



July 2003
Number 451



Frisky bullocks (as warned about by AG on the June walk)!

Your Editor Speaking...

Issue four of my editorship! Doesn't time fly when you're having fun...

Hopefully you have already noticed the improvement in print quality promised last month. As well as improving print quality we should also have reduced printing costs and increased flexibility. All despite the best efforts of a certain retailer and courier

From the Hot Seat

Hello everybody. Our esteemed Group Secretary is on his hols so I'm afraid that you'll have to settle for just me this month. Hopefully John and family are having a fun time and he'll be back, raring to go, in time for all the Group's July antics.

The June Clubnight walk was enjoyed by the dozen intrepid explorers who managed to complete the loop back to the Seven Stars before it went dark. Not entirely the prescribed route that AG had left for us on the way to the half way pub (something about following the wrong hedge!) and the mutiny on the return trip meant that Toby (in charge of interpreting AG's hand-drawn map against the OS map) bowed to pressure and found us a very nice direct stroll over stiles and through a field of sheep. Over a very welcome drink at the finish, AG rejoined us (having collected his charge from Heathrow and delivered her safely to her hotel) and seemed surprised that we'd had to ad lib the route! It was nice to welcome one or two new faces on the night and I hope we'll see you again soon. It was a very pleasant evening's walk and my thanks to AG for organising us a route and Toby for coping admirably with leading us all to our destinations on the night.

At the time of writing, the June Noggin is yet to happen and I'm looking forward to being joined by our two-wheeled contingent who will have spent the day on a ride. Looking forward to July, Rhys Edwards is looking for helpers for the **National Motorcycle Rally**. WMx Group traditionally runs a control near Aylesbury (usually through the night). It is a very friendly affair – the

company ganging up against us! But don't get me started...

The deadline for the August Sump was 23rd July - unfortunately this is the day before our holiday starts! So that I can publish in time for August 1st, could I please have your submissions by Saturday 19th.

Jez Boakes, Editor

riders arrive at the control, have their cards stamped, sometimes stay for refreshment at the picnic tables or in the café and then continue with their chosen route. This year we have a much more civilised time slot of 2pm to 10pm for the control so if you have a slot in your diary for **Saturday 5th July**, please give Rhys a ring on 01793 616252 to offer your services.

The Committee next meets on the 10th July so if you have any burning issues you'd like us to consider, please let me know before then.

Our traditional date of the second Thursday in the month for Clubnight has moved. Instead, we are holding a trip to the **Met Office on Tuesday 15th July, beginning at 7:30pm**. So if, like me, you're fascinated about things meteorological and want to know what goes on behind the scenes when they're predicting our weather, come along to Bracknell and join us. Thanks again to Perry Roe for organising for us to have access so close to the date when the Met Office relocates to Exeter.

Following closely on the heels of the above is our **Autotest Training day on Saturday 19th July**. So many people have been heard saying things like "I'd like to have a go at that but don't want to start off by entering an event against experts" and "I think I do everything right but I'm still slower than others, where am I going wrong?". Well, now's your chance to have your questions answered.

We have secured Barton Stacey (which many of you will be familiar with from the rally style track days) and there are regulations included with this Sump. Duncan

Wild is the reigning Welsh Association Autotest Champion and is contesting both the MSA and BTRDA national autotest championships this year (consistently within the top 10 competitors in the country). However, please do not feel intimidated by this. The day is aimed at beginners and novices. There will be a tutorial session to explain just what you can do in your ordinary road car, demonstrations of the individual types of manoeuvre and highlight those little time-saving points that make the difference to the time on a test. Then there will be an opportunity for you to put it into practice – both singly and in a string of manoeuvres. MSA rules governing running of events prohibit practicing tests in advance, so don't be shy – this is the best chance you will get to practice with expert advice on hand.

West Middlesex Group's May Bank Holiday Ride-Out

AG asked us all to be at our meeting place on the bank of the River Thames in Henley by 9am – that's in the morning – on a Sunday! But the promise of a bumper breakfast "before 10" was incentive enough to encourage an early alarm call. The fact that it was a brilliant sunny morning when I left the house confirmed the idea was sound.

Ask any motorcyclist and they'll tell you there's nothing like riding a 'bike first thing in the morning before most people have even thought about getting up. One the quiet roads I used on my run to Henley, it was like the sun had got up early especially for me.

Seven Group members on five motorcycles eventually left the car park outside the River and Rowing Museum (note to self: must return and visit same when it's open – looks fascinating). AG led us out of the town and we were soon into the wooded countryside that abounds in the Thames Valley. We were promised a 'bimble' rather than a 'blat' and true to his word, AG ensured progress was relaxed but purposeful, allowing a good look around at

www.csma-grouplink.co.uk/webs/wmiddlesex

If you have any questions about the day then give me a ring or drop me an email and then enter and turn up with your car. Or, if you're feeling brave, tell your significant other that you're popping out to the shops and bring theirs!

Congratulations to WMx'ers Steve (Chalkie) White and Denise Nicholson on their engagement. I'm looking forward to the party!

Finally, the **August Clubnight** will be back at our regular venue of the Liberal Club in Windsor on the 14th for a **Weakest Link quiz night** hosted by myself. If you want to see my doing my Ann Robinson impression, do come along. Hope to see you there.

Nikki Wild, Chairman

the beautiful countryside and villages we were passing through. Sonning, Harpsden., Rotherfield Peppard and Nettledon I recall before we paused atop of a hill above Britwell Salome for a panoramic view of the Icknield Way and Didcot power station at Harwell some 12 miles distant. By now Nick and Mike could almost smell the bacon so we moved off down hill, skirted round Benson and stopped at that famous haunt of 'bikers, Harley's Diner at Berinsfield. Now called Fox's Diner apparently, the signage on the walls of the car park still refer to the old name, and in the 'gents there is evidence that, many moons ago, this establishment was once a Little Chef. But AG had done his pre-event planning well, everyone was more than satisfied with their al-fresco breakfast unlike most people who visit a Little Chef nowadays I believe.

About fifty motorcycles had arrived while we were eating and quite a bit of manoeuvring was required to get out of the car park. We kept south of Oxford and followed the almost deserted B roads over gently rolling hills via Watlington and Christmas Common to pause on Winter Hill just above Marlow. Breakfast was now an hour and a half behind us and the

Team were ready to patronise the conveniently parked ice cream van. While a selection of Oysters, Sky Rockets and 99's were devoured, Claire and Jan were discussing the plus's and minus's of riding 'pillion' on a VFR and a Pan European (I know which my missus would choose). Admiring the view across the valley, Steve, Mike and AG were all impressed to hear that both Alan and Nick had ridden most of the route we'd done from Harley's Diner before, on bicycles. Fit boys, obviously!

AG now led us down the testing hairpins of inter Hill, over a spectacular bridge crossing the Thames into Marlow, and on up the B482 to Stokenchurch. Here we joined the A40 for a few miles, a mere shadow of it's former busy self now, the nearby and almost parallel M40 taking 99% of the traffic (thank goodness) making this part of the A40 surprisingly biker friendly. In Kingston Blount the twice-yearly Point-to-point was in full swing as we turned north to run up a modernised part of the Icknield Way from Chinnor to Wendover. A quiet route through the Buckinghamshire countryside took us past the Buckland Windmill, via Chesham, and on to Ley Hill Common, the site of more than 200 hangings two centuries ago apparently.

Passing Bovingdon Airfield, we popped out onto the A41 at Bourne End for a bit of a final 'blat' down this dual carriageway to Bushey. Until now Nick, not noted for his

patience on a motorcycle I believe, had himself in check, but the site of a clear, open stretch of tarmac that he knew well, spreading out in front of us, was more than he could bear. He squirted the Fazer to the front of our ride and was heading for the horizon at warp factor seven – this time he could smell the 'burgers! At the next roundabout he'd calmed down again and after circumnavigating the island two or three times the rest of us had caught up and Nick dutifully re-joined on the end of our Crocodile as AG led us the last couple of miles to John Wright's house.

John and his wife Christine provided us, and a number of other non-motorcycling Group members, with a superb BBQ in their back garden with steaks, pork chops, chicken kebabs and salads galore – fantastic. Entertainment was taken care of for the most part by the Wright children, Charlotte Jennifer and Sam – but it was almost added to by AG, high on Diet Pepsi, who wanted to ride five year old Sam's bike down the garden slide. Promises of double helpings of a most delicious fresh fruit salad did the trick.

A well planned, entertaining day with a super 125 mile ride, great breakfast, he best BBQ ever, excellent company and even the sun shone. It can't get any better than that.

Thanks to everyone concerned, especially John, Christine and of course AG

Kam Rahshy (Who?!? Ed.)

STOP PRESS!

Uncle Allan is now Grandpa Allan!

Sarah and James Pontet (well, more Sarah really...) gave birth to Emilia Kate just after 10pm on Sunday 22nd June, following a 'trying' 23 hour labour... Probably not helped by Emilia being a 'healthy' 10lb 12oz! Mother and baby are doing fine. Well, as fine as can be expected given the circumstances!!

Congratulations to all concerned!



MOTORSPORT CO-ORDINATORS' BULLETIN

JULY 2003

Dates	Event (Status)	Organising Club	Type of Event	Champ
Jul Sun 27	Grasshopper Autotest (C)	NEL	Grass Autotest	Centre
Aug Sun 24	Holly Autotest (C)	NEL	Grass Autotest	Centre
Sep Fri 12	Greenhorn 12 Car Rally(C)	NWL	Navigational Rally	
Sun 21	Haymaker Autotest (C)	WM	Grass Autotest	Centre
Mon 22	Track Day at Croft (C)	HQ	Take your car on a race track	
26-28	Retro Run (C)	HQ	Car Treasure Hunt	

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

Past Events

Juniper Autotest At last we managed to get a dry event, although we did have some rain just before we started and again at the awards presentation. The double header weekend format seems to have gone down well again with competitors and plans are being made to repeat the exercise again next year. Entries were down this year with only 26 starters compared to the 36 we had last time, but hopefully we will have a revival in fortunes for 2004. The lead of the event changed several times during the day with Roger Holder in front after the first round of four tests. At the end of the second round, Roger had dropped to third after hitting a cone and Stephen Wild gained the lead. Another change after the third round when Stephen got a line fault and it was his turn to drop to third. This left Malcolm Livingston out in front. The final round saw the places stay the same with Malcolm taking another win on the event with Roger and Stephen finishing closely behind. In the small Mini class, there was a fantastic scrap between Brian Bridge and John Griffiths with the result going to Brian by 0.3 of a second. Stephen Morten in a 1300cc sports car, managed to beat all but two of the larger engined machines to finish a very respectable 6th overall.

Greenacres Autotest This event will be running as I type this, so a report next month maybe.

Future Events

Grasshopper Autotest This event will be taking place at Studd Farm, Stanbridge Road, Near Stanbridge, Leighton Buzzard. The event will consist of a csma only Production Car autotest, a Clubsport event for invited club members without competition licences and a National B grass championship event, phew. The tests will be all forwards and the entry fee is £10. Contact Dave Rosher on 01920 830403 for further details.

Holly Autotest This event will again take place in conjunction with the Whitewebbs Steam & Country show at the venue inbetween Potters Bar and Enfield. As well as the autotest, you have the full range of vintage cars, steam engines, horses and craft stalls to look at. This is a very relaxed and enjoyable event, and provides a bit of a display for the other attendees. It will be a passenger carrying event with a £10 entry fee. Contact me for further details.

Greenhorn 12 Car September sees the start of the 12 car rally season and if anyone wants to know about these events, now is the time to start asking. The routes are about 45 miles on a Friday evening and the emphasis is on plotting and following the correct route on an Ordnance Survey Landranger map (1:50,000 scale). The whole event is

timed at an average speed of 30mph, and the main aim is for a bit of fun rather than serious sport. That's what the Saturday night events are for.

Quadruplex This inter group event will be hosted by West Middlesex this year and will run on Saturday 22nd November. Please book it in your diaries now. Further details will appear later but it will be suitable for everyone.

Other Items

Novice Autotest Drivers Organisers of Autotest events should include on their entry forms the question, "Do you have a valid road driving licence?". The reason is that both competitors under 17 and competitors without a road driving licence are limited to what cars they can use. On a PCA this is now a 1600cc 4-seater saloon car, with an experienced autotest passenger. On any other autotest, the limit is a 1400cc 4-seater saloon car. Organisers must ask this question and then check the answer and the age of the competitor against the car used, to make sure they are legal. It is not a requirement to check the actual licence, only for the competitors statement.

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

Feeding the five thousand!

Chilli con carne

Serves approximately 35.

3.5kg (7³/₄lb) onion

8 large cloves garlic

3kg (6¹/₂lb) mince

1³/₄kg (4lb) green peppers

5 large mild green chillies

20g (1oz) birdseye chillies

12 400g (14oz) cans tomatoes

8 400g (14oz) cans kidney beans

8 large teaspoons cumin powder

3 large desert spoons tomato puree

Generous squirt of Tabasco sauce

3 teaspoons fresh ground black pepper

Salt to taste

2 tablespoons oil

Quantities are approximate...

Roughly chop the onions, finely chop the garlic and fry using the oil in a large (~12 litre) cooking pot until the onions become translucent.

Add the mince, salt and pepper and continue frying until the mince changes colour. Drain off any excess liquid.

Roughly chop the peppers (remove the seeds) and add to the pot, along with the cans of tomatoes (drain all but two of the cans). Drain and wash the kidney beans and add to the mixture.

Finely chop the chillis and add. Add the cumin, tomato puree and Tabasco to taste.

Simmer for **at least** 4 hours, stirring occasionally.

Can be frozen...

Wear gloves when chopping the chillies - I didn't, and had a **very** uncomfortable *few days*...

The longer it's left to simmer, the better it becomes.

Oh, and I *suppose* the ingredients could be scaled to make slightly less...

;-)

Jez Boakes

The deadline for articles for the August Sump is 19th July!

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

GRASSHOPPER AUTOTESTS

For the 29th running of the Grasshopper we are again at Stanbridge with a nice smooth grass field at our disposal so a good day's sport should be had by all - given good weather. Your standard car is all that is needed together with your ability to handle it! All three events use the same course.

National B Event : This event is again being included as a round of the Southern Grass Autotest Championship and is open to all championship contenders, all members of the invited clubs, and the **csma**. The minimum requirement is an MSA Clubmans Licence (which costs £15). All this for a modest fee of £13.

Clubsport Event : This is less competitive and is open to all members of invited clubs, and the csma. There is no requirement for an MSA competition licence so it should appeal to those who don't compete regularly but want to drive against the regulars and championship contenders, but in a separate event. Entry fee is £10.

PCA Event : Formally the Groundhog, this will attract those with standard cars from the invited clubs and from within the **csma**. The requirement is for a passenger and the driver/passenger can swap seats to create a second entry, so long as membership is valid. You will be seeing how it should be done, by the Experts, and it will give you the chance to gain valuable experience. Entry fee is £10.

Contact **Dave Roshier** on **01920 830403** for further details.

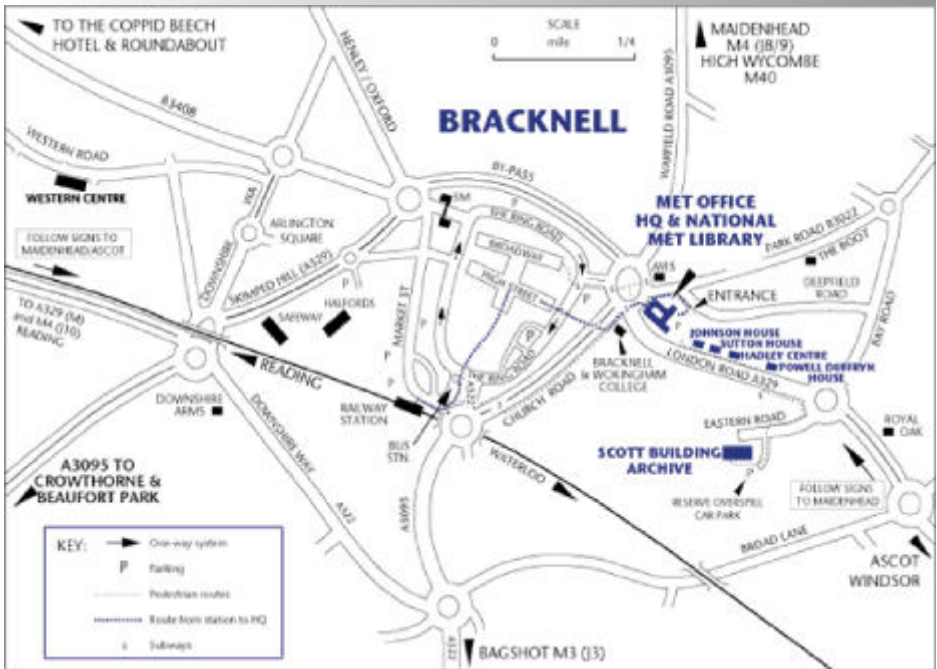
Ever wondered how the weather forecast is done?



Come and find out on July 15th ...

July clubnight is a trip around the meteorological office in Bracknell.

Start is 7:30pm, and we will repair to a local hostelry afterwards...



We will be the very last group to be given a tour of the met office before it relocates to Exeter, so this is really a once in a life-time chance...

Don't miss out...!

Please contact Nikki Wild on **07778 161572** or **01256 762865**, or nikki.wild@btopenworld.com so we have an idea of numbers.

