

ASWMC

The Association of South Western Motor Clubs



Newsletter



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Summer 2017

Welcome to the 2017 ASWMC Championship Summer Newsletter

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.. which features a new front page – I hope you like it. The photos have been supplied by professional, semi-professional and amateur photographers alike, and 'thank you' to those that did – details and credits are at the foot of the page.

My appeal for images - sent to every photographer in my list – produced a rather worrying response. At least three just didn't respond – at all. Another I know – whose work is superb – makes a living primarily from pet photography. And two e-mailed to say that they'd given up motorsport photography completely. Both of those said that the new trend was for competitors, friends, family and helpers to take "snaps" on their 'phones, iPads etc., to share with friends by 'phone and/or on social media. Their view was that high-resolution, professional motorsport photography at the regional and club level was 'dying on its feet', with dwindling orders no longer covering costs – petrol, time, food, etc. Which won't worry the high-quality national glossy media – Autosport, Motor Sport, etc. - who can afford to pay handsomely for good images - but is a worry for volunteer-supported, no-budget publications like this – your newsletter.

So, if the ex-photographers are right, there are plenty of your images out there that could feature in our newsletter – please send them in and I will be delighted to feature the best of them.

Rupert Barker - Newsletter Editor

The Editor's comments in this column are personal and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association, its executive committee or other elected officers.)

Cover Page Photos: (clockwise from top left ...)

Andy Short, OMS PR; Joseph Browning, VW Baja; Simon Ford, Honda Special (all Riches Digital Media); Roger Coote, Ginetta G4 and Alison Locke, BMC Mini, (Les Connett); John & Jerome Fack, MSR (JDS Photography).

**Association
Partners:**



From the Chair ...

It may be of little concern to championship contenders but to event organisers it is a long-awaited relief that regulation D.11.1 has changed. This required that no variations in championship calendars are made unless, amongst other things, **all** contenders positively agree to the change. Sending e-mails to all championship contenders to ask them **all** to say “yes” to a change was always, at best, ‘optimistic’. Also, it was not simply a matter of the coordinator assuming that ‘no response’, or ‘no negative response’, meant ‘yes’ - it had to be a stated, positive agreement. Now, however, the MSA has changed its stance; if permitted by Championship regulations, and provided contenders are given a reasonable time to respond, if no negative response is received then it may be assumed that contenders agree to proposed changes. This will require us to modify our Championship Regulations at the AGM in October.

Many of you will by now have gathered that we have lost the services of our General Secretary Mark Chater. Sadly, he is very unwell and the recovery period from his condition is measured in years rather than weeks or months. Mark has held the role of General Secretary for only six and a half years but he has been his club’s ASWMC delegate for about 25 years. He’ll be missed and we wish him well.

We therefore need to appoint a replacement General Secretary at the AGM but that is not the only role needing a new and enthusiastic occupant. At our last AGM in October, Roger Gillard volunteered to be championship coordinator for our Navigational Road Rally championships; Alan Whitney has been our rally championships coordinator for about 15 years but his health has also not been at its best for some time and he has said that at this October’s AGM he will also relinquish coordination of the Stage Rally Championships - so we will need a replacement co-ordinator for those too.

I hope that by now all ASWMC member clubs will have, based upon the template on the MSA website, considered their Child Safeguarding Policy; a “child” in this context is anyone under the age of 18. This is likely to impact upon both competitors and marshals and it is vital that they are protected from any form of abuse or danger to their health and welfare - our sport’s future depends on clubs and individuals taking this issue very seriously.

If your club is planning to purchase safety equipment or invest in a venue, remember that the MSA can help. The Motorsport Development Fund application form is on the MSA website and can be completed online. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of this as a grant may boost your budget and help you decide what to buy.

Paul Parker, Chairman

News in Brief...

Rally dates – this page

2018 Somerset Stages cancelled - page 5

Stuart and Sophie hit the news – page 6

New Reis insurance package - page 8

Bridge Tyres & Wheels – page 9

Date Changes ...



Forresters Car Club has had to change the date of their 2017 Patriot Stages; a revised schedule of military operations in September meant that the club had no choice but to move the rally. The club renegotiated a new date that didn't clash with any other stage rally and will now take place on **Sunday 1st October**.

If competitors have any questions, please contact Jon Lougher, the Event Secretary, on 07830 712538.

www.caerwentrallies.co.uk



South Hams and Exmouth MCs have swapped dates, and re-named, their Autumn Navigational rallies.



To achieve a better spread of events in the navigational rallies calendar, and to allow Exmouth MC to settle on a more suitable date, South Hams MCs organising team have agreed to swap dates and run earlier in the Autumn than originally planned. In a hark back to earlier times, their 2017 Guy Fawkes Rally has also been renamed The Harvest Rally (*I competed on the Harvest in 1982! – Ed*) and moved to Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd October. The event will start and finish just a few miles from Newton Abbot, easily accessible from the end of the M5. The revamped route features no 'whites' or private land, a fuel halt and breakfast after 120 miles on OS Map 202.

Exmouth MCs event has now been able to move to the dates vacated by SHMCs event, and will now take place on November 25th/26th; the name has been altered slightly and will now be known as the 'Barbara Carter Rally'. For further details, please visit the clubs' websites:

<http://www.shmc.co.uk/index.php/events/harvest-rally>

<https://kevinclarke748.wixsite.com/exmouthmotorclub>



Please also note that the date of **North Devon MCs** Ilfracombe Rally – December 9th/10th - has now been corrected on the ASWMC website.

2018 Somerset Stages Cancelled ...

The following Press Information Release was received on Monday 31st July from Howard West, Event Director and Jason Hayes, Clerk of the Course, of the Somerset Stages Rally.



SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017



“PRESS RELEASE

The Organising Committee of the Somerset Stages Rally have decided to have a "Year Out" in 2018, which would have been our 40th running of the Somerset Stages Rally.

After considerable discussions, we have reluctantly come to this decision. The factors creating this are mainly due to the very much reduced entry level for our 2017 Event. The reduced entry level trend is occurring generally across all gravel events for reasons well known by all concerned. However, the organising costs are continuing to rise each year, jeopardising the financial side of the Rally.

This has created a considerable overall financial loss, which has seriously impacted our reserve funds from previous year's Events. Also, we cannot see any signs of this situation improving in the near future, which would obviously impact entry levels in 2018. This, together with some possible logistical restrictions on Stage usage in 2018, and some complications on public road closures for competitive use in the area. This will need to be resolved during the coming year, including arranging suitable insurance cover.

We are sure the businesses in the Minehead area and within the Exmoor National Park will be disappointed to hear this news, as they do support the Competitors and Organisers and we, and the Competitors, do generate a significant income into the local economy.

The Organising Team plan to return in 2019 with our 40th Anniversary Somerset Stages Rally, again using the Forestry Commission gravel roads, the Porlock Toll road, and a section of closed public road, if at all possible.

When the 2018 championships and rule changes have all been confirmed, we will announce our plans for 2019. In the meantime, we would like to thank all those who have supported the event since its inception in 1977”.

For further information, please contact Howard West at:
2 Sellers Close
Colyford
Devon EX24 6PB

Telephone: 01297 551375
E-mail: hm.west@hotmail.co.uk



‘Andy Warhol said’ ...

... in the future, everyone would have 15 minutes of fame ... and at Torbay MCs Spring Autocross that moment came to North Devon MC member Stuart Holton, who found himself in Class D with none other than MSA Academy member and 2016 MSA British Rallycross Champion, Dan Rooke.

Dan, returning to his Westcountry Autocross roots double-driving Roger Brunt’s venerable Opel Corsa, adapted quickly to the Coryton course and on the first timed run was well clear of the other class contenders, with Roger, Andy Turner and Stuart all adrift by over 14, 25 and 26 seconds respectively. The second run saw Dan improve by 13 seconds but Stuart produced a stunning run to post a time 7/10^{ths} faster. Having beaten the MSA Champion in one heat, and fully expecting his slender lead to be comprehensively eclipsed on the third run, Stuart watched in disbelief as Dan posted a ‘fail’ to leave Stuart’s second time as the best of the day, giving him the 1st in class award. Whatever motorsport heights Dan goes on to scale, Stuart will always be able to say “Well, on one Saturday in 2017 ...”

Congratulations ... and Good Luck! ...

... to Sophie Buckland, who has secured a place at the National College for Motorsport on their Foundation Race Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Course. In addition to the required GCSEs, Sophie had to pass a demanding interview and her packed motorsport CV undoubtedly helped her to demonstrate her passion for motorsport. The course leads to the EAL Level 2 Diploma in Engineering Technology (Motorsport), covering race car preparation, engine and transmission units and an introduction to motorsport industry working practices; there is also the possibility of work experience with top-flight teams and travel abroad.



Sophie started as junior marshal with Torbay Motor Club at the age of 14 and was the recipient of the club’s top prize in their 2015 marshals draw scheme - a day with the Porsche Experience at Thruxton (pictured). Despite still being two years short of applying for a driving licence, rumour has it that after a couple of laps in the Cayman the instructor brought her back to the pits ... to have the rev-limiter adjusted upwards so that she could go over 70 m.p.h.!

Sophie has navigated on several 12-car rallies and recently made her stage rally co-driving debut with Ben Parker on the Three Counties Stages at Smeatharpe, finishing 7th overall and 1st in class.

we share your passion



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New Insurance Scheme from our Sponsor ...

Reis Motorsport Insurance, sponsor of ASWMC championships and a leading specialist UK motorsport broker, has launched a new On-Track Accident Damage product in partnership with specialist motor insurer ERS. Now live, the cover benefits rally, race and track day customers at all levels and has the unique security provided by ERS as an A+ rated Lloyd's insurer.

Reis have tailored the scheme for UK based competitors and teams who want to protect their vehicles whilst competing and it can mitigate the financial impact of a serious loss.

Mark Taylor, Operations Manager at Reis comments: "We are proud to have partnered with ERS and we plan to develop into other associated areas of specialist vehicle insurance. With our combined expertise, we will be able to provide tailored cover for non-standard motor insurance, risk management and guidance on best practice.

Being from a motorsport background myself, I've seen the significant impact large losses can have on the overall cost of competing. This additional type of cover helps provide peace of mind on-track to our customers, giving them the edge in competition".

Tom Donachie, head of bespoke underwriting at ERS said: "As an expert in non-standard motor risks, we were keen to create a solution for the specialist types of vehicles that Reis's On Track Damage product is designed for. After gaining a detailed understanding of the requirements, we were able to create a policy that met the specific needs of both Reis and its customers. We are pleased to have worked in partnership with Reis in bringing this valuable offering to the market."

For more information on the scheme, or to speak to one of their advisors, call the Reis team on 0115 965 1020 or visit www.reis.co.uk – you can click through from any of the Reis logos in the newsletter.

New Volunteers Section in MSA Extra ...

The monthly *MSA Extra* newsletter now has a dedicated Volunteers section, created in response to the volunteer communication survey that the MSA conducted – almost half of respondents wanted a dedicated section in the newsletter, and there was feedback that the newsletter needed to be aimed more at volunteers and the contribution they make to the sport.

The MSA's Head of Communications, Tim Swietochowski, has extended an invitation to clubs to submit volunteer-specific news and updates for inclusion in *MSA Extra*. Possible content might be a volunteer reaching a milestone, such as 500 events attended, winning an award, for example the 'Spirit of the Event' or similar, events needing marshals, training days, short case studies and new roles that volunteers have filled. Short features such as 'tips for volunteers', or a case study of an event's volunteer force would also be welcome.

Any single piece of content can be up to about 250 words, ideally with one or two hi-res images. Clubs are invited to send in their contributions to Tim during the first week of each month by e-mail to media@msauk.org.

Bridge Tyres & Wheels bow out ...

Many of you may have noticed that the Bridge Tyres & Wheels/County Tyres logos have been removed from all our digital media; this is because the sponsorship for the 2017 ASWMC Speed Championships is no longer in place.

Mike Potter, who many of you know well, has been the driving force behind the Bridge Tyres & Wheels backing for the Hill Climb and Sprint championships for many, many years and is disappointed that this run of unbroken support has had to come to an end.



As a gesture of his support for the championships and the Association, and his love of both the sport and his many friends in it, we're pleased to report that Mike has made a generous personal donation to the Association to support the championships to the end of 2017 and the end of year awards next February.

Training ...

A successful training day was run on 17th June for over 20 members of North Devon MC, many of whom completed their marshals' accreditation at the same time.

Please note that the Marshals accreditation test can now be completed in a written version – contact me for further details.

A training session for club members who have been asked, or are considering offering to act, as event club stewards, has been suggested – if there is sufficient take up of this idea, I will take this forward and organise an event. Please let me know if you think this would be useful.

Requests from clubs for training events need to be submitted to me as soon as possible so that funding training trust can be secured before funds run out, as they did this year.

Two training days will be held under the ASWMC banner in 2018. Details will appear on the MSA, VIM and ASWMC web sites and on the ASWMC FaceBook page, so watch out for more information as it becomes available.

Contact me: **T:** 01823 652676; **E:** training@aswmc.co.uk or rogernunn7@hotmail.co.uk

Web: ASWMC or VIM (<http://www.volunteersinmotorsport.co.uk>) web sites

Roger Nunn, Training Officer

Regional Development Officers (RDOs) ...

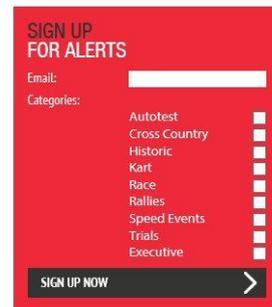
The MSA has announced changes to the areas covered by RDOs; a map showing the new county boundary areas can be seen on the MSA website at:

<https://www.msauk.org/Development/Go-Motorsport/Go-Motorsport>

Regulation Changes ...

If you want to receive regular notifications about proposed regulation changes in your discipline, you can sign-up for e-mail alerts on the MSA website at:

<https://www.msauk.org/The-Sport/Regulations/Proposed-Changes-for-Consultation>



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- Cross Country
- Historic
- Kart
- Race
- Rallies
- Speed Events
- Trials
- Executive

SIGN UP NOW >

Reminders ...

Event Regulations:

Please help the ASWMC's championship coordinators to do their job by ensuring that event secretaries send draft copies of their event's SRs to the relevant coordinator before being released to competitors. Thank you.

2017 Championship Rules:

Clubs are reminded of Championship Rule 15, which states "The association reserves the right to appoint an Observer to any championship event".

ASWMC Facebook group:

Promote your events, post links to your club's website, keep competitors informed, appeal for marshals, advertise cars, parts and trailers, etc., or recruit a driver/navigator.

New members are vetted before acceptance to ensure that only genuine motorsport enthusiasts join the group (anyone submitting posts unrelated to motorsport, or offensive, will be removed).

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/331829570210716/>

Photograph credits:

When sending photos please include event details, location (e.g. stage or corner), car, driver/crew, the photographer (if crediting is required) and any other relevant information. E-mail contributions to newsletter@aswmc.org.uk Thanks.

Provisional 2017/18 ASWMC meeting dates:

13 th August 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
22 nd October 2017	Executive Committee Meeting, AGM and Council meeting
10 th December 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
18 th February 2018	2017 Awards Presentation



The LARA Chairman's E-Newsletter (No.6 – April 2017) is available as a pdf file – please e-mail me – newsletter@aswmc.org.uk – if you would like one and I will forward a copy.

Brief edited extracts are ...

Membership: the ACU have 'upgraded' from Associate Members to Full Members for 2017-18; the association now has Full Members representing all 4 user groups – motorsport, recreation, 2 or 3 wheels and 4 wheels

Finances: the year ended on 31st March with a small surplus in the General Account, even after making a significant transfer to support the Fighting Fund. The Fighting Fund was, as predicted, almost completely depleted at the Year End but is now being slowly rebuilt as we begin to receive the pledges made at the last Steering Committee meeting. The full accounts for the year 2016-17 should be available for circulation with the Agenda for the AGM on 24th May.

Donations: the ASWMC, EMAMC, FBHVC and PDVUG (Associate Members) voluntarily topped-up their £250 subscription with an additional £50: donations to the Fighting Fund in 2016-17 totaled £ 5193.03 and have exceeded £2500 so far ...

Fighting Fund Projects:

The Motoring Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG) had its 2nd meeting in April with a high turnout ... the Group is now trying to find a member or observer from Wales as many of the issues are common to both England and Wales and new environmental legislation is coming up in the Welsh Assembly soon ... Each of the four sub-groups (traffic regulation, unsealed unclassified roads, surface standards, and unlawful/anti-social driving) now has a first-draft report, and members will continue to develop these ... We are still looking for photographs, magazine articles, personal recollections, etc., showing everyday motoring (not competition events) on unsealed roads from circa 1980, and back as far as we can go.

Powys County Council and S33 event authorisations - the ongoing dialogue between ACU/LARA/MSA and Powys CC continues ... we seem to be heading towards a conclusion. This is taking an immense amount of time, and costing all three motorsport organisations money, but, unfortunately, we can't give any more details at the moment as we're still involved in an ongoing technical debate with Powys about the legal issues.

Lara Website: Please encourage everyone within your organisation to sign-up for email alerts when the site is updated. This is the best possible way to make them aware of what LARA does and why your organisation continues to support LARA and its activities. See www.laragb.org The sign-up facility is in the footer.

Next 2017 Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 27th September, ACU, Rugby.

Andrew Brown, Honorary Chairman LARA chairman@laragb.org

ASWMC Team just miss out on Inter-Association Title ...

The ASWMC Car Trials team just missed out on taking the title at the 2017 MSA Inter-Association Team Car Trial Challenge, losing out by just a slender 3.11 points, but were consoled by a team member taking the overall win.

Hosted by the Association of North-Western Car Clubs, the event used North Wales CC's 55th Gerry P Evans Memorial Cymru Trial on 22nd July for the challenge – and quite a challenge it proved to be as wet ground, drying in warm sunshine in the morning, was followed by a downpour during the lunchbreak so that the afternoon conditions were totally different.

As the first cars started the afternoon sections the rain stopped and sunshine returned to dry out the sections for the final round. These varied conditions and sections posed a challenge for all, and Shaun Franklin from the ASWMC team emerged as the overall winner,

Pictured:

Shaun Franklin at work in his Citroen Saxo VTS



However, it was the host Association, strong in Trials but never having won the Team Challenge before, that took victory thanks to excellent results from their Yorkshire trio of drivers.

Results:

Position:	Association:	Driver:	Car:	Index:	Total:
1st	ANNWC	Henry Kitching	Vauxhall Corsa	80.33	275.88
		John Wadsworth	Ford KA	109.84	
		Rupert North	Rover Mini	85.71	
2nd	ASWMC	Shaun Franklin	Citroën Saxo VTS	78.69	278.99
		Mark Hoppé	Rover Mini	108.16	
		Barrie Parker	Westfield SEi	92.14	
3rd	WAMC	Jon Turner	Ford Street KA	139.34	488.94
		Kevin Roberts	Dutton Phaeton	174.80	
		Ioan Roberts	Dutton Phaeton	174.80	
NC	AWMMC	Trevor Moffatt	Vauxhall Corsa Sport	100.82	NC
		Dave Oliver	Hillman Imp	Retired	
		Steve Courts	Hillman Imp	90.79	

Around the Clubs ...



Epynt MC's have reconfigured their Old Forge Garage/Brian Dennis Motorsport Mewla and Rally Marketing Mini Mewla rallies to a dual format in conjunction with their return to the Royal Welsh Showground, where the whole event, including the service area and Rally Village, will be based.

The majority of the 65 competitive miles of the Mewla Rally will be run on new stage layouts on the Epynt military range whereas the Mini Mewla, designed for 2WD competitors, will run exclusively at showground, with 8 stages totalling 20 miles keeping the action going all day, the first time the showground has hosted Mewla stages since the late 1990's.

To keep costs down for competitors there will be no reconnaissance this year.

Marshals will be needed - please contact the Chief Marshal, Geoff Harper, on 07791 415471 or by e-mail at mewlachiefmarshal@epyntmc.co.uk -

The winning crew in the Road Rally Class on the Mewla Rally will receive a free entry to the club's DG Jones Powys Lanes Rally on 4th/5th November. Based in Builth Wells, the event is a round of both the ASWMC Navigational Open and Novice, and WAMC Basic Roamer road rally championships. Further details are at www.epyntmc.co.uk



Brighton & Hove MC will have an innovation at this year's national speed trials on September 2nd, in the form of a raised viewing area extending 70 metres past the start line and a 24-square metre LCD screen so that spectators will be able to watch the whole 1/4-mile run.

In addition, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lotus 7, the club will be staging a static display of six of the classic 7 model.

The Brighton Speed Trial is the oldest, still running, motorsport event in the world, having started in 1905.

Tickets at a 20% discount from the gate price can be purchase in advance from the club website on our website as above.



Classic and Social ...



Oxford MC's 2017 Scenic Tour - 'Cars to the Claydons' - on Saturday 2nd September will have a novel start this year, with entrants enjoying breakfast whilst riding on a diesel Rail Car along the preserved Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway. The touring route then takes in 35-mile run along the Chiltern Edge (taking in Kop Hill) before venturing onto the flatter land south of Aylesbury.



A new half-way refreshment halt at the Worlds End Garden Centre (with toilets, restaurant and Costa Coffee outlet for those in need!) precedes the second half which returns to the Chiltern edge and the famous Aston Hill before turning west to finish at the Claydon Estate. In keeping with the ethos of 'Cars in the Claydons', the touring assembly is aimed at the owners/drivers of classic cars over 20 years old, and the route will use mainly B roads and wider minor roads; the lack of steep climbs will make it suitable for vehicles of all ages and more modern cars will also be considered.

The entries secretary is Shirley Blackwell who can be contacted on 01788 339500 or 07842 205453, or by e-mail to shirleyblackwell@btinternet.com

See also the club's website page at <http://www.oxfordmotorclub.co.uk/cars-to-the-claydons/>



Torbay MC, supported by their Wiscombe Park hill-climb sponsor, H R Owen Ecurie, will be holding a social 'breakfast club' style event at the Kenton Park Estate Vineyard on September 3rd, with a display of classic, modern and competition cars. The event will also feature a choice of optional touring routes on the best of the local roads for those who would like a scenic drive in their car either before, or after, 'breakfast or brunch' in the on-site restaurant, where refreshments will be in constant supply.



Further details will be available soon on the club's website www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk

2017 Championship Reviews

ASWMC 2017 Hillclimb Championship

There are 8 rounds left to run in the championship, four of which are double-header rounds at Castle, Wiscombe, Manor Farm and Tregrehan.

There have been four different leaders so far, with a clear winner yet to emerge; Paul Reynolds started the season with a flourish of seven record setting times, so he appears to be the likely candidate, but Ben Bonfield is still close. Also, keep an eye on Rodney Thorne as a podium candidate even though he is lurking in 13th place at the moment ...

It's good to report that both championship registrations and scorers are higher than in 2016.

ASWMC 2017 Sprint Championship

There is just one round left to run in this championship and we have had five different, and again there is no clear winner emerging. Roger Brunt and Elen Worthington look the most likely candidates, but any of the current top three could do it, especially considering the dropped scores process.

We may have two additional venues on next year's calendar. One is at Portreath, on the 26th and 27th August, where I will be a club steward; I can't say anything about the other event at the moment as the information I have been given is limited.

Roy Sims



2017 Sealed Surface Rally Championship

After the 3 Counties Rally, Chris Wheeler heads the drivers table, just 4 and 11 points ahead of Danielle and Steve Furzeland; behind them South Hams MC's Dan Gibson completes the current award-winning placings.

In the co-drivers' championship table, Steve Wheeler leads by Yvonne Furzeland by 10 points with Exmouth MC's Chris Beer in third place. Behind them Jason Personage, Tom Gross and Dawn England are all covered by just 10 points.



2017 Loose Surface Rally Championship

With three rounds gone, Martyn England leads Richard Barrow by 12 points in the drivers' championship, with Fred Camp and Rex Ireland a further 14 and 17 points adrift respectively.

In the co-drivers' championship, Dawn England enjoys a similar margin over Andrew Richards, whilst Roger Gillard is tied with Alex Stanbury on 36 points and Adrian Scadding is only three points behind them.

Alan Whitney

2017 Open & Novice Navigational Road Rally Championships

After a busy start to the year, the championship pace has settled until the restart in September. Tim Owen leads the drivers' championship with 48 points, followed by Simon Heywood on 35 points with Paul Watts and Phil Harris on his tail just a couple of points behind.

The navigators table is headed by Jake Ramsden who has taken three maximum scores, with Shaun Leyland next 41 points and Andrew Lowe a further 10 points adrift. Andrew made his driving debut at North Devon MC's autocross, so perhaps we have a star in the making on the roads!

Just to confirm the Autumn dates changes (see page 4 – Ed), SHMCs Guy Fawkes Rally has been renamed the Harvest Rally and will take place on on the 21st/22nd October, and Exmouth MC's Barbara Carter Rally will now be held on the 25th/26th November so that their routes do not conflict with other events being run in the Autumn in a relatively small area.

Looking ahead to 2018, some organisers have put forward ideas that have promise, so there might be a few changes to the championship for next year - watch this space...

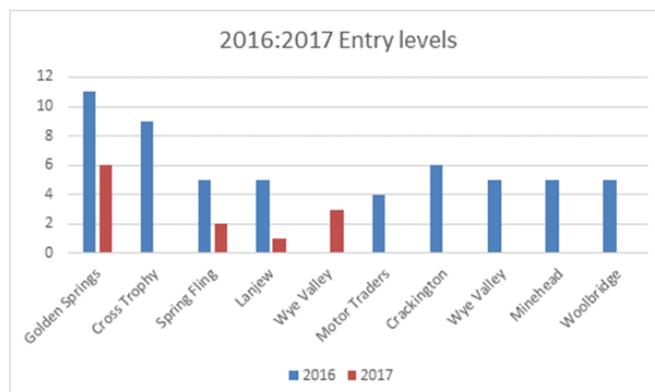
Roger Gillard



2017 Car Trials Championship

Five rounds out of a total of ten planned (best 6 to count) for 2017 have now taken place, but disappointingly entries from championship contenders are very low.

We have 17 registered contenders of which only 7 have scored points, and 5 of those only scored as they were contenders in MSA/BTRDA national championships, i.e. only 2 "true" ASWMC contenders attended.



Previous champion Dave Robinson has attended several rounds but has not registered with the championship. After last year's leap in contenders I am not sure what the issue is and the feedback is not forthcoming ... are there too many rounds, or too few, or in the wrong places?

As I write this the Launceston event is scheduled tomorrow with a low entry – about 10 to 12 (I have not seen a list) but I have been informed that I am the only entrant in fwd (although there is a 'promised' double drive fwd attending). On this basis, I withdrew as I have no appetite to attend a trial with no guaranteed competition and a 240-mile round trip; so I imagine we will have another round with no contenders competing.

Looking forward I hope that we will have a good event at Holsworthy – which generally has a good turnout - but there may not be many championship contenders, possibly only four. We then go to Minehead, Windwhistle and Woolbridge, all central locations in the ASWMC area.

We will have a champion but my concern is that, sadly, the 2017 championship may be won by turning up rather than by being the best.

Mark Hoppé



2017 Classic Reliability Trials Championship

Since the spring newsletter just two further championship events have run. Dave and Keith had put a lot of effort into finding new sections for the popular Torbay Trial and provided a challenging trial for all, particularly as heavy rainfall just before the event made the sections very muddy and testing. Craig Allen and Matt Facey achieved good class wins and Aaron Haizelden, Ray Ferguson and Paul Merson all took second places in the National B event.

Two weeks later, Camel Vale MC's President's Trial had a disappointingly low entry, perhaps due to its more remote location. Keith Sanders and Matt Facey once again won their classes; Craig Allen, who currently leads the championship was forced to retire, along with Dave Haizelden who is still getting to grips with his rear wheel drive Scimitar after years of success in his class 1 Golf.

Carlie Hart



2017 Sporting Trials Championship

It was a great shame that the last month's Calvin Kneebone sporting trial had to be cancelled the night before due to issues with access to the venue, heavy rain the day before not helping one little bit! It would have been a fabulous event in its inaugural running in the Reis ASWMC championship.

So, after the first five rounds the leading places are extremely close; Andy Wilks leads in his new Crossle, having taken his maiden overall win at round three, the Presidents Trophy. Colin Flashman is hot on his heels just two points behind, with Alan Murton, John Cole and Jerome Fack all within two further points. Behind the leading five, three more drivers are tied on twenty points (less than a class win behind Andy) - Stuart Beare, Alan Baker and myself, with scores, both victories.

This year we have thirteen contenders; the autumn will see six events, three of which take place over nine days in September - so make sure your cars are ready!

The BTRDA has changed its class structure to encourage live axle cars back out on the hills; this raises the question whether our 2018 championship should follow suit or continue with the existing three class structure, solely based on driver results.

Please let me know your views while you fettle in the garage or earn brownie points at home over the summer.

Duncan Stephens



2017 Southern Counties Autocross Championship

It's been a very encouraging start to the season with all four events that have run receiving about 40 entries. There have been several new faces at every event and the number of juniors has increased considerably.

Torbay MC hosted the first event at a stunning new venue in East Devon; access to the track from the pits involved a shallow river crossing and with a challenging course layout everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

Newcomer Oliver Foord raised a few eyebrows by setting some very quick overall times overall in his production class Peugeot and Dan Rooke, driving Roger Brunt's intimidating Corsa, did his utmost to wring everything from the car, made for great viewing of the elevated course. Overall honours were shared between Dan and Simon Ford as their amalgamated times could not be split.

North Devon MC put on another great event at the Sugworthy Circuit in mid-May but were unlucky for the weather to break before the final runs had been completed, although plenty of drivers enjoyed the slippery conditions! In the overall lead overnight, Simon Ford held a significant lead from Oliver Foord who in turn was only 1.5 seconds ahead of Roger Brunt. With the weather deteriorating on Sunday, Simon held on to FTD and, try as he might, Roger had to give best to Oliver for the runner up spot by 0.6secs! An identical winning margin was enough for Jason Byrom to beat Alan Tapscott and the closest finish was found in the juniors where just 0.2 seconds over the weekend separated winner Jaidon Bennett from Jenson Covers.

After a short early-season break, that some competitors had put to good use for alterations and repairs, Zeal Monachorum was the returning venue that South Hams and Exeter MCs used for their co-promoted event. The early 'green' course conditions caught out many but it wasn't long before grip started coming through and times began to tumble. The most notably improved driver was Michael Wilson, who drove a car for the first time and competed in his first ever event at North Devon, and put in very competitive times in his class. Mark Tredwell entered for the first time this season and immediately showed his intentions by going 6 seconds quicker than Roger Brunt. Sunday's times tumbled as the track became less green and Simon Ford battled back after a fail on his quickest Saturday run, setting a time some 10 seconds quicker than Mark's overnight benchmark. Tredwell held nothing back on his final run of the weekend to eclipse this and take FTD in his flamboyant style.

Robert Hall made the trip from Oxford for Sunday and proved that Oliver Foord can be beaten in A2, whilst Kieran Anderson started to get to grips with a new engine set up in the Smart, finishing just 2 seconds shy of Mark Tredwell's fastest Sunday time. The Juniors continue to impress with the top 3 finishing with a gap of just 2secs between each of them.

North Devon MC's July event marked the halfway point of the season and a revised track layout was warmly received by all as a new challenge. The Junior class gained another competitor in Jason Irwin, who soon learnt how slippery driving on grass can be, but by the end of the

weekend he looked more than capable. Richard Davies returned with a special, after not liking his car of choice at the earlier event, and despite only completing one timed run on Saturday was only 1.1 seconds from Simon Ford's overnight lead, with Kieran Anderson just 0.6 seconds adrift in 2nd place. Class A2 entries have returned to former levels with several new, and some not so new, faces returning to the sport, and some great inter-class battles and bravado seem to be coming to the surface!

One of the hot topics on Sunday came from the Holton camp and there weren't many that didn't hear that Grace managed to beat Stuart on the day! The Cozens/Bennett battle continued in the Juniors, with this time Jenson coming out on top. Stuart Holton was unfortunate to miss out to Roger Brunt for top spot in Class D, possibly due to the pressure from trying to beat Grace. The battle for FTD looked to be going in Ford's favour after the 2nd run on Sunday until both he and Richard Davies recorded fails on run 3, whilst the track was at its best, and a clean run from Anderson (after a frustrating morning of re-runs) yielded an excellent time for FTD by 12 seconds, a year from winning his 1st FTD award at the same event. NDMC are to be congratulated for attracting enough marshals and club members to run the event in difficult weather conditions and for their hospitality on Saturday evening.

Next event sees Southsea MC and Isle of Wight CC co-hosting at Duxmore Farm on the Isle of Wight on August 12th and 13th. A lot of time and effort has been put in by both clubs to secure a superb venue and arranging significant discounted ferry prices. The buzz about the event is extremely pleasing and if anyone is interested in either competing or marshalling, SRs and ferry bookings etc. are all available from the relevant websites or myself.

It's impossible to include everyone in this report but I'd like to thank you all for your participation so far this season - the numbers speak for themselves, as I'm sure you will agree. We have a great sport with great atmosphere and competitors - let's keep it that way.

See you at our overseas round soon!

Colin Anderson



2017 Autotest Championship

Having tried to establish a championship from the Autotests listed by the clubs running events in 2017, there has been little take up on the actual events run, so the table on the website shows only the events which did go ahead to date.

Our thanks go to Ross and District who put on a great event for just one ASWMC contender - a great shame! I drove the event and although not a typical Autotest it was great fun – hopefully the club will confirm that there was no additional work to add an ASWMC section and that there was no need to change the format of the event to accommodate us. It would be nice to see other clubs embracing the ASWMC championship within the events they run.

Camel Vale MCs event had the misfortune to clash with other events and this meant there were no championship contenders at their event. However, the event was on grass and this might also have discouraged entries.

With only two scorers at present there is no leader, and with only two events still scheduled to run (Bath MC on each occasion), the championship this year is very flat, although hopefully it will be completed with at least 5 event scores counting.

One of Bath MCs' events this year is the Inter-Association Championship, so hopefully this will run. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to represent the ASWMC. The format is very much the same as always - teams of three, with each team member to be from a different class.

Having been involved in Autotesting for nearly 30 years I think it would be a great shame if the discipline died out in the South West. Can I put a call out to all clubs in the area to ask, if you run an Autotest of any format, that you offer it up for inclusion in the 2018 championship? Registrations are slightly up this year, but that still means only seven registered contenders so your event will not be overrun! Please remember that as the organising club you do not need to do anything differently - produce the results in the normal way, and we will sort out the championship points.

It would be great to get back to the heady days of 40 entries for an area event - we can only hope and ask for the assistance of our member clubs.



2017 Autosolo Championship

Five events have run to date, and the results are available on the ASWMC website.

As you may be aware, Bristol MC has lost Chepstow racecourse as a venue for this year – hopefully normal service will resume and the club can run two events in 2018.

The ASWMC Autosolo championship has attracted more points-scoring registered contenders in 2017. If we can continue this trend in 2018, and increase the number of championship events, we should develop a strong base for future inter-association events.

If your club is running an Autosolo in 2018, please put it forward for the championship - it would be great to have a championship of around 12 events at several different venues.

I, and I think all our registered contenders, would like to thank the organisers and marshals who do a remarkable job putting on events. It is important that we recognise all those involved who give up their time, not only on the day but also for many evenings in the weeks before and after an event, so that we can have a great day's motor sport at a reasonable cost.

The current championship leader is Steve Conner, with Antony Brown and Ben Ashley in hot pursuit, with at least three other drivers all capable of climbing into first place given good finishes over the four remaining rounds.

Please contact me by e-mail to autotest@aswmc.org.uk or ernieburles@gmail.com for updates on these two championships.

Ernie Burles

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