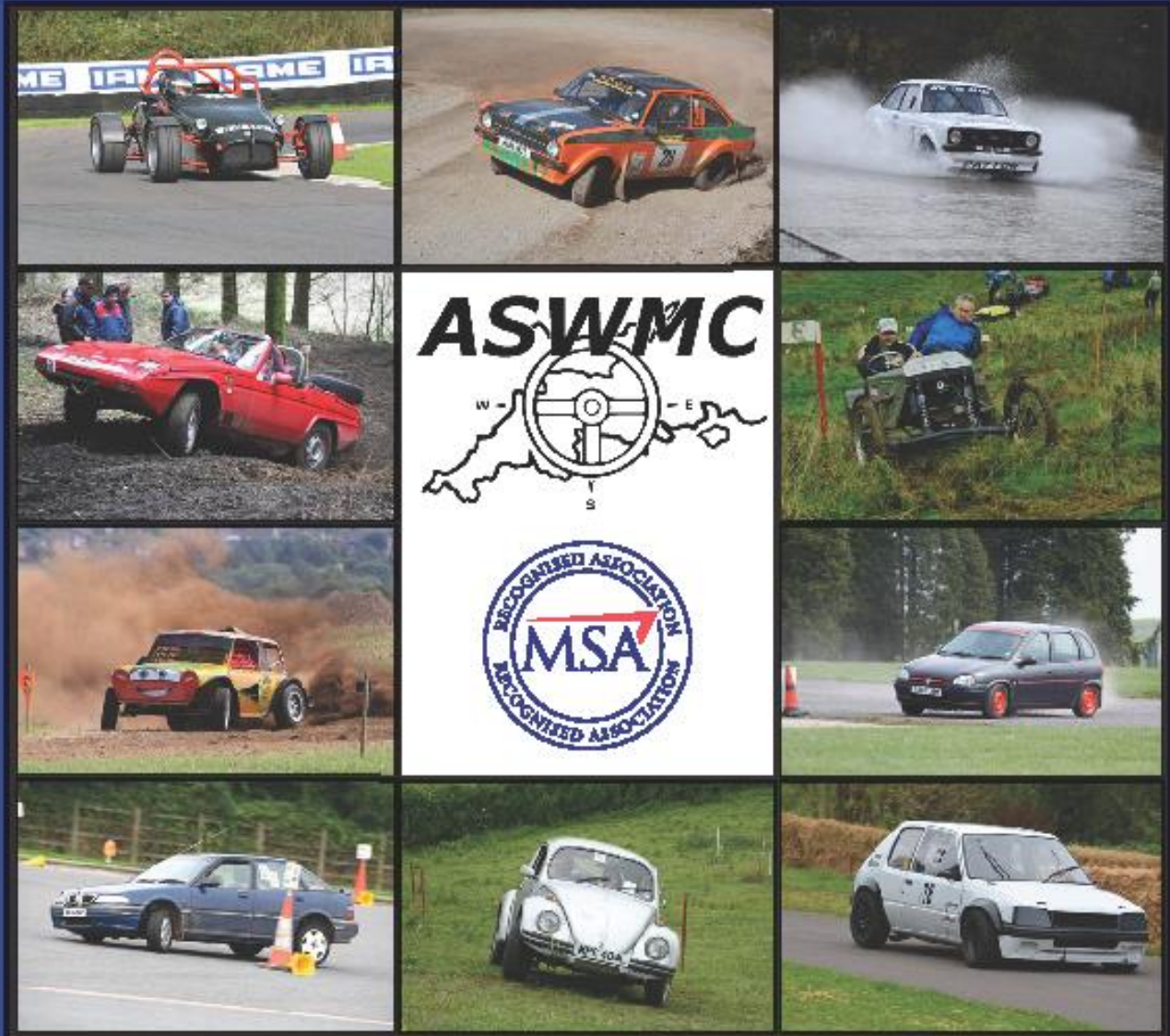


# ASWMC

*Association of South-Western Motor Clubs*



## *South West News*

*Autumn 2014*

[www.aswmc.org.uk](http://www.aswmc.org.uk)



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**Nick Bradbury**

## Welcome to the 2014 ASWMC Championship Autumn Newsletter

With many of the regional championships settled at the time of writing, there is definite sense of 'end-of-term' looming, with only a few rallies and the hardy mud-plugging souls of the classic trials world still battling it out. Many of the final championship points and positions are on the ASWMC website already and complete lists will be published in the Winter edition when competitors have pored over the tables and there has been time for the hard-working coordinators to check their stats if required.

For the first time in the newsletter I have included some notes from the Executive Committee meetings – not everything (we'd like to you stay conscious!) but just the snippets of information and the gist of discussions which we think might be of interest. The purpose is to give everyone an insight into the workings of the committee.

As usual, I am hoping to make the Winter Edition a bumper one, so please let me have any news or stories from 2014 that haven't seen the light of day, either by sending them to your coordinator or directly to me at [newsletter@aswmc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@aswmc.org.uk).

Photos – credited where necessary – are particularly welcome and anything else you'd like to include.

**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.)*



Mark Shillaber – 2014 ASWMC Hillclimb Champion – lifting a wheel at Tregrehan in June (Photo – Ben Bonfield).

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## **News in Brief...**

*MSA's John Symes to guest at Autumn Council Meeting ... see 'From the Chair ...' (this page) ...*

*2014 Awards Presentation venue and date changes ... see page 5 ...*

*Torbay Motor Club launch new website: [www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk](http://www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk) - see page 7*

*The next ASWMC Council Meeting and AGM will be at the AGM **next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October**, at the Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, nr Tiverton.*

**Please attend and have your say about your Regional Association!**

## **From the Chair ...**

I would like to welcome the newest member of the ASWMC Executive committee, Colin Anderson. To say that Colin "takes a close interest in Autocross" would be a huge understatement and he has enthusiastically taken over the role of Autocross Championship Co-Ordinator vacated by Tim Walton. Tim has decided to take break from direct involvement in motorsport for the moment and I would like to thank him for all his efforts over the past few years. Autocross has evolved in this corner of the country into a vibrant discipline, in contrast to the rest of the nation where it is either less strong or even totally non-existent, and I know Colin has plans to develop the discipline further.

A number of member clubs have submitted an entry for the MSA Club of the Year award and one entry has been made for the MSA Volunteer of the Year competition. The ASWMC has its collective fingers crossed for a successful result in both these contests.

We are also very pleased to hear that Newquay AC has found a new venue to replace St Eval, which was lost to motorsport a few years ago. This has kick-started the process of resurrecting sprint events in the Cornwall and Devon area and I know too that Truro MC have plans to revive Predannack as a venue, using new elements in a double header format over two days - hopefully this event will come into being in 2015. There are also plans in prospect for the improvement of Manor Farm hill climb at Charmouth which will, if they came to fruition, improve the course layout significantly, and the prospect of a new loose surface rally in the Devon/Dorset area in 2015.

"News in Brief" in the Summer issue mentioned that North Devon Motor Club had run a "sprint event" at the Castle Hill Festival at Filleigh. The ASWMC Executive was pleased that the club was able to run this event using a totally unique format in the UK and this success allayed the committee's concerns. The issue did, however, highlight that there can be occasions when communication is less than ideal

between clubs, the MSA and the ASWMC. I would like to suggest that when clubs are seeking to run new events that they consult the ASWMC so that we might be able to offer guidance from the outset. I personally am perfectly happy for clubs to contact me as I have a wide range of motorsport experience and MSA contacts, and will know to whom enquiries are best directed if I am unable to help personally.

It is interesting that the suggestion to use the "unique format", mentioned in the previous paragraph, came from the MSA's John Symes. John's role is two-fold. He is responsible for ensuring that all courses and tracks are inspected whenever necessary and the issuing of Track Licences. He also deals with all matters "technical" across the range of disciplines in our sport. John developed his interest in motorsport at the grass roots level, in SE England, and has an understanding of club level motorsport. John will be a guest at our forthcoming ASWMC Council meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Paul Parker, Chairman**

## ***From the ASWMC Executive Committee ...***

### ***Date Clashes, Marshalling and Safety ...***

At the meeting in August the committee discussed the rescheduling of the Regency Stages rally to a date that clashed with the Great Bustard Endurance Rally (November 29<sup>th</sup>). It is understood that the rescheduling of an event is sometimes inevitable, often as a result of changing demands upon a venue owner or operator (e.g. the MOD or a commercial estate). There are increasing reports of organisers struggling to find enough marshals to meet the requirements for the safe running of their event, although when the events(s) concerned are in different disciplines this may not always be a significant problem. However if the events are within the same discipline – in this case rallying – the risk is that both events will be attempting to draw people from the same pool of loyal marshals. In the worst case scenario, the MSA stewards for both events might independently declare themselves dissatisfied with the level of safety and/or marshal cover, and refuse permission to proceed to both events. Consequently the committee would urge organisers to consult the calendar of events very carefully before moving the date of an event.

### ***Membership Requirements for MSA Affiliated Clubs ...***

The committee heard that the MSA may be considering a change to section 4 of the National Sporting Code (page 51 of the Blue Book) so that clubs will be required to have 25 members at all times (not just on first registration), that the names and addresses of members must be provided annually and that the club must remain a member of a local Regional Association. We will up-date you on this issue as we receive more news ...

### ***Excerpts from Championship Co-ordinators' Reports ...***

**Rally** - registered contenders are well up on 2013 ... there is the possibility that there will be a new loose event for 2015 ... the Sealed Surface Championship has lost two events with the Carfax 2 being cancelled ... the Loose Surface championship has lost both the Coracle Stages and Rallye Dorset (nee Sunseeker) ... the Tour of Wessex will now run in February 2015, possibly in a different area and starting from Haynes Motor Museum ... the Bournemouth Enduro had 42 entries with about 100 miles including mileage at Bovington and Clay Pigeon Raceway ... the competitors liked the mixture of loose and sealed surfaces but organisers were still clearing up in Bovington at 11.30 p.m.!

**Autosolo** – 27 registrations ... movement of competitors between classes is raising some issues ... events may have to require a championship class to be submitted on entry forms and this information would be sent to the championship co-ordinator ... some discussion on whether competitors are put-off travelling to events due to the 'no-trailer' rule and problems returning home if the car breaks ... the MSA Autotest committee might be approached with a view to removing this regulation as unnecessary and un-enforceable.

**Autotest** - 17 registrations ... some concerns were expressed from competitors on the Camel Vale event when the venue was lost at short notice and switched to one on grass ... noted that the regulations do not require events to run on a sealed surface ...

**Autocross** – late entries are causing organisers difficulties in knowing whether to cancel or run as the event approaches ... problems at events this year regarding course changes and qualifying runs for championship points on two-day events to be kept under review ... adding the best time on both days is recommended and force majeure would apply if there was only one run on the second day.

**Speed** – Truro MC are planning two events at Predannack in 2015 and are negotiating for a double header using part of the old track and some new sections ... the September weekend at Tregrehan has moved to October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> ... the ASWMC's Sprint team - Matt Carter, Ian Parr and Bradley Hobday - won the Inter Association Sprint Championship in July at Castle Combe by a considerable margin ... the second team - Ellen Worthington, Richard Trevail and Simon Clemow were set for a probable 2<sup>nd</sup> place before Simon had an unfortunate mechanical failure.

**Also ...**

**Marshal numbers** – worries expressed about the number of marshals at events being near or at critical levels at some events ... plus concerns about marshals insufficiently protected by their clothing, using mobile phones or cameras while events are live and the increasing average age ... centralised databases of marshals have problems with people not updating contact details ... Westcountry Rescue 'step into the breach' at many events ... to remain on the committee's agenda ... and to go on October's Council agenda.

## **2014 Awards Presentation ...**

Please note that the venue and date of the 2014 Awards presentation have both changed. This will now be at:

***The Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Nr Exeter  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February***

Full details of times, ticket prices and directions to the hotel will be in the Winter (December) newsletter.

## **Reminders ...**

### **2015 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.

### **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/>

### **Photography**

Please send photos of ASWMC events to [newsletter@aswmc.org.uk](mailto: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.

### **Programmable Rally Clocks for Hire:**

For details please contact Alan Whitney ([rally@aswmc.org.uk](mailto:rally@aswmc.org.uk)) or

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

## Training

Following the unfortunate cancellation of the October training day, a claim for funding has been submitted to the British Motor Sport Training Trust (BMSTT) for a replacement training day in March 2015. The venue will be Wiscombe Park and the exact date and topics will be decided as soon as funding is confirmed; details will then be published on the ASWMC and VIM web sites and in this newsletter if possible.

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

Or by e-mail at: [training@aswmc.co.uk](mailto:training@aswmc.co.uk) or [rogernunn7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rogernunn7@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**Roger Nunn**

## Torbay Motor Club launches new website ...



Torbay Motor Club recently launched their new website –

[www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk](http://www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk) – which features a new level of functionality for competitors, marshals and club members. Visitors to the club's old domain will be re-directed to the new site automatically and many features from the old version remain. The big change is the introduction of new on-line entry systems that includes the facility to store, and change at any time, all a competitor's entry and commentary information and then enter the club's events without the need to re-submit all that information for each event. The system also provides for new members to join the club and/or register as a marshal on-line, and for media personnel to register in advance for the season. It is anticipated that this will save a lot of time and duplicated effort, and that signing-on at events will also be significantly streamlined, as the system

encourages the submission of complete information in advance. All that is left for a competitor to do on the day is to produce their licences, club and championship registration cards, and sign the indemnity form.

After a period of testing and trialling the new on-line entry systems have just gone 'live' with the publication of the SRs for the Torbay Trial, a round of the ASWMC Classic Reliability Trial championship, in March 2015.

## 2014 Championship Updates



### 2014 Hillclimb Championship



The 2014 Bridge Tyres & Wheels Point S ASWMC Hill Climb Championship was won by Mark Shillaber, holding on to his lead from a late-charging Dean Gammon in second and Mike Lee, whose challenge faded slightly over the closing rounds, third. David Foster was close behind in fourth with last years' champion Colin Satchell in fifth. Four of the top five cars – with the exception of Mike Lee's red OMS - were white 'tin-tops' and fast ones at that. Competition was very close this year, and after 21 rounds the Top Five were covered by a mere 4.23 points and the top ten by just 9.84 points.

**Roy Sims**

*(Pictured (left) Mike Lee at the May Werrington meeting (photo courtesy of Louise Tope at Dewerstone Photography) and (right) Dean Gammon at Tregrehan (photo courtesy of Ben Bonfield))*



### 2014 Sprint Championship

The 2014 Bridge Tyres & Wheels Point S ASWMC Sprint Championship was won by Bradley Hobday in his 1000cc Jedi from Elen Worthington's Lotus Elise; Dave Greenslade was third, very closely followed by Richard Trevail in fourth and Tony Phillips in fifth place. Both Dave Greenslade and Richard Trevail might have been higher placed but as they were in the same class they spent much of the season taking points away from each other. Once again the competition was extremely close, with the first two places separated by just 2.76 points and the top five covered by 6.15 points.

I hope that all competitors in both championships have had a good season's sport and will be back again next year for another crack at the championship.

**Roy Sims**

Several events have taken place since the last newsletter. After the very wet event at East Hill at the end of May, the long enforced break brought about by the cancellation of WSMC's event (due to lack of entries) gave everyone some time to prepare for NDMC's summer autocross and the change to the course (which was the subject of a wager between some NDMC members!), combined with some excellent weather, seemed to go down well with competitors.

All classes were well supported, with some close competition topped by Richard Davies taking FTD, although he was kept 'honest' by Simon Ford who had a good weekend by his standards!



Unfortunately, Mark Tredwell was unable to challenge as much as he would have wanted after suffering an engine failure and Steve Spears' wallet losing out to Kevin Down!

SMC/FDMC ran the first 'stubble' event of the year at Meonstoke at the beginning of August and a slightly shorter course lead to the entire field being much closer on times than usual. The weather was initially kind, with a relatively dry Saturday, and this was followed by a good

start on Sunday morning. However, just as the track evolved to its quickest condition, the heavens opened and scenes reminiscent of the SHMC May event became the norm once more, although this enabled Dan Rooke to snatch an opportunistic but thoroughly deserved FTD.

With hopes high that the Witney MC August Bank Holiday event could provide good weather, all those who entered this well-organised event were treated to a fine display when both Malcolm and Richard Davies took to the track in their Escorts. Karl Rafferty rolling his standard Citroen Saxo was not such a pleasant sight and both organisers and fellow-competitors must strongly advise new competitors against using sun-roofed production cars without a roll cage - Karl was certainly very lucky to emerge unharmed. Congratulations are due to Mark Tredwell on a very closely fought FTD with Simon Ford.



I think most people were apprehensive returning to East Hill after the wet May event but minds were put at ease after extensive re-grading of the field, many commenting that the track was in its best condition for a long time, although the pit bend humps were still there to catch out those taking an unwise line or pushing too hard. After a good dry weekend and entertaining Saturday night, Richard Davies returned to winning ways after a close fight with Simon Ford. A rare appearance from Roger Matthews in his BD engined MK 1 Escort filled the woods with that unmistakable sound, and

was a pleasure to watch.

The last round of the championship was held at Much Hadham on the last weekend of September and Wickford MC had constructed a superb course, rumoured to be 1700m of the smoothest stubble field in the country. It was certainly a battle of the brave, with Richard Davies in fine form again clinching FTD. The Southern Counties Inter Association Team A of Richard

Davies, Malcolm Davies, and Andy Hoare, won the Challenge Trophy and Kieran Anderson took home the honour of the Home Counties Championship.

The biggest thanks of the weekend should go to the WAC member Ross Westgarth who had heard of Andy Hoare's misfortunes on Saturday when the steering rack snapped in his venerable Mini. Ross was not in the mood to take no for an answer in the pub on Saturday night and duly delivered a replacement vehicle all prepped and ready for action on Sunday morning, enabling Andy to complete the event! I'm pleased to say that this level of support for competitors is what Autocross is all about.



Well done to everyone that competed in the 2014 season which has been a success. I look forward to the challenges ahead and hope to build the championship further to a position of enviable health. The next event is a social gathering on January 31<sup>st</sup> at The Cross Hands Hotel. If you are interested in coming along, please make contact.

**Colin Anderson**

*(All Photos – Northleigh Media)*



## **2014 Sealed Surface Rally Championship**

With the cancellation of the Carfax 2 Stages event, the last round of this year's championship will be the Weston-Super-Mare MC's Regency Stages on 29<sup>th</sup> November.



## **2014 Loose Surface Rally Championship**

The Loose Surface championship has also lost its penultimate round, leaving just Sutton & Cheam MC's Tempest 2 and Tempest 4 Rallies to conclude the series on November 8th.

## **2014 Open & Novice Navigational and Endurance Road Rally Championships**

After a long lay-off since Devizes & District's Myotis Rally over the Easter weekend in April, the Navigational Road championships build to their climax with three rounds in a month. First up is the Ilfracombe Rally organised by North Devon MC on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> October, followed just two weeks later by Exmouth MC's Barbara Carter Memorial Rally on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> November and the final round, South Hams MC's Guy Fawkes Rally on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The Endurance Road Rally Championship has just one round left, Salisbury & Shaftesbury's Great Bustard rally on the 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Alan Whitney**

2014 was the most competitive ASWMC car trials championship in recent memory. Regrettably Farnborough DMC's event (round 9 of the championship) has had to be postponed to January, due to the unavailability of the MOD-owned site, so the event has had to be dropped from the 2014 calendar. This means that Mark Hoppe (Woolbridge and Windwhistle MCs) is now confirmed as the 2014 champion.

Mark scored 51 points from his best 6 events in his Citroen Saxo, with 2012 champion David Robinson, also a Windwhistle MC member, bringing his Reliant Scimitar SS1 into a very close second place with 47 points. Classic trials expert and 2013 champion Hans Viertel (Camel Vale MC), who converted from his customary VW beetle to a Toyota MR2 mid-season, took 3rd place, a further 8 points adrift. New contender Shawn Franklin (Woolbridge MC) in his Ford Ka finished 4th, just one point ahead of the Suzuki X90 of the championship co-ordinator.

The inter-association championship this year was hosted by Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club at their Gabby Mohr trial on September 14th. This was not an ASWMC championship round, being rather too far north for our usual contenders, and only Shawn Franklin was able to compete. However two of our Midland area affiliated clubs saved the day by providing PCT experts Barry Parker and John Moffat to make up a very effective South West team which finished in 3rd place with a total of 343 points behind the two Midland Association teams (295 and 309) but well ahead of both the North West Association teams on 422 and 533 points, a very creditable result against strong opposition.

**Brian Alexander**

## **2014 Sporting Trials Championship**

John Cole retains the championship lead in a contest that is now a 'three-chariot' race between the orange, yellow and silver cars. John has been remarkably consistent all year and with just two events remaining could score a maximum of 54 with two class wins, although I expect Richard Sharp might have something to say about that! John and Anne's consistency has improved massively this year so if they keep it going we will see if John can finally cross the line and win the championship after coming so close in recent years. Second place is the yellow car of Mike Readings, with Carole trying to direct him; two class wins would see them equal on 54 points after the Gloster trial in December. Reigning champion Andy Wilks and Mark are quietly climbing the rankings and have scored some cracking results that sees them third in the British championship, so well done Andy. The top class is very competitive and a tough place to compete, but two overall wins would bring in a massive 60 points after dropped scores are taken into consideration. The top three are covered by just three points and I wouldn't like to pick a winner at the moment –the only certainty is that it will be going down to the wire.

Paul Price still retains fourth place, despite not having been out since March. Where are you Paul? Fifth and sixth sees a 'Callington battle' between the old and the new (cars that is!) of Jon (Fred) Moores (MSR), the 2005 champion, who is lying just one point behind Alan Ede (Kincraft). Jon has had reliability issues with his new MSR although these will surely be over soon - I wonder who will be buying the drinks at the end of the Gloster? Fred even sent Alan to the Ross event with the MSR to iron out some issues with the new car (while he went to a wedding) but after a successful morning Alan dropped back before an 'O'-ring failure near the end despatched the car to its trailer.

I am sure that all sporting trial competitors will join me in saying that it was a great pleasure to

see the inaugural (2000) ASWMC champion Calvin Kneebone out on the David Ayres after we all wondered where he was in the blistering heat at Rolands, although that sunshine is now long forgotten just a month later. We all hope to see you out again Calvin and to listen to that screaming Imp engine in the magical Kincraft.

The final two rounds will be at the Fedden's new venue near Bristol and the Gloster trial at Frocester. Regulations for the Fedden are now available and the Gloster paperwork has been prepared and will be out soon. Please enter early and support the hard-pressed organisers of these events - last year Tony Streeting very nearly cancelled due to lack of entries ten days before the event, but the last-minute rush saw the event draw a comparatively large entry. This is a roller-coaster ride that organisers could cheerfully live without!

***Duncan Stephens***

## ***2014 Championship Points Tables and Calendars***

The final championship points tables and the 2015 championship rounds will be published in the Winter edition of the Newsletter - in the meantime, please go to the ASWMC website for details.