want to carry the group forward, or even get involved yourself, more help is always appreciated – plus there will be the usual buffet to follow, so come along and join in.

As ever, keep your foot in it.....

Derrick Holden

Secretary's Scribblings

March, a heavy month. By the time you read this the clocks will have changed, everything will be lighter and I'll be more awake. Whenever it gets dark, I fall asleep. Part of this is because I've been travelling all over meeting luminaries from Finance, Health, Central and Local Government, and Will Carling. I wasn't impressed with Will's view on Desktop Virtualisation, but he was most entertaining at our event at Twickenham. VMware are working me hard, but it's most enjoyable, and I'm being paid!

So what happened in March? Of course we had the most convivial Annual Dinner. Oli and I arrived fashionably late, well we couldn't find a start time. A relaxed evening, not too much consumed, hockey on Sunday, and a few more pots for the cabinet.

I always love going to Prodrive, but this time it was special – the Mini WRC cars were in build. All I can say is wow. In many respects they looked quite

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simple. Unwanted brackets had been removed from the shell, all inner wings and suspension mounts were replaced, but apart from seam welding, the rest of the shell looked pretty standard. The cage was a work of art however, with the door bars going outside the B pillar, never seen that before. Doubtless the cage is where most of the strength lies. Compared to the amount of butchery Impreza shells used to require, the Minis looked almost standard. A great evening, but I still can't recognise all the drivers on the wall in the main display area.

Unfortunately the NEL 12 Car didn't run due to lack of entries. The Great Bustard Endurance Rally is looming. Oli and I will be out in the 106 again, with myself navigating. We need a finish, but the big jumps on Worthy Farm are worrying me, I can't see all my shouting slowing Oli down. We now have Rob Reynolds Rover so we'll be fighting over cars for the Bullnose – we need to go head to head again. There's a big gap in the calendar until September, so time to take in a few

The Sump April 2011

stage events as well. Will I get back behind the wheel ?

Our first trip to France with the CSMA Karting Championship is approaching fast. The first round went without incident. Oli was concerned he'd forgotten how to drive, but he qualified second in his heat, but then apparently had a slow kart in the A Final. A tangle with Drew while Oli made his kart as wide as possible put him back to tenth, but he made up a few places to finish sixth, an OK start to the Championship. A win in the afternoon endurance seems to indicate he's still

csma West Middlesex Group on the pace, but he's at least 7kg heavier than last year – growing up, discovering cider, or lack of exercise at school ?

And don't forget the AGM. This will be a "big" AGM and we want to hear your thoughts. We also want to know where you are, so please do come along, we want to put on events where you are.

Check out the calendar for another packed month of activities.

Alan Wakeman

Post Haste to Banbury

The date is 10th march 2011, and we are all meeting in a car park just off The M40 in Banbury.

A motley crew of WMx committee and group members all looking forward to the evening ahead, for this our latest visit to Prodrive, the home of the Aston Martin GT Racer and the birth place of the all new rally Mini (but that's a story only Prodrive can tell). This is a night of wonders, a night of beautiful things that only those that have visited Prodrive will remember.

After signing in with AG and handing over our cheques for £23.00, we meet Jackie our guide for the evening in an area I will only describe as motorsport heaven. There are cars from the earliest days of Prodrive, right up to the present day - Rally Cars, BTCC Touring Cars, Supercars and F1 cars, not forgetting the sexy one-off that proves Prodrive are the best at what they do, yes, it is the car that was so good that it made Top Gear's

Jeremy Clarkson throw-up.

As we tuck into our refreshments, it's time to start our tour. First off we find out some of the history of the cars on show and their drivers, some we know some we don't. Then we move to the next workshop to see Aston Martins in different states of build. The standard of finish is out of this world. We move on around the site experiencing well designed engines & gearboxes that cost tens of thousands of pounds, and, the customer cars that are lovingly rebuilt and modified in the workshops!

As you walk from building to building smelling the chocolate wafting through the air you start to understand the passion within the man that founded Prodrive.

In the Aston body building workshop you see craftsmanship of great Quality. I myself have been in a good many different workshops in my life, but nothing prepares you for the fit and

finish, the cleanliness of the tools, the work surfaces, and the floors, everything is spotless. Then there's the unbelievable team spirit of the staff of Prodrive .

Thanks to AG for arranging another great visit, and to Jackie our guide for the evening, and, to Dave W. for transporting me to Banbury.

But all too soon it is time to make our way back to the starting point of our visit.

A special thank you to Dave Richards for creating PRODRIVE, an inspiration to us all.

This was my second trip to Prodrive and hopefully not the last, as this is a company that is continuing to write new chapters in motorsport history.

See you all soon

Simon Mummery

Men have become fools with their tools!

Pyramids bearing saw cut marks.

I found this rather interesting (but then I would, wouldn't I?). We all take hand tools for granted, but I was intrigued by an article that I read in 'Uncle John's Bathroom Reader' – it fills you with confidence in its accuracy doesn't it?

Pliers, allegedly, started as 'sticks' around 2000BC but by 500BC blacksmiths had discovered the advantage of leverage as the discovery of many different types of pliers/tongues with long handles and short teeth attest to.

Hammers have been around for millions of years as 'hammerstones' which were used to smash objects. The earliest hafted hammer, with handles tied on, appeared in 6000-4000BC. Materials kept pace with man's development, from flint to bronze and hasn't changed much from the Iron Age, apart from modern alloys. The claw hammer was, apparently, a Roman development, but apart from that – *what did they do for us.....?*

Screws! Wooden ones were invented in the 5th century BC by the Greek philosopher Archytas of Tarantum. He is also credited with the pulley and baby rattle! By the 1400's metal had replaced wood and they were used for everything from armour to furniture.

Saws developed from jagged edged flints that were used for cutting animal skin and meat from bones whilst the Bronze Age (3300-700BC) brought saws with long copper teeth and blades. The Egyptians had them for cutting stone; the

The screwdriver, as we know it, was historically documented for the first time in 15th century Germany (and they've been screwing-up world peace ever since) for carpentry. It gained much ground in the 1850's when screws started to be manufactured en masse.

Henry Phillips of Portland, Oregon, invented a 'self centring' screw and driver to help speed up car production

Club Night venue - possible change.

We have been meeting for our monthly club night at Windsor for some years now, and they have served us well. Last year we had to move from the large upstairs room to a smaller but adequate room: now we are frequently moved into an even smaller, inadequate, room due to our 'usual' room being used by someone else. If this situation cannot be resolved we need to consider changes. So what can we do? In no particular order of preference:

a. Move to a different night.

This will avoid a clash with 'other' users. This venue is well known to us and is geographically easy to access from the M4 and other main roads. The rent is reasonable compared to most other commercial premises. Parking is somewhat of an issue – a night rate is charged, but access is difficult during the day if 'setting-up' is required (for instance AG spends a lot of time setting up the slot car tracks for February Clubnight – this involves carrying lots of boxes of equipment from the car). A change of night would involve deciding **which** night to choose! You can't please all of the people all of the time....

b. Move venue.

Pinewood' (in Bracknell) has been suggested as it is both available and will cost much less than the current venue. It is on the outskirts of Bracknell and possibly a little more difficult to get to. The room offered is of good size and amenities are available such as tea/coffee/snacks/bar. There is plenty of free parking at all times.

c. Move venue *and* a different night.

Apply both of the previous arguments, but be aware that not all nights of the week are available to choose from.

d. Stay as we are

And hope that negotiations can resolve any future, *infrequent*, clashes.

This important topic has been made an agenda item at the AGM and deserves wider, open debate so; prior notice is being given so that those who are interested can give it some consideration before coming along to the AGM to discuss it at the meeting.

Csma Southend Group

QUADRUPLEX

SATURDAY 14 MAY

This year the competition will be held at

The Balmoral Centre

Salisbury Avenue Westcliff-on-Sea Essex SSO 7AU

Start time is 4pm

The event will feature a multi-round quiz that you will enjoy and find the answers really easy

Tea or coffee will be available

A very good seaside fish and chip supper will be provided without charge

There is a large free car park

The long term road works in Southend are now complete and access to the M25 is very easy

Maps are available for those without sat-navs

All enquiries and numbers should be sent to me

either by phone or email

David Richards Southend Group Secretary

01268 778144

southendgroup@csmaclub.org

CSMA West Middlesex Group ~ Motorcycling News

Ride - Outs, Shows, & various other Motorcycling entertainments !

March ~ November : West Middlesex Group Monthly 'Mid-Week Ride Outs'

Firstly : from March until October, on the last Tuesday of every month there will be a West Middlesex Group Mid-week Ride Out, meeting place details etc. will be here in the Sump month on month. Most of these runs will finish at our Noggin & Natter venue at approx 6.30pm unless otherwise declared.

Secondly : there will be the usual trip to the NEC for the Motorcycle Show on Tuesday 29th November; and, following the excellent popularity of the 2010 events, additionally to our mid-week Ride Outs, we'll have no less than 3 Cream Tea Runs, one in the Spring, one in mid-Summer **AND** one in the Autumn ! Do I spoil you or what !!!!

West Middlesex Group motorcycling Calendar for next few months :

- ❖ West Middlesex Group Ride Outs ... just turn up on the Day.
- # WMx Trips & Rallies requiring Official Entries...contact AG for details.
- > Other Motorcycling events with CSMA/WMx involvement ... again, please ask AG for more info.

- ❖ Tuesday April 26th ~ Ride Out - Coventry Museum of Transport
- # Friday-Sunday 6th/8th May ~ Welsh National Rally
- ❖ Sunday May 22nd ~ A Ride-In to Duxford (a CSMA day)
- > Tuesday May 24th ~ Castle Combe Track Day – including Touring 'Bike sessions(Entries to AG)
- # Friday – Tuesday, May 27th / 31st ~ Our 5-day French Trip to Wisques & Montreuil (Entries AG)
- # Sat/Sunday June 24/25th ~ National Motorcycle Rally
- ❖ Tuesday June 28th ~ Ride Out – Beaulieu
- ❖ Thursday July 14th ~ Cream Tea Run (1)
- ❖ Tuesday July 26th ~ Ride Out – Kent
- > Sunday July 31st ~ Captain's Fun Challenge (a CSMA day with a 'Scatter-Hunt' format...)
- > Sat/Sunday Aug 13/14th ~ CSMA Big Weekend at Thruxton
- ❖ Wednesday Aug 17th ~ Cream Tea Run (2)
- ❖ Sunday August 21st ~ Mid-Summer Run & BBQ (Classics & Motorcycles)
- ❖ Tuesday Aug 30th ~ Ride Out – Dorset
- ❖ Wednesday Sept 14th ~ Cream Tea Run (3)
- > Tuesday Sept 20th ~ Castle Combe CSMA Track Day – including Touring 'Bike sessions ...
- # Wed. 7th – Mon. 12th Sept. ~ Scottish National Rally – might as well go for the 3 Nations Award !!!!
- ❖ Tuesday Sept 27th ~ Ride Out from Claire's Café
- ❖ Tuesday Oct 25th ~ Ride Out
- ❖ Tuesday November 29th ~"Ride Out" to NEC M/C Show ...

Other 'relevant' events ... things I think you might enjoy !

- Thursday April 14th ~ WMx Group AGM at Windsor Liberal Club, MAXIMUM SUPPORT required from all !
- Sunday June 12th ~ Bromley Pageant : I need half a dozen 'Classic' bikes to display on our Stand, and on
- Sunday August 7th ~ Newbury Show (supporting Leukaemia Research) Ditto the above : can anyone help please? (and I know Roy & Barbara have already 'volunteered' their bikes – thanks guys!)

So, altogether that's : A 5-day holiday; 12 Ride Outs; 2 Track Days; 3 National Rallies; 2 Shows; a Scatter-Hunt; a BBQ; and a few little 'extras' to look forward to No question, I definitely spoil you all !!! I really hope you can come along and enjoy what I hope will be a great Motorcycling year with our West Middlesex Group!

For more detail on all of the above please contact me on allan.goddard@csmaclub.org or 07785 903 000

AG

North London Centre

Motor Sport Coordinators' Bulletin

April 2011

| Date | Day | Event (Status) | Type of Event | Club | Champ |
|------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Apr | Mon 4 | * Bedford Track Day (C) | Thrash round a race circuit | CSMA MSG | |
| | Sun 17 | * Concorde AutoSolo (C) | Cross between autotest/sprint | CSMA NEL | Centre |
| May | Sun 1 | * AutoSolo (C) | Cross between autotest/sprint | Farnborough DMC | |
| | Sun 8 | * AutoSolo (C) | Cross between autotest/sprint | Oxford MC | |
| | Sat 14 | * Quadruplex () | Intergroup competition | CSMA Southend | Centre |
| | Sun 15 | Woodbridge Gymkhana (C) | Longer version of an AutoSolo | Chelmsford MC | |
| | 21/22 | * Miglia Quadrato () | City of London treasure hunt | UH&ULMC | |
| | Sun 22 | Gravel Autotest (C) | Loose surface autotest | Bedford CC | |
| | Tue 24 | Castle Combe Track Day (C) | Thrash round a race circuit | CSMA NL | |
| Jun | Sun 5 | Juniper Autotest (Nat B) | Tarmac autotest | CSMA NEL | MSA/BTRDA |

Licence required: (I/Nat A/Nat B/Cm) = MSA Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, * = Regs available

Previous Events

NEL 12 Car Rally Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to a lack of entries.

Future Events

Bedford Track Day The Motorsports SIG are running a track day at the Bedford Autodrome on Monday 4th April. Entry fee is £125 and they can take up to 35 cars for the event. The format of this event has now changed to an open pit lane format, which means you could have up to seven hours for CSMA Club members to have a thrash (sorry, fast drive) around the 4 mile GT circuit. CSMA also have access to 4 private garages, a signed on passenger can ride alongside you at no extra charge, if you don't have your own helmet then some will be available 'on loan' and finally there will be an expert instructor available to those who want to improve their skills.

Concorde AutoSolo NEL are again running the Concorde AutoSolo event, this year on the 17th April. We will be returning to Bovingdon Airfield and have confirmed we have the large runway to ourselves this year. An AutoSolo consists of all forwards tests on a hard surface. They are not a memory test as numbers and markers help you find your way around. One score is dropped per test layout to allow for those 'little mistakes'. You can also enter if you are only 16, so long as you enter in a saloon car. Entry fee is £22 per driver. Contact me for further details or for a set of regs.

Silverstone AutoSolo Back again for another run round the car park at Silverstone race circuit. Organised by Oxford MC, it will have the standard format but the tests are slightly longer at around 90 seconds each. Entry fee is £36 and give me a call if you would like some regs.

Farnborough AutoSolo Regs for this event are out soon, so if interested best get your skates on to get an entry. It is running again at Borden in Hampshire and the entry fee will be £35. Give me a call if you would like some regs.

Quadruplex This will be organised by Southend group, on Saturday 14th May, at the Balmoral Community Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7AU. The event will feature a multi-round quiz that you will enjoy and find the answers really easy (*organisers words, not mine*). Tea or coffee will be available and a very good seaside fish and chip supper will be provided without charge. There is also a large free car park on site. What more incentive do you need to make the trip? The event gets underway at 4pm and a map of the area is available upon request.

Miglia Quadrato Regs are now out for the 52nd running of this event and will run on the night of 21/22 May. This is a night time motoring event that takes place entirely within the City of London. The challenge is to navigate on a 1:10000 map and to locate points to within a ten metre square. There are no cryptic or catch questions - but that is not to say the task is easy. Crews of up to six but if you prefer the two-crew format there is a separate classification for this. As long as it isn't raining, this is a fantastic event to do and all for the princely sum of £15. Contact me if you want some regs.

Juniper Autotest Following on from its debut last year, the event has again been included in MSA British Championship, as well as the usual BTRDA championship. This is one of the best venues on the championship calendar, so come along and watch the best drivers in the country doing their handbrake turns and using superb car control to get round the courses. Offers to marshal either to Graham McLean or myself, as we will need a lot to make this event happen. To help you, each marshal will get a voucher for a free burger and a hot drink (very nice they are too) and guidance on what is required. There is nothing tricky or difficult, but you do get time to see the action at close quarters. No spectators allowed, so watch from the marshalling point of view.

Mike Biss: NLC Motor Sports Coordinator

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