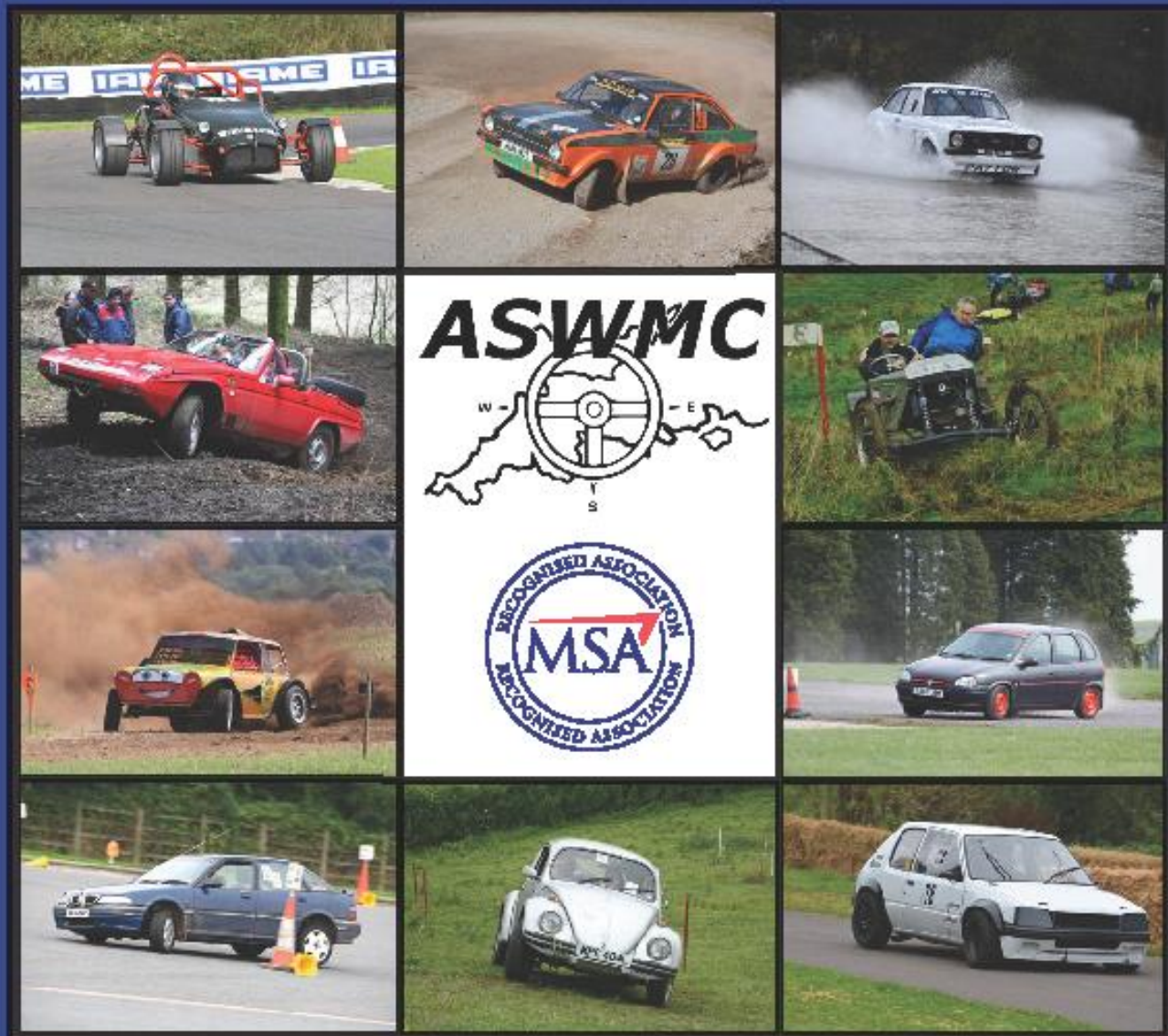


ASWMC

Association of South-Western Motor Clubs



South West News

Spring 2014

www.aswmc.org.uk



Welcome to the 2014 ASWMC Championship Spring Newsletter

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Firstly, please pay very close attention to the piece from the Executive Committee on page 5. This concerns a very serious issue, with significant implications for anyone asked to participate in certain events. It was the subject of extended debate at the March meeting and the statement is the outcome of that discussion.

At the same meeting, the Committee agreed that an e-mail would be sent to all registered contenders and club contacts, recommending support for closed roads for motor sport on the government's on-line consultation. If silence is a sign of agreement, then the overwhelming majority of you think that this can only be a good thing for the sport. However, there were two e-mails voicing serious concerns, both from people with a long track record in road rallying, who fear that the passing of a bill to allow the suspension of the Road Traffic Act, under local authority control, would signal the end of rallying in the lanes. As far as I'm aware there is nothing in the proposals to 'swap' one form of event for another, nor anything to suggest that the current regulations, that permit competition on roads open to the public, would be withdrawn. It is an understandable fear; road rallying is significantly less expensive than stage rallying, especially for newcomers (who we need to attract), and is the training ground for excellence in map reading and in-car timing in rallying - we would be the poorer if it were to be lost. If a bill comes before Parliament and is passed, it will be a fantastic opportunity to put UK motorsport – of all disciplines - on an equal footing with the rest of Europe. We will just need to focus on working together – across disciplines - to ensure that nothing is lost in the process.

This is the first newsletter to leave out the championship points tables and calendars, as detailed in this column in the last issue, and the website has those listings to view at any time.

Please continue to send in any news items, stories, anecdotes and pictures from our region's events.

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.)

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News in Brief...

Brighton Speed Trials saved ... see 'From the Chair ...' (next page) ...

The Motorsport Safety Fund has released three rally-safety films, for Organisers, Marshals and Competitors. They are available free at www.motorsportsafetyfund.com

Camel Vale Motor Club now has a new website: www.camelvalemotorclub.com

Bath MC's Festival Road Rally attracted a bumper 52 car entry which attracted a side-bar mention in Motorsports News ...

Fat Albert Stages cancelled; see page 9

The next ASWMC Council Meeting will be at the AGM on Sunday 26th October, at the Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, nr Tiverton.

From the Chair ...

I do hope that, by the time you receive this, you will have all responded to the Government Consultation on "Closed Roads" for motorsport, which closed on 10th April. The MSA's CEO described it as a "once in a lifetime opportunity" and he wasn't kidding - it's close to 90 years since the MSA last issued a speed event permit for public roads!

I have a report of a pilot Autotest event in November that might appeal those of you that run, or compete in, autotests. The Chairman of the Autotest Committee adopted a new and simpler method for course signage which enabled novices to participate without a map of the course. The report contains more details and some examples of test formats, including how each "gate" was signed. Just e-mail me if you'd like a copy.

There are two issues which have recently come to light affecting Unsealed Surface Special Stage rallying. Firstly, the maximum average speed of special stages will be raised from 65mph to 70mph at the beginning of 2015. Secondly the MSA has published a list of permitted tyres that can be used, also from next year; you can see the list on the MSA website (www.msauk.org). A list of permitted remould tyres will also be published soon. So if you are currently have any tyres that are not on those lists, you'd better make sure you use them up this year!

The MSA operates a couple of competitions each year in which we urge you to take part. Firstly, the "Club of the Year" is a competition in which our regional clubs have proved fairly successful during past years but, for reasons unknown, not recently. As your Regional Association, the ASWMC are keen to help clubs formulate their entries to the 2014 competition. Apparently last year's competition was weak, both in quality and entries, so the MSA would like to see both of those elements increased. As there's a 4-figure prize on offer, is it not worth a try to secure funds for your club?

Secondly, the Volunteer of the Year award has a variety of classes; these cover the whole range of volunteer roles that are needed to make the sport we love work! Here again the ASWMC will do all it can to help you formulate an entry, so don't hesitate to e-mail me if you feel we might be able to support you.

The MSA Club Survey eventually reached a response rate of about 40% of clubs, which by motorsport standards is really quite high! The MSA are in the process of formulating those responses and a report will be produced in due course. Ultimately it is intended to form the basis for enhancing the service that the MSA provides.



Lastly, the support that Brighton & Hove Motor club sought in its bid to save the Brighton Speed Trials was successful. The council received close to 12,500 responses, changed its mind and granted permission for the Trials to run, not just this year, but also in 2015 and 2016.

I hope you all have an enjoyable season in 2014.

Paul Parker, Chairman

From the ASWMC Executive Committee ...

Events running without a MSA permit

ASWMC member clubs are urged to be mindful that any motorsport event they promote which falls with the MSA's jurisdiction must be run in accordance with MSA Regulations. They are obliged to do so by their affiliate membership of the MSA. Failure to heed this may lead to their membership of MSA being terminated – 'dis-affiliation' – for which there are precedents. A club that loses its MSA membership would also lose its ASWMC membership and the inclusion of their future events' in ASWMC Championships. Members of a dis-affiliated club would also be unable to nominate it as their club in their ASWMC Championships' registration and the club would consequently be likely to lose the support of ASWMC Championship contenders.

Club Officials, external officials, marshals and competitors all need to be aware that they are only protected by the MSA's Master Insurance Policy when events take place under a MSA Permit. Participation in any motorsport event that does not have a MSA Permit renders you ineligible for benefits under the MSA Master Insurance Policy (see Appendix 2 of the 'Blue Book'). A 'one-off, event-specific' insurance policy, even one provided by the MSA's own brokers, is very unlikely to provide the same level of benefits as those provided under the Master Insurance Policy for MSA-permitted events. Such insurance would have to be arranged by the event promoters' and the policy cover of risks is very unlikely to be as extensive as under the MSA Master policy. In the event of an incident, officials, marshals and competitors all risk becoming implicated in personal liability claims that might involve significant settlements for damages; both they and the organising club could also be implicated if claims for damages are made against the landowner on whose land the event takes place.

Competitors also need to be aware that the offences of dangerous, careless or inconsiderate driving under the Road Traffic Act also extend to a public place (anywhere members of the public are admitted either free of charge or upon payment of a fee) not on the highway. Police action could ensue following an incident at such an event.

In summary, there are significant risks and dangers for **everyone** who is involved in any motorsport event which takes place **without** an MSA Permit.

Reminders ...

MSA Marshal's Grading Scheme

The MSA have published a marshal's grading scheme for Rallies and Cross-country events; you can download the scheme as a pdf file at:

http://www.msauk.org/uploadedfiles/msa_forms/Rally_Scheme.pdf

Scoring ASWMC Championship Points

Please note that in order to score points in an ASWMC Championship a competitor must have a minimum of a Clubman's Licence (see D.4.5.4 in the Blue Book).

2014 Championship Registration

The 2014 Championship Contender Registration form is available on the ASWMC website – simply click on the link on the 'Home' page to complete the form on the site and/or download a printable copy to keep for your records.

Event Regulations

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

Registered Contenders' Event Entries

Event organisers are also reminded that Regulation 10b of the ASWMC Rules (page 9 of the 2014 yearbook) requires that they retain 20 entries for registered contenders until either those entries have been taken or the closing date has passed, whichever is the sooner.

Photography

Please send photos of ASWMC events to newsletter@aswmc.org.uk with details of the event, location (including specifics such as the corner or stage), car, driver/crew, the photographer (if crediting is required) and any other information available.

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/>

Programmable Rally Clocks For Hire:

For details please contact Alan Whitney (rally@aswmc.org.uk) or

Exmouth Motor Club - <http://www.exmouthmotorclub.co.uk>

Training

The second 2014 ASWMC marshal training days is provisionally scheduled for **October 19th, at Wiscombe Park**. Disciplines to be confirmed – your ideas for topics are very welcome and I will aim to include them.

Further details as and when available will be on the ASWMC and VIM websites. If club newsletter/magazine editors could let me know how to contact them I am happy to let them have further details for their publications.

Please book with me, Roger Nunn, ASWMC Training Officer on 01823 652676,

Or by e-mail at: training@aswmc.co.uk or rogernunn7@hotmail.co.uk

Or via the VIM web site: <http://www.volunteersinmotorsport.co.uk>

Roger Nunn

Continuing Professional Development ...



Since the last Executive Committee meeting of 2013, the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for committee members has gathered pace, albeit triggered by a chance discovery. In an e-mail exchange between the Chair and Treasurer, it emerged that the former's knowledge of potato-based baked snacking goods ('PBBSG') was significantly below the high standards demanded in a modern organisational environment. More worryingly, there was also evidence of a dangerous level of confusion between one particular brand of PBBSG and the branding of certain woollen upper-body warmth preservers ('WUBWP'), especially those often favoured by the golfing fraternity. Your corporate-veteran Treasurer swung into action, delivering a highly efficient high-tech fly-by-wire remote coaching technique in line with the association's Competency Rating Improvement Support Programme ('CRISP'), with excellent results. At the March meeting, the successful graduate of the programme was presented with an award, to his obvious delight and the applause of other committee members.

2013 ASWMC Awards Presentation

The 2013 ASWMC Championship Awards presentation took place at Colyford Village Hall on Sunday 23rd February, with a total of 70 trophies, cups, salvers and shields being awarded.

Michael Southcombe, ASWMC President, presented the winners with their rewards for their 2013 season's efforts, ably assisted by Mike Potter from Bridge Tyres and Wheels Point S and Steve Furzeland from WRC Spares.

The following is just a selection of the award winners; all photographs are by Terry Thorne of Tel T Motorsport Photography and you can see the gallery of the whole presentation at <http://www.teltp photography.com/ASWMC-2014.aspx>.



BRIDGE TYRES & WHEELS **point S**

Colin Satchell (Peugeot 205GTi), 2013 Champion - Bridge Tyres & Wheels Point S Hill Climb Championship – receiving his award from Mike Potter, championship sponsor.

BRIDGE TYRES & WHEELS **point S**

Ian Parr (Sylva Riot), 2013 Champion - Bridge Tyres & Wheels Point S Sprint Championship - with Mike Potter, championship sponsor.





Josh Payton (Ford Escort Mk2), 2013 Champion – Subaru WRC Spares Ltd Sealed Surface Stage Rally Championship – receiving his award from Steve Furzeland, championship sponsor.



Dan Rooke (Autocross) - 2013 Champion - REIS Under-21s Championship – receiving his award from Michael Southcombe, ASWMC President.



Roger Brunt (Autocross & Sprint) - 2013 Champion – REIS All Rounders' Championship – receiving his award from Michael Southcombe, ASWMC President.



Lost & Found Department 1 ...

Camel Vale Motor Club is trying to trace the Radford Trophy, which was awarded for rallying. If you have this trophy, know where it may be or who might have it on their mantelpiece, please contact the Club Secretary, Pam Hartill, by e-mail at pam.hartill@btinternet.com

2014 Boconnoc Carnival – Sunday 27th July



Featuring a sealed-surface stage rally, this popular event is also a showcase for motor sport and Go Motorsport will be there to attract new enthusiasts, and potential competitors, officials and marshals. The organisers have places remaining for any ASWMC club or championship to display within the park during the event. Display space is free of charge; e-mail web@shmc.co.uk for details or visit the South Hams MC website –

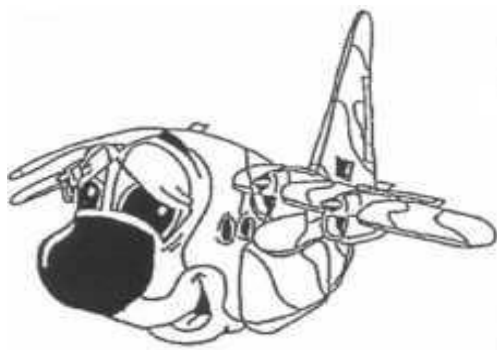
<http://www.shmc.co.uk/index.php/events/boconnoc-carnival>

Fat Albert Stages rally ...

It is with great regret that Tavern MC and RAFMSA had to announce the cancellation of the 2014 Fat Albert Stages. A major project being undertaken at Keevil Airfield by the MoD will start in the summer and after due consideration the two clubs decided that there are too many issues, with potential disruption for both the event and contractors, for the event to run as scheduled.

The clubs have enjoyed 15 very successful events at Keevil airfield, being voted both the Best ACSMC and Best ASWMC Sealed Surface Rally on several occasions, and they thank all officials, marshals and competitors for their part in those successes.

The clubs are monitoring the situation at the airfield, and will continue to do so as the works progress, with a view to returning there in the future, depending on the eventual layout of the available sections of road.



Lost & Found Department 2 ...

The following is an excerpt from an organisers' e-mail to competitors following a recent Classic Reliability Trial ...

“Found:

A black hat with “Bradford’s” in red lettering, left at signing-off;

A red trolley jack found at Coombeshead Copse;

A passenger from one of the Outfits, found face down in the mud at Upper Kingswell – we think he goes by the name of “Walter”?”

Apparently some sections were exceptionally muddy ...!

2014 Championship Updates



2014 Hillclimb Championship

The hill climb championship has yet to start, with the first event being Woolbridge's April Wiscombe promotion on 26th and 27th. Entry levels are already high for both these and the May Wiscombe events and the latter had only a few spaces left at the beginning of this month. If you want to compete you need to send in your entry as soon as you receive my e-mail.

NB. Date Change:

Please be sure to make a note of the change of date for Tregrehan September weekend; this has now been re-scheduled to October 11th and 12th.

Roy Sims



2014 Sprint Championship

Two rounds of this championship have taken place and the leading protagonists appear to be former champions Ian Parr and Bradley Hobday; there is a long way to go yet! Ian Parr has broken the class record at both events so far this year and to stay at the top of the tables he will need to continue to do this as he seems to have little in the way of class opposition. Bradley broke the class record at Combe but not his outright record at Clay.

It is always good to see new people come into the championships; some need time to learn and others come in and are near the top of the table from the off, so well done to you. I don't need to name them but there are a couple of newcomers to this championship already in the top 5.

Entry levels for the championship seem a little down on last year at this time, so please encourage your friends to register. On the other hand, entry levels for the events are fairly high - I think that Bournemouth & District MC's Clay Pigeon event was nearly full on the day.

Regulations are now out for the Llandow and Pembrey events, as will those for Abingdon very soon. Don't forget that Abingdon will be 2 events in one day as far as ASWMC scores are concerned, saving on travel for the chance to register two good scores - this is a great event, although it can be very busy.

Roy Sims



2014 Southern Counties Autocross Championship

We welcome back Wickford AC to the 2014 calendar, which has at least one event each month from April until September. A rally car class has been re-introduced for 2014, run in accordance with the MSA regulations, i.e. with MOT and Log Book. Organisers have been asked that all rally cars run separately from the regular autocross machines, both for practise and official timed runs. The classes are G1, for 2wd stage rally cars up to 1600cc and G2, for 2wd stage rally cars over 1600cc (See N.4.9.4).

The number of event results to count towards the Championship will be approximately the best two-thirds of qualifying events held, as follows:

Events run: 16 or more Best 10 rounds to count
 14 or 15 Best 9 rounds to count
 12 or 13 Best 8 rounds to count
 10 or 11 Best 7 rounds to count
 8 or 9 Best 6 rounds to count
 6 or 7 Best 5 rounds to count
 Less than 6: All rounds to count

Forty-three contenders registered before Round 1, with many new names, including some junior drivers. This is highest number of registrations for many years, possibly at least twice that of any other regional Association. 45 competitors signed-on for Weston-Super-Mare's Sandocross in perfect weather; 26 were registered contenders and six were competing in their first Autocross.

Witney MC's Joe Kitchen had the dubious honour of being the first of two drivers to roll whilst Tim Comer (North Devon MC) repeated the feat in the same place but at least landed back on his wheels!

In the 4wd class, Alan Holly (Evo) drove well once he found that it performed better with petrol in the tank (!) and Chris Georgiou brought along an interesting, and fabulous sounding, 3.9 litre SWB Land Rover.



Galway's David Fallon and Ian Burne entered their Specials, setting the event alight and finishing well clear of the rest. Mark Tredwell gave his new Mini Special its debut and Stephen Spear wheeled out the well-known ex-Colin Anderson Alfa-engined Special. The locals put up a spirited fight but to no avail in the face of Irish dominance - Ian Burne's FTD was under 30 seconds per lap, on a course of at least 1000 metres.

Lastly, the first round of 2014 witnessed considerable 'gamesmanship' as competitors approached the start for both practice and timed runs. From my commentator's viewpoint, several of the less-experienced drivers were disadvantaged by this practice. As Autocross is the only speed event that does not formally require cars to run in class order, I wonder whether we should consider running in order as in sprints and hill climbs. Your feedback would be welcome.



(Photos – Mike Dodman, Weston Mercury)

Next round: North Devon MC, Sugworthy, on 3rd/4th May.

Tim Walton



2014 Sealed Surface Rally Championship

Jack Gubb and Adam Neisigh lead the drivers and co-drivers tables after two rounds, with series sponsors Steve and Yvonne Furzeland close behind just 6 points adrift. Gary Parker has made a good start to the season in third place, unlike his son Ben (last year's runner-up) who did not score in either event. Kevin Moyses holds third in the co-drivers table.

Next round: Corinium Stages on May 3rd.



2014 Loose Surface Rally Championship

Martyn and Dawn England have taken a commanding lead already after finishing well on all three rounds to date, with Clive Anstey taking up second place in the drivers table, although almost 40 points adrift. In the co-drivers section, neither Pam Hilton nor Rupert Barker (*Who? - Ed*) have recorded a score.

Next round: Carmarthen & Epynt MCs' Coracle Stages on 15th June.

2014 Open & Novice Navigational and Endurance Road Rally Championships

Three drivers, Chris Pratt, Phil Harris and David Thorpe, are separated by just 8 points; in the co-drivers section Liam Burns has set-up a healthy lead but Jeff Brown, Ross Whittock and Jake Ramsden are within just 3 points of each other.

The Novice championship is a tight affair, with Tom Pile/Mark Butler on 51 points and Gareth Andrews/Luke Quinnet very close behind on 48.

Next round: Devizes' Myotis Rally over the Easter weekend, 19th and 20th April.

In the Endurance Road Rally Championship, Paul Watts and Ross Whittock have healthy leads in the drivers and co-drivers' tables after the opening round, the South-West Enduro.

Next round: Ross & District CC's Ross Enduro on 26th and 27th April.

NB. The MSA have advised that the correct name for the new ASWMC rally championship, announced in the last newsletter, is the Endurance *Road* Rally Championship...

Alan Whitney

For the first time, certainly in my memory, the ASWMC championship entry for the Woolbridge Golden Springs event actually exceeded that of both the MSA and BTRDA championships, which bodes well for our 2014 championship.

This was, as always, a splendidly organised event and started well; with all sections rapidly deteriorating, as the grass turned to mud, everyone was soon struggling for grip as the scores mounted. Only two cars managed to reach the top of a section, the Nova of Bill and Trevor Moffat and the Citroen Saxo of James Forsyth in the Clubman's event. By the time the second round was under way the rain had arrived and rapidly turned the site into a giant skid pan; with no promise of any improvement, the organisers had no choice but to call a halt to proceedings on safety grounds after the lunch break.

The result was therefore decided on the two completed rounds. Unfortunately eight competitors left without handing in their 2nd round score cards and consequently eliminated themselves from the results.

A superb drive by Mark Hoppe, now using a Citroen Saxo in place of last year's Micra, saw him beat the Renault Clio of (rarely defeated multi-MSA and BTRDA champion) Barrie Parker by 3 points, winning the front wheel drive class 1 and achieving best overall performance, both actual and on index.

In their well-known Reliant SS1, Dave and Anna Robinson also gained maximum points by tying with Dave Hardy's Hillman Imp for 1st in class 2, the only other car in the class (my Suzuki X90) being rather outperformed, although nevertheless gaining 6 points. Woolbridge MC's Andy Webb introduced a welcome Italian presence in the form of an Alfa 147, the marque having never been seen before in trialling, to my knowledge, and he was rewarded with 3rd in class behind Barrie Parker's Clio. The other contenders were Chris Judge, who earned 3 points for 6th in class 1 and Bath's Tom and Ernie Burles; unfortunately they were two of those who did not hand in their 2nd round score-cards, thus depriving themselves of all but 1 point apiece for starting the event. Mark and David thus become joint championship leaders, with Andy Webb and myself tying for 3rd place.

Next round: Bristol Pegasus MC's Cross Trophy trial, on their scenic Dundry site just south of Bristol - Sunday April 27. SRs will be forwarded to all contenders when they are available.

Brian Alexander

2014 Championship Points Tables and Calendars

Updated championship points tables and a list of the remaining rounds will be in the Summer edition of the Newsletter – in the meantime, please go to the ASWMC website for event dates and details if needed.