



WMx csma

April 2003
Number 448



Newsletter of the West Middlesex Group of the csma

Your (new) editor speaking...

Hello, this is your new editor speaking!

Being new to this sort of thing, and stepping into Daves (metaphorically) large shoes means a slightly nervous start to my new position, so I hope you'll be kind to me until I find my feet!

On the subject of Dave, I'd just like to say thank you Dave for your help handing over The Sump, and also that your award pre-

sented at the annual dinner was very well deserved!

If anyone has anything they would like to see published, or any suggestions as to how to improve The Sump I will be only too pleased to hear from you! Email to:

jez.boakes@nokia.com

So here is my first edition... I hope you enjoy it!

Jez Boakes

From the Hot Seat

Spring is with us, at last. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and I'm sure that if I could see out from behind all these piles of boxes, I would see a lovely day outside. Very inconveniently, the Sump deadline is the day before Jez and I move house. It didn't seem like too bad an idea at the time but having to write both the Chairman's article and the Annual Report for this edition now seems like rather a challenge.

On the subject of the Sump, I must say welcome to our new editor, Jez Boakes, who has taken over the reins from Dave Wiles. I'm sure you'll all join with me in wishing Dave a well earned rest in his retirement from the post and will all now re-direct your articles to Jez for the forthcoming copies.

Whilst you're in your address books noting the new contact details for the Editorship, please note my new address which is in the Committee details. The phone number will (if BT get it right) transfer on the move date so won't change.

Thank you to everybody who made helpful (and not so helpful!) suggestions regarding the farcical situation with the MG's hose. The estimated delivery date for the offending item had been 2nd April but you'll be pleased to know that I got a call on March 14th to say that one had "turned up" and that they had fixed the ZS. So out of the estimated seven weeks, they actually only deprived me of my car for four. Ironically,

it is going back to them on the 21st because now the SRS air bag system warning light is coming on! But I stand by what I said, it is still a great car and I was very pleased to get it back. It's just a shame that the Rover after-sales service and reliability let it down.

Turning to our social calendar, the Annual Dinner on the 15th was an excellent night. With the exception of the buffet being slightly short of chicken for the main course (I believe that IP will be taking this up with the hotel when he speaks to them), the food was very good, we had some worthy award winners and I think everybody present agreed that Rob, the magician, was a much better entertainment than the disco. Not only were the close-up tricks that he performed amazing (where did he pull that apple from?) but his stand-up routine after dinner was hilarious.

There should be a picture or two elsewhere in the Sump (and if you email me, I'll gladly forward a wider selection).

For those who couldn't join us on the night, the Award winners were:

Champion Driver: Allan Goddard (taking the Championship from Andy Rowe in second by dint of beating lots of other WMx crews on the events he tackled) Champion Navigator: Ian Perry Off-Road Champion: John Wright. The secret awards are presented by the Committee to individuals who give something to the Group which is above and beyond what is expected of a general member or the remit of the post held. The recipients for 2002/3 were:

Performance Shield (for any WMx member): Not presented Endeavour Award (for a non-committee member): Presented to Barbara Wiles in recognition of her behind-the-scenes contribution to the Sump production process.

The Committee also made a Special Award made to Dave, in the form of an engraved, large glass plaque in recognition of over 20 years spent producing the Sump (the last decade of which was as Editor).

Well done to all the above for your various successes and thank you to Ian Perry and everybody who had a hand in making it such a good evening.

While we're all on a social high, the April Clubnight is the Group's Annual General Meeting. The meeting is usually a relatively brief affair while we perform the various formal elections to posts and approve the annual reports (which are published elsewhere in this Sump). Following the AGM itself, I believe that Allan Goddard is preparing a little quizette for our delight and delectation. It is important that as many members as possible attend because we need a quorum before the meeting can be officially recognised. Without a quorum, we cannot elect the Officers and Commit-

tee for the following year and without those, the Group is deemed to have ceased to exist. So, if you only make it to one Clubnight in the year, please make it to this one. We'll look forward to seeing you at the Liberal Club in Windsor on the 10th. The meeting will start at 8:30pm.

Preparations are also well underway for the WMx contingent who are heading to Wales for the Curtis Bennett Weekend. If you haven't reserved accommodation with AG by now, then I strongly urge you to do so. Apparently guest houses in the area are already full and our reserved rooms are under pressure from other Groups looking for places to stay in Llandrindod Wells. Please let Allan know as soon as you can that you are intending to come down so that he knows whether or not to tell the guest house to release some of our quota for others.

There are one or two adverts for imminent events over the next few weeks and we end the month with our usual Noggin on the 29th. That's it from me for this month. See you at the AGM!

Nikki Wild

Sec's Bitz

Having devoted most of the past couple of hours to the Annual Report (yes, I know it's hard to believe, but it really took that long to come up with such drive!) I have now run out of inspiration and the muse has long since abandoned me. So I will confine myself to a few comments.

Annual Dinner. Many thanks indeed to all of you who came to the Thames Lodge, shame about the chicken... but wasn't Rob Cox good? Mark up one excellent idea, many thanks indeed to John Wright who suggested him.

Track day. As I write, the march 2003 visit to Barton Stacey is about to descend with all the drama, energy, pace and hissing steam of the Flying Scotsman. Or something. Good luck to all those taking part,

and many thanks indeed for your support. The next biggie though is the AGM on April 10th – Liberal Club, Windsor, bring your membership cards along.

Next after that...? Well for me it's the CB, as you will expect. My second year as CofC and inevitably, I am already thinking about next year. But let's get this year's out of the way first. Allan is as usual organising the Group's foray into Wales, I must say it feels odd to be there and yet not really as a WMx member (except at the curry-house of course). I will refrain from any parochial comments about who the winner should be, as CofC all I will say is – to quote John W again – "give it beans"

Ian Perry

West Middlesex Group

Motorcycling Enthusiasts

Following the successful "Rides" of the last three years, the West Middlesex Group has decided to plan more of the same for 2003, that will mean more opportunities for members and their friends to join us.

Chris Devenish and the **csma** Motorcycle Sub-committee are also arranging a number of events and all motorcycling members are invited to enjoy a variety of tours, trips, visits and runs planned for the year.

So, as our first Group run of 2003, I'm proposing that we support the Motorcycle Committee on their first run of the year to **RAF Cosford**. The plan is for any interested West Middlesex group members, friends, guests etc..., to meet up for breakfast, and then we'll run up to RAF Cosford and arrive in time for lunch with fellow **csma** motorcycling members from all over! You'll be free to return home in your own time or ride back with the Group.

The date again, **Sunday 6th April** and the format will be along similar lines to our previous runs.....

.....Do you fancy a **Breakfast Ride-out** on **Sunday 25th May**? Starting from the riverside car park outside the Rowing Museum in Henley at 9am, a relaxed ride on the quiet-ish A and B roads of Berkshire and Oxfordshire will lead us to a suitable venue for a proper Sunday breakfast by about 10am. Then, via a different route, we will return to John Wrights house for the West Middlesex BBQ (non biking participants also welcome!). (See separate flier.)

Both events will be open to all **csma** members and their friends and will **NOT** be thrashes down motorways and major "A" roads, just gentle cruise-type runs on mostly country roads in an entirely responsible manner(!) so as to encourage, and be totally suitable for, the newer rider or those with smaller cc machines. If you fall in to either of those categories why not make this the year **you** come and join us? It all tends to be very relaxed, no one has been left behind yet!!

Put the dates in your diary: Sunday 6th April & Sunday 25th May, and make plans to join us!!

More details on these or other 2003 motorcycle events (opposite) from **Allan Goddard** on (01189) 34 5726 (Home), (07785) 903 000 (Mobile) or email at agoddard@csma-netlink.co.uk

Annual General Meeting - 10th April 2003

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2002-2003

This has been my second year as Chairman of West Middlesex Group (WMx). The Secretary's report will cover the competition calendar in detail so I will focus on the social side of the Group.

The backbone of our social calendar continues to be the Clubnights (on the second Thursday of each month) and the Noggin & Natter evenings (on the last Tuesday of each month). There has been a question mark hanging over whether our regular Clubnight venue of the Liberal Club, Windsor, will remain open but so far the stay of execution seems to be holding and we are glad to continue our association with the venue.

Clubnights have varied in popularity from the Skittles and Scalextric evenings which continue to be well supported, to the Navex and pub meal which only drew a handful of members. The Committee try to establish a wide variety of events which have included a walk, quizzes and indoor golf. Those who attend generally agree that the evenings are well run and very enjoyable but as the average attendance at a Clubnight is 13, we wonder what we should be doing to provide something for the other 90% of our members who are not joining us. This is proving to be a challenge and, yes, I know we ask this year after year, but unless we hear from the members who receive the Sump each month, consider themselves part of the Group but don't come to the events put on, we won't know what you would like us to do differently.

This is the second year running that we have had to cancel a summer Clubnight through lack of attendance so maybe we should build in a summer recess in future years. If you have ideas for changes to the calendar structure or other events which could be promoted, the Committee will be very glad to hear from you. Similarly, if you are happy with the way the Group is run in it's current format then it would be nice to hear that too so that we know we are on the right track. Time is an increasingly precious commodity in most people's lives and WMx events compete alongside work, family and other social commitments in people's diaries. We as a Committee fully appreciate that juggling everything going on in life is not easy and we accept that members won't be able to attend every event. But when we go for months on end without seeing our old friends we begin to wonder whether we should be doing something else.

Personally, I am not in favour of change for change's sake but in a world of performance measures and targets, HQ measure the Group's activities by cost in relation to head-count. We have to report to HQ via the North London Centre how many Group members attend every event we are involved with. Those are compared with how much money we spend to judge the cost-per-member of everything we do. Whilst you can argue the merits of this approach, it still remains that if we consistently fail to attract our membership to Clubnights, etc. then we are deemed to be failing in some way. We budget for costs, such as room hire, which we have to pay whether we have three people or a hundred and three people turn up. Obviously the little cost-per-member statistic looks more favourable for the more people who attend.

Aside from the cost aspect there is also the effort put in by the organiser to ensure that the event can take place which can result in a "why bother" attitude if we continue to promote activities for very few. I'm not trying to make you feel sorry for us, in the big picture, WMx is still a successful Group and we have a membership who is proud to be under the WMx banner. But various members of the current Committee feel that the

newly elected Committee should make Clubnight attendance a key priority for the future year. Last year's Conference devoted a lot of discussion time to Clubnights and it was encouraging to note that we are not alone. This is a brainteaser faced by Groups up and down the Country. Unfortunately nobody yet has hit on the magic formula for success!

Moving away from Clubnights, the Noggin & Natters at the Jolly Woodman near Burnham Beeches have also had mixed fortune with attendance varying between 5 and 16. At the time of writing, a bike run is being planned which will finish at the Noggin & Natter and maybe this combined event approach is something which we will have to consider more of in the future.

As well as WMx events, Group members have been out and about on non-csma events. Various road and stage rallies around the Britain have been supported by Group members with ties to other motor clubs and this outing to see how other Clubs run events has provided a useful source of information and experience which we can then draw on in promoting our own activities. Particularly encouraging was the great popularity of the MSA Marshal Training nights which took place in the autumn. Nine WMx members attended the Basingstoke presentation with a view to becoming Registered Marshals and this expertise can be used within the Group to encourage and train newcomers to motor sport who want a way to become involved without having to actually compete.

The members of the Group who enjoy their two-wheeled transport have been particularly active in the last twelve months. They have taken part in motorcycle ride outs, marshalled on bike trials and, again, the Group again supported the National Motorcycle Rally with entries and running the control near Aylesbury. As well as this, ten of our number attended the National Motorcycle Show in November. The Group weekend away to the South West in October had originally been planned as a motorcycle event but was opened to the wider membership to increase attendance and those who attended reported such a success that it is planned to repeat the excursion.

Track-based events have proved popular with members taking part in both **csma** and other track days. A contingent had a very enjoyable day out at Silverstone watching Formula 1 testing. In a break from the traditional track day format, the rally stage style track days have proved very popular and the Group has continued to promote these to give members a flavour of what they could expect if they were to pursue rallying as a motorsport career.

Group attendance on WMx competitive events has proved encouraging with an average of 33 members on the autotest and the two 12-car rallies. As well as competitors, a large number of these are marshals to whom we are grateful for support. The success is testimony to the good humour and enjoyment on Group events which mean that members will turn out repeatedly on these events.

Centre-organised events have proved to be less popular, mainly due to the prospect of tackling the M25 on a weekday evening. However, there was a strong WMx representation of 27 members in Wales for the Curtis Bennett weekend with many reporting that the improved variety of activities available during the visit (from Scalextric to trailer reversing) were well received. The HQ organised, Very Fast Show at Donington in September and the weekend at Brooklands in February, introducing various branches of motor sport, attracted several members and their families.

A growing number of WMx members have an interest in Classic vehicles. This is exemplified by the numbers who participated in the runs organised by the Classic Vehicle sub-committee. Both the Retro Run and the Three Shires run have developed a loyal following and the Group has also been represented at various Classic Shows.

Other social events in the year included the Golf day in June which was enjoyed by 11 of the Group's golfers with another two joining the band for lunch afterwards. The Group has been represented at various Centre social events, including the Holstar Tabletop Rally and the Quadruplex. Although the Group failed to win these inter-Group team events out right, our members did very well in their individual pairings to uphold the Group's honour.

The year's social calendar finished with our Annual Dinner in March. After several years of the same format, it was decided that the disco was not popular with the majority of our guests and so the Committee decided to break from tradition and instead hired a magician for the evening. He entertained each table between courses as well as performing for the assembly en masse after dinner. Judging by the raucous laughter around the room, he was a popular choice and I for one would recommend him for other functions.

Finally, I would like to conclude my report with a note of thanks to my fellow Officers and Committee Members who have served the Group through the year. Their hard work ensures that what the Group does is of a consistently high standard whether it is for a few or for many. In particular, thank you to those members who are not on the Committee who organise and help run events (competitive or social) for helping to maintain the Group's activities for another year. Lastly, thank you to all the members who have come out to see us during 2002-3 without whom none of it would be worth doing.

Nikki Wild

Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT, 2002-2003

The person who said I could be Group Secretary, Curtis-Bennett Clerk-of-the-Course, track day organiser, 12-car rally organiser, annual dinner organiser, plus hold down a fulltime job, and have a family, was a damned liar. Oh, that'll be me then. The past year has been busy, to say the least, and I am very much aware that the hardest part to keep going has been as Group Secretary. Chairman Nikki's consistent support, encouragement and (very necessary) prompting to do vital tasks has been just about the only thing that has prevented this being too obvious!

Nikki, as Chairman, has reported exhaustively on the social side of the Group, kindly leaving me with just the competitions side to focus on. She has also covered the few administrative points that I was going to attempt to discuss. I've already told her that she has been a better Secretary than I, but she won't listen. But before I talk about the motorsport side of the Group, I will add a few ill-judged words (a quantity in which I specialise) of my own to the thorny issue that she raised regarding Group activities.

Nikki's summary of average attendances suggests that Group social events are actually better supported than subjective impressions would indicate. My own 'take' on this (based this year on a more limited degree of support than previously, as other activities have taken their toll) is that there are certain events that are extremely well supported, and a string of other events that struggle more to gain the support they deserve. The one-off events, like the Annual Dinner or Christmas skittles clubnight, are successful in no small measure simply because they are one-offs, and the organisers are able to put a great deal of effort into dragging people out. The other events by contrast, however much effort is put into them, seem to be seen most undeservedly as also-rans. The

Group's motorsporting events, by contrast – and particularly the 4-wheeled ones – seem to attract much greater support. Nikki's question regarding the nature of this is highly pertinent. Perhaps a worthwhile experiment would be to try a year of purely motorsport based events, and see what happens...

But on to the motorsport side...

Across the year, as usual, the Group has been as active as usual, supporting on average one event every two weeks, a total of (to use the much-overworked criterion) 333 'member attendances'. These, like the social side, have ranged from the heavily supported (CB – 27 members, Hollstar – 24, Very Fast Show – 39, Jan 12-car – 37) to the lone stars (such as the December NEL 12-car – 1). While the levels of support show that motorsport – be it on four wheels or the ever-growing two-wheel lobby – remains close to the Group's heart, it is the nature of the beast that that support is patchy. The events supported cover the length and breadth of the country, from the East Anglian Preston Rally to the Lancashire-based Civil Service Rally, to the distant Welsh Cilwendeg.

Other than the Plains and Wyedean, the events supported by the Group are determinedly grass-roots level, and it is entirely right that this should be so. To be able to get over 30 members to support an autotest in a small and cow-patted field, we must be doing something right (even if the csma Motorsport Manager DID splatter the Clerk of the Course - this correspondent – with said cow-pat).

So, is all in the garden rosy? Not really. There is little that can and should be faulted within the Group, in terms of the level of commitment and enthusiasm of the established organisers, but they are few in number and (this correspondent at least) vulnerable to becoming a little parochial. Greater diversity could perhaps be a worthwhile aspiration; we see motorcycle social events being well-supported, but limited interest in competitions. All the car events are rallies, apart from one autotest and one (HQ organised) racing circuit day. Don't get me wrong, I love rallying, but I can see that there are other disciplines that we are ignoring, possibly to the extent that we exclude or even alienate potentially active members.

So, what do we do about it? The well-trodden route of canvassing the Group membership about important issues has been tried before, never with any success and rarely with enough response to have justified the exercise in the first place. Maybe we should just get on and try something different, and damn the consequences. Anyone want to start hovercraft-racing? Why not?

If all goes to plan, I will again be away at AGM time. It is not deliberate, honestly. The difference this year is that not only will I not be there, but I will not be standing (in absentia) for the Secretary's post. I wish to focus more fully on organising those events, and maybe with a little more time will be better able to be creative and try something alternative. Whatever, I wish the new incumbent of the post every success, and will do my utmost to support him or her through the coming year. In closing, I would like to thank Nikki, for getting me out of trouble more times than I can number, and the rest of the committee for their occasional wise counsel, but mostly their amused and entertaining tolerance of their idiosyncratic Secretary.

Ian Perry
Secretary

Accounts 2002-2003

Totals	Income	Expenditure	
Balance b/f	26.00		
Imprest	5,150.00		** includes £500 capex
Misc.		859.99	
Social Events		-	
Competitions	1,465.00	645.20	* includes £1,250 track day
Insurance	63.00	59.22	*
Print & Stat.		720.09	
Postage		302.68	
Phone		57.20	
Travel		1,500.45	Includes committee meetings
Room Hire		2,028.00	Includes committee meetings
Trophies (capex)		500.00	**
Balance c/f		31.17	
Running total	6,704.00	6,704.00	

* Track day income offsets costs in categories incl. Postage, phone, travel, misc, etc.

** Budget includes £500 capital expenditure (capex) trophy replacement

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the csma West Middlesex Committee or the editor.

MOTORSport Co-ORDINATORS' BULLETIN

APRIL 2003

Dates	Type of Event	Event (Status)	Organising Club-Champ
Apr	Sun13 Centre	* Concorde (Nat B/C)	NEL Production Car Trial-
	26/27 Navigational Rally	* Funky Elephant (Nat B)	Basingstoke MC ACSMC
	Sun 27	Services Trial (Nat B)	HQ Motorcycle Trial
May	Sat 3	* Metropole Run (C)	HQ Regularity Run
	3/4	* Curtis Bennett (C)	HQ Navigational Rally
	Sun 4	* Dunlop (C)	HQ Grass Autotest
	Tue 6	Hollstar Inter Group TT ()	NWL Ta-
	ble Top Rally 10/11	Swan (Nat B)	Windsor CC- ACSMC
	Navigational Rally 17/18	* Miglia Quadrato ()	UH&ULMC Walking treasure hunt
Jun	Sun 1 BTRDA	Juniper (Nat B)	NEL Tarmac Autotest-

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

Past Events

March 12 Car A trip round east Hertfordshire for the six crews and everyone made it to the finish. The route included a couple of fords, including the infamous Barwick (which was quite low), and was contained within the NE corner of map 166. The decider between ourselves and Ted and John was on a short section that included the navigation for next longer one as well. This entailed plotting the whole route to find out which way to go on the short bit. A good route and navigation.

1stCar 1Mike Biss / Cath WoodmanNEWLExp0Fails0mins2ndCar 4Ted Mank-
telow / John EvansNWLExp0Fails3mins3rdCar 5Dave Smith / Mike
HarrisonNWLExp2Fails5mins4thCar 2Alan Thurbon / Lee
CrakerNWLExp4Fails10mins5thCar 6Philip Brent / Graham
RobinsonNELNov6Fails29mins6thCar 3John Wright / Perry
RoeWMxExp9Fails22mins**Future Events**

Concorde PCT This Production Car Trial event will return on Sunday 13th April to Mile Tree Farm, near Leighton Buzzard, and caters for both the championship competitor (National B) and the club member (Clubsport), for which no licence is required. Entry fee for the Clubsport event is only £10, so let me know as soon as possible whether you want to enter or just come along to help with a bit of marshalling.

Funky Elephant Rally This is a navigational road rally in the Winchester area and runs on maps 185 & 196. The navigation is promised to be straightforward (it was good last year), there are no damaging white roads, just plenty of fun on the best local lanes. Entry fee, which includes breakfasts, is £53 and further details can be obtained from either myself or the event website at www.funkyelephant.org.uk.

Curtis Bennett Weekend Details of all the events taking place over the weekend have been sent out and so please can we have as many people as possible from the Centre supporting them. There are treasure hunts, a gymkhana, regularity run, road rally, grass autotest, scalextric, radio control cars, and more. Why not support this by making the trip down to Wales and enjoy the social atmosphere.

Miglia Quadrato Regs are now out for this night time treasure hunt around the streets of the City of London. Although you use the car to get around, all the clues are found on foot and there are 20 easy, medium and difficult ones to find. You have five hours to plot and search and the event starts at midnight. Don't worry, the congestion charges don't apply during this period.

Juniper Autotest Please put this event in your diary as a date to marshal on. We will need as many people as possible to make this event run smoothly, so please make the effort to attend this exciting sport. This is the pinnacle of tarmac autotesting and all the top drivers in the country will be attending.

Other Items

Roger Albert Clark Rally The R'A'C Rally is an attempt to recreate the old Lombard RAC rally format of past years before the current World Championship style curtailed the challenge for the Clubman entry. At least three or four days and two nights of rallying with one night halt and a mid-week finish, using well-known special stages from famous RAC Rallies of yore (Pundershaw, Castle O'er, Dalby, Grizedale, Kielder, Malton and Pickering, Cumbria, North and Mid Wales). It is planned to run the event in either January or February 2004, so the nights are not too short, nor the weather too pleasant! Interest in this event is proving huge, so watch out for further info.

Mike Biss - Motorsports Co-Ordinator **Home: 01525 720299** **Work:**
01977 593482 mike.biss@bt.com

Articles for the May issue of The Sump should be sent to the editor on or before Wednesday 23rd April . Please!

Have you got one yet?

You can have one if you want...

...in any colour you like (as long as it's dark blue)...



All sizes - from little kids to **big blokes!**

Order before the "CB" weekend and post & packing are **free!**

Talk to AG for...

The "**All New**" West Middlesex Group Polo, Rugby and Sweat shirts!

£14.95, £21.95 & £15.95 respectively (kids polos are just £9.55!)

Phone AG on 07785 903000, email agoddard@csma-netlink.co.uk

Or see him at clubnight!

GO ON - YOU KNOW YOU WANT ONE!

Curtis Bennett Rally Weekend ***3-5th May 2003***

**Accommodation in Llandrindod Wells is running out!
Book quickly if you want to stay in the 'Wmx Group' B&B!**

Talk to AG on 07785 903000 or email agoddard@csma-netlink.co.uk