

ASWMC



**2017
SPRING
NEWSLETTER**
www.aswmc.org.uk



Welcome to the 2017 ASWMC Championship Spring Newsletter

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This Spring edition marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the ASWMC, which came into being on 9th March 1957. The ASWMC is one of the eldest regional associations and one of the first in the country to establish and promote regional championships, which have grown steadily to the 15 that are currently run every year.

A year ago, we announced the start of a project to gradually make changes to the association's media channels and publications, with a focus on progressively moving communications to the association's website and Facebook page. The new ASWMC website, designed and built by One Website, was launched on date and some screen-shots of the pages are on page 5. The new site features on-line registration for championships, a searchable calendar, a member clubs listing page with links to clubs' websites,

The usual thanks are due to the clubs and individuals who have submitted pieces for this newsletter. If you have an idea for something you'd like to reach out to a wider audience, but aren't sure how to go about it or whether to send it in, contact me first and we can develop it together.

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.)

ASWMC Championships Sponsored by:



**Association
Partners:****From the Chair ...**

It was great to see so many of you at our Awards Presentation last month. Inevitably, given the nature of our sport, some of you were unable to attend as you were competing, and we thank those who sent their apologies.

The word "Vnuk" (a surname) cannot have escaped the attention of many of you. This refers to an accident in Slovenia in 2014, when a farmer backed his tractor and trailer into Mr Vnuk, an employee, knocking him off a ladder and injuring him. This led to a European Court ruling that, unless changed, will require third-party insurance for everything and anything "mechanically propelled", i.e. with a power unit, from single seat racing cars to golf trolleys, and all other varieties in between. The fear is that this legislation runs the risk of killing motor sport almost overnight. A petition is currently available, which all are encouraged to sign at <https://www.change.org/p/the-rt-hon-chris-grayling-fight-vnuk-the-eu-judgement-threatening-to-kill-uk-motorsport>. There is also a government consultation to which clubs can contribute, but I suggest they do so based on the MSA's advice.

Member clubs thinking of applying to the MSA's 'Club of the Year' competition would do well to start planning your entry now. 2016 entries were significantly up on previous years, making it much more competitive, and it is thought that 2017 is likely to follow that trend. So, starting to think about, and list, the features, improvements and achievements that will make your club 'stand out from the crowd', will give you plenty of time to compile a strong entry.

I have seen a draft of the Statutory Instrument that will be a key step in the implementation of the primary legislation to enable roads to be closed by highway authorities for competition. The secondary legislation was placed before parliament in March and will come into effect in April, before Easter.

It will only apply to England at first; the same legislation should be enacted by the Welsh Assembly in the next few months. The process will be like that in Northern Ireland, with permit applications to the MSA (or ACU for two wheel events) needing to be filed at least 6 months before the event. The organiser will then have to seek a "Motor Race Order" from the relevant highways authority (usually the local county council highways department), submitting a detailed Safety and Operations Manual. We believe the MSA are constructing a comprehensive package of support materials for organisers.

Paul Parker, Chairman

News in Brief...

ASWMC website
re-launched - page 5

DSOs for any event? –
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Some of the 2016
award winners at the
presentation - page 6

Alan Whitney to retire
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Somerset Stages Rally
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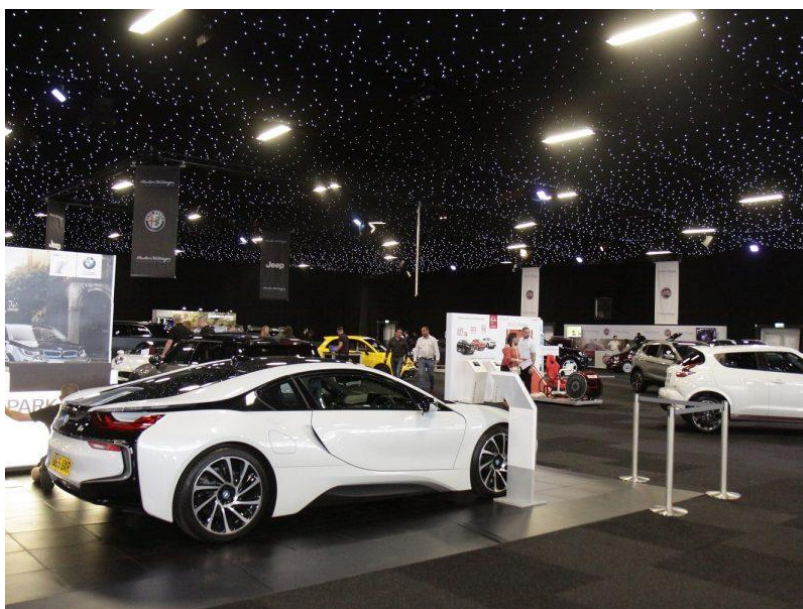
'Alan Murton's scary
wheelie' – page 19



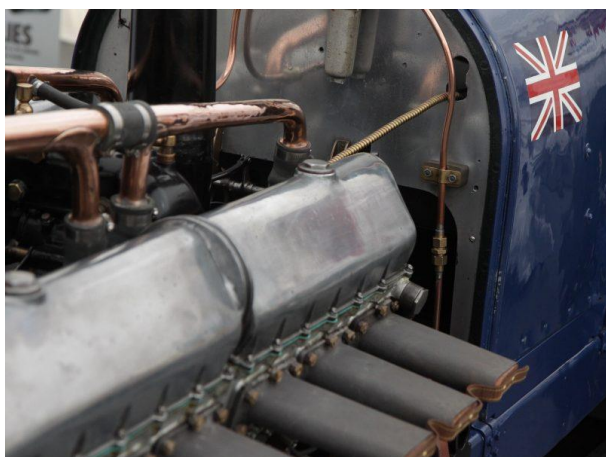
The London Motor Show ...

is back again following a highly successful event last year with over 25,000 visitors.

The show is intended for all car enthusiasts, and before the show sells out again, the organisers are offering registered ASWMC championship contenders and member clubs a special 10% ticket discount.



A special club members meeting point with reduced-rate refreshments will also be available.



To use this exclusive special rate, add the promotional code **ASSOCSOUTHWEST** when buying tickets online from www.thelondonmotorshow.co.uk.

ASWMC website re-launched ...

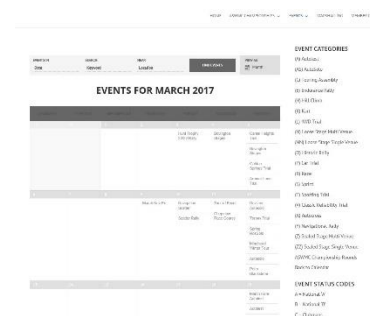
The new association website went 'live' on Monday 13th March; this was rather later than originally hoped, but the feedback to date suggests that it was right to delay until it was fully functional and complete before pressing 'go'.



ASWMC CHAMPIONSHIPS SPONSORED BY



ASWMC CHAMPIONSHIPS



It is expected that there will be a few more inevitable 'glitches', missing data, etc., so if you spot anything 'not quite right' please let either Nigel Hewett (webmaster@aswmc.org.uk) or the Editor (newsletter@aswmc.org.uk) know and we will put it right. Thank you.

Proposed MSA Regulation Changes ...

Trials:

Proposed changes regarding double-driven cars and engines fitted to classic trials cars are available to view on the MSA website at:

<https://www.msauk.org/assets/actionsheetforconsultation-7thmarch2017.pdf>.

Autosolo:

Following observations that some events were not meeting the regulatory requirements for course layouts, there is now a proposal to allow the appointment of Driving Standards Observers at any event (currently DSOs only observe events on the public highway). Go to:

<https://www.msauk.org/assets/actionsheetforconsultation24january2017.pdf> for details.

2016 Awards presentation gallery ...



The Association would like to thank Tom Riches at Riches Digital Photography for the Awards Presentation images.

Reminders ...

Championship Registration

The 2017 registration form is available on the ASWMC website, either to complete on-line or to download. When completed on-line, the form comes directly to me by e-mail and your registration is complete as soon as your payment is received, by sending a cheque or by making an internet banking transfer. The association's bank account number is 01003655 and the sort code is 30-98-06.

Pam Hartill

Event Safety and Safety Car Officer Courses

A new set of dates are due to be released soon for event organisers who need to attend.

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/>

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.

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

Notes from the ASWMC Committee meeting, 26th February 2017 ...

LARA:

A recent meeting reviewed the finances of the organisation. Subscriptions meet the general fund expenditure but offers for a 'fighting fund' were sought; at present if an issue runs out of funds then work on that issue will also end. The most important pressing issue at present is the 'Vnuk' case and a petition is currently available to protest against the European court ruling (see also *'From the Chair, page 3 – Ed.*).

MSA Strategic Review:

Little information about the scope and aims of this review, although rumours are plentiful. Concern was expressed that MSA staff are rather too 'distant' from motorsport at our level.

Treasurer's Report:

The association incurred a small loss in 2016, largely due to a decrease in both registration and sponsorship income compared to the championship expenses; registration income has been flat for several years. The committee debated whether small increases on 2018 registration fees would be justifiable given that they had not risen for many years and the association's fees were low in comparison with some others; the Heart of England rally championship fee, for example, is double the ASWMC fee. 2017 will see a reduction in the MSA's year book grant as the full dates calendar is removed; this loss has been balanced by reduced printing costs.

'Best Event of the Year' awards:

At the request of a coordinator the issue of a 'Best Event of the Year' award was discussed. After discussion, it was proposed that an award would be given if a minimum of 20 competitors registered as contenders, with the method of determining the winner to be under the control of the co-ordinator.

2016 Awards Presentation:

Eleven award winners did not attend to collect their trophies; only the souvenir awards will be forwarded.

2018 Loose and Sealed Surface Stage Rally Championships:

Alan Whitney intends to relinquish his coordinator's role at the end of this year; Vic Fancy has volunteered to take on this role.

Trophies:

Some trophies need refurbishing and new bases for extra name space; 2016 recipients will be asked to return those trophies early to allow for this work in time for the 2017 awards presentation. Feedback from 2016 award winners was that the glassware was well-received.

Member Club Changes:

The East Devon and South Devon Off-Road Clubs have resigned from the Association.

Information Sub-Committee:

Updates to the new website will be handled primarily by Nigel Hewett, although the Newsletter Editor and the Secretary will have editing access as a 'fail-safe' mechanism. Design changes will be handled by One Website. Rupert Barker will take over the compilation of the yearbook for one year (the 2018 edition) - a volunteer to edit the yearbook after that is being actively sought.

Club promotion:

The committee discussed the various avenues for clubs to promote themselves, for example county and motoring shows, or city centre displays, all of which vary in cost from free to very expensive. Go Motorsport is investigating whether they might be able to support clubs with attendance at shows where a display fee is required. Clubs are welcome to borrow one of the ASWMC 'sail' banners if they wish.

Greenpower Opportunity ...

The South-West Greenpower event is on 21st and 22nd June at Newquay Airport; this promises to be a great opportunity to engage with the local schools and colleges that are entered. Supporting these enthusiastic youngsters and their tutors will give clubs excellent networking time that can lead to potential new venues and a source of new young club members. I can forward an overview of available volunteer roles and a calendar of events on request.

If you can help on either or both days, please contact me - a 'heads up' in advance would be great, but otherwise just turn up and I am sure you will be welcomed by the organisers.

Kev Moore (MSA RDO-SW) (swgomo@gmail.com)

Training ...

The annual training day at Wiscombe Park on 19th March was well supported with a full complement of over 40 attendees.

Please note that if you have computer or internet access problems, the Marshals accreditation test can now be completed in a written version – contact me for further details. Please pass this information on to anyone who you know has internet access difficulty.

Looking ahead, the next training events will be on CPR with West Country Rescue (probably in Tiverton) and scenario handling at Wiscombe, both now in the new year. 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.

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.

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

Marshals' Post ...

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017

The organisers of the Somerset Stages hope to increase marshal and radio crew numbers over and above the excellent turnout in 2016, covering seven different venues, and hope that as many ASWMC Clubs as possible will help run the special stages, spread the load and ensure the future of the event. With the rally running in the Exmoor National Park, spectator access to stages is restricted but marshals are still across all sections and stages. The organisers will be delighted to see loyal and returning faces, as well as new marshals - if you've never marshalled before, then let the organisers know and they'll support you with MSA registration and accreditation and, if needed, partner you with others on the day to support and advise you – remember, they cannot run the rally without your help and support!

Marshals are asked to ensure they have obtained their MSA Marshal's Licence well beforehand.

Marshals - please contact Phillippa Le Coadou T: 01643 333743
Email: marshals@somersetstagesrally.com

Radio crews - please contact Steve Noble T: 01643 333943
Email: radios@somersetstagesrally.com



Castle Combe Circuit, a circuit with an enviable reputation for crowds that exceed every other circuit in the UK for the same type of events, is also bucking the national trend with marshal recruitment, ensuring the vital service that supports motor racing and without whom most racing would cease to exist. The circuit's annual 'Marshals Training Day', for both the experienced and those becoming involved for the first time, was held on March 19th and was attended by Lord Jeffrey Rooker, originally a production engineer in the Midlands, a former MP and government minister, and now chair of the British Motor Sports Training Trust.

Combe's Chief Marshal, Richard Beard said *"Our sport is complex, with many elements; the drivers have to be engineers, fund raisers, organisers and athletes, but they are also 100% reliant on the volunteers in orange who give them the vital flag signals, make sure everyone sticks to the rules and might even save their life! This was the culmination of a lot of planning by volunteers over the last 3 months, and was very successful especially as we had 33 new trainees who rose to the challenges set for them. We also had a massive turn out of experienced marshals, fine-tuning their skills for the season ahead. Apart from the British GP, circuits seem to struggle to recruit sufficient numbers but when the spectator banks are full as they are here it encourages people to become part of an atmospheric event. We are lucky to have as many people as we need, but cannot be complacent and we are always willing to talk to potential new recruits."*

If you are over 18, fit and healthy, and interested in becoming involved, please contact Richard Beard via email on richardb@ccracingclub.co.uk or on 07905 535539.

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Around the Clubs:



Burnham-on-Sea and Minehead MCs' 39th running of their Somerset Stages Rally is now just a fortnight away - Saturday 8th April!



SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017

Starting and finishing once again on Minehead Seafront, the rally is a round of a host of championships and rally series - the Reis Motorsport Insurance ASWMC Loose Surface Stage Rally Championship, the BTRDA championships (Gold Star®, Silver Star®, Thomas Panels 1400, Rally First, All Rounders, Historic Cup and Production Cup), the MG ZR Rally Challenge, DMACK Fiesta ST Trophy, MAXXIS Tyres MSA English Rally Championship and the FMP Rally Challenge. The Rally was awarded the Bill Turner Trophy for Best BTRDA event in 2015, for the second time in three years and the ASWMC Best Loose Surface Stage Rally of 2016.



ELUSEN AMBIWLANS AWYR CYMRU
WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

Maesteg and District MC are promoting their FMP Rally Challenge for the fifth year in 2017. The 'FMP' supports the Wales Air Ambulance charity for which they have raised over £5000 so far. The challenge has five loose and five sealed surface rounds on offer, with the best 6 to count; it is possible to be the champion by competing in either discipline, and not necessarily both, as has happened twice previously.

An innovation sanctioned by the MSA allows contenders to nominate an overseas rally of their choice on which they can claim points. Challenge Co-ordinator Terry Frayne explained "This idea has proved very popular with competitors travelling to Belgium, Ireland and the Isle of Man". Challenge events vary each year and in 2017 five ASWMC championship events are included – the Somerset, Red Dragon and Wyedean Stages (loose surface) and the Patriot and (for the first time) Cirencester MC's 'Wells Masonry Services Corinium Stages at Down Ampney (sealed surface).

The Challenge page can be found at <http://fmpmotorfactors.com/fmp-motor-factors-rally-challenge/> or through the club's website - click on the 'FMP' and then the Rally Challenge logos.

Registration is just £10 which includes Club Membership; SRs and entry forms can be obtained by e-mailing rallychalleng@live.co.uk.



750 MC have a full calendar of their events on their website – go to <http://www.750mc.co.uk/calendar.htm> for details ...



Salisbury & Shaftesbury CC are venturing into touring assembly events for the first time with their 'Trip to the Woods' event on Sunday 14th May. The classic car run is for cars manufactured before 1985 and other interesting vehicles, and features a 70-mile route, starting and finishing at the Coppleridge Inn, Motcombe, where refreshments will be provided, and a lunch halt at the Moors Valley Country Park. Further details and entry forms are available from Sally Gray, 'Bradmere', Castle Street, Mere, BA12 6FJ, or by e-mail to sallyg@derltd.co.uk, or on 07974 568109.

The club's other 2017 events includes their grass production car Autotest on 10th September (contact Dianne Jackson, 01935 812085 or batoutofhell@btinternet.com) and the '20/20' road rally on 4th November (contact Mike Gray on mikeg@derltd.co.uk).

The club holds regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Coppleridge Inn Motcombe, SP7 9HW, and all are welcome.



Gurston Down's very first meeting was on June 25th 1967, so the venue will celebrate their 50th Anniversary and first half-century at their June 17th

meeting this year, part of the Tony Marsh Memorial Weekend. Tony was a leading light in the creation of the hill and so it is very appropriate that the celebrations take place during this meeting. Invitations have been sent to many cars and motorbikes that have taken part in previous meetings or have been significant in the track's, and it is hoped that some cars from the first-ever meeting will be there.

The season starts on Saturday 22nd April with rounds of the *SBD/HSA* and *ASWMC/ACSMC* championships, also with classes for the Westfield Sports Car Club Speed Championship, TVRs, Classic Marques and pre-War Austin 7s. Sunday 23rd April is round 1 of the *Meadens Skoda Gurston Down Hill Climb Championship* and the *BARC SW Cavendish Ships Stores Top Ten Challenge*, plus classes for Austin Healeys, Triumph TRs, historic 500cc racing cars and Classic Marques. A class to watch in 2017 will be the Mazda MX5 class in its first full year, and there could be championship contenders in this class if last year's results continue! Sunday will also see both motorbikes and combinations competing in the National Hill Climb Association championship, including the spectacular Top Ten Run-off. Practice starts on both days around 0830, with timed runs after the lunch break at around 13:00.



May 27th/28th is the national weekend for the Avon Tyres/TTC Group British and Leaders Hill Climb Championships making the first of their two visits to Gurston Down, the fourth event, rounds 7 and 8, for the former and the third event (rounds 5 and 6) for the latter, with interest focused on various new driver and car combinations. Practice runs start at 08:30 on Saturday, finishing around 15:00; Sunday starts with a fourth practice run from 08:30

with timed runs starting around 10:30, followed by a BHC Top Ten Run-off just before lunch. The second timed runs start after lunch, with the second Run-Off finishing around 17:00.

Entry to any Gurston Down event can be made on paper, using the application form on the website, or online at www.gurstondownentries.co.uk

Spectator season passes are available, giving full access to all the meetings and practice days, for just £55.00. These are also available online and from our shop at each meeting.

The first Hill Climb Drivers School is on Tuesday April 11th and is now almost full. Additional dates are May 9th (also almost full), June 6th and July 11th. If you are interested in hill climbing and want to find out what it's really like, try it.

The venue website, www.gurstondown.org and its link to the Facebook page, contain everything needed to keep up-to-date with events and news.

Tony Record



2017 looks set to be the most significant in Castle Combe's long history, with a race meeting, car show or event taking place almost every weekend between Spring and Autumn, including two new shows – 'Pure Ford' and 'JDM Combe'. A firm favourite with rally fans, Europe's Premier Rally Car Show, Rallyday, takes place on Saturday 23rd September (www.rallyday.com).



New for 2017 is a 'Hot Hatch' series, aimed at drivers with older 'non-turbo' cars such as the Peugeot 205 which are no longer eligible for the main championship. Steve Weston, Competitions Director of the Castle Combe Racing Club said, *"Many competitive cars which previously took part in the saloon car championship, particularly the highly effective 205 GTi, are sitting around looking for somewhere to race. Our new series gives them the opportunity to compete at an affordable cost and we see no reason why the series should not grow into a popular championship. Meanwhile our flagship saloon car championship is there for those who want to race the latest machinery, with the trend moving more towards the turbo cars."*



Regulations are still being refined, but a draft set is available online at <http://www.ccracingclub.co.uk> or on request from Jo Lewkowicz, the club's coordinator at JoL@castlecombecircuit.co.uk or on 01249 784160.

2017 Championship Reviews



2017 Hillclimb Championship

Registrations are higher now than at last year's season end, a good pointer to the season ahead. Even though the championship has yet to get underway, entry levels have been high for the April and May Wiscombe events; Torbay MCs Wiscombe event was $\frac{3}{4}$ full after just four days and only had only a few spaces left by the third week of March. Events at Werrington are also filling fast.

The trick seems to be to send in your entry as soon as I send the e-mail to say that the SRs are released ...



2017 Sprint Championship

The first two rounds of the Sprint championship are on the same weekend, the Great Western Sprint at Castle Combe on 25th March and the Treloy Sprint on 26th March. Next up will be the first at Clay Pigeon on the 2nd April, followed by Abingdon (long course) on 9th April and Llandow on the 13th May. SRs are now published for all three of these events and those for Pembrey and Abingdon (2 courses) will be out soon. Don't forget that Abingdon is two events in one day as far as ASWMC points scoring is concerned - so save on travel and enter this great, but very busy, event.

Championship registrations are also up, with more contenders registered at the start of the season than at the end of 2016; entry levels are also good, with GWS full and Abingdon Long filling fast.

Roy Sims



2017 Sealed Surface Rally Championship

After two rounds, father leads daughter at the top, with Steve Furzeland leading Danielle by a healthy 15 points; behind them Plymouth MC's Chris Slade holds a slender 3-point margin over CRSW's Brad Cole with Chris Wheeler snapping at his heels just three further points adrift.

The co-drivers table is headed by Yvonne Furzeland with a 13-point advantage but the next four places - Jason Personage, Tom Gross, Nev Cole and Steve Wheeler – are also all covered by just 13 points.

Regrettably, Oxford MC's Carfax Stages on the 5th August has been cancelled.



2017 Loose Surface Rally Championship

After the Red Kite Stages, just two crews have scored points with Martyn and Dawn England leading Richard Barrow/Andrew Richards by 7 points.

Please note that Bournemouth & District CC's Purbeck Stages Rally on 13th August has been cancelled.

Alan Whitney

2017 Open & Novice Navigational Road Rally Championships

Different winners on the first two rounds – Phil Harris on the Primrose and Brenden Wellman on the Festival – has promoted Tim Owen to the top of the drivers' table, followed by a tie for second between Simon Heywood and Paul Watts with 23 points each. Jake Ramsden is the clear leader in the navigators' section followed by Shaun Layland, 8 points adrift, and then Sam Treleaven and Mark Dunkerly, the latter claiming organisers' points from the Festival Rally, tied on 24 points apiece. Next up is the Salisbury Plain based Devil's Tour over Easter week-end, which promises an exciting fight for vital championship points.

No novices have scored in their championship to date but all the registered contenders have entered the Devil's Tour so the context for the title will kick off in earnest then.

The Inter-Association Navigational Road Rally will be held in September and the Association would like to send a team to contest the event - please watch this space for more details as they become available.

Please note the change of date for the Barbara Carter, which will take place on the 14th/15th October.

I hope to see you all on the Devils Tour, with some daylight rallying to start the event.

Roger Gillard



2017 Car Trials Championship

The 2017 championship started with a wet round at Woolbridge MC's Crewkerne venue, the event being in doubt early on Sunday morning after a huge downpour overnight made access to the venue very tricky. However, after some head scratching and contingency planning, the event went ahead and competitors enjoyed chasing the points up for grabs in the ASWMC, Woolbridge MC Car Trials and MSA/BTRDA championships. The initial entry of 34 was slightly reduced to 28 with a few locals crying off because of the weather and sickness.



In Class 1, Shawn Franklin (Woolbridge MC) immediately built on his 3rd place in the 2016 ASWMC championship by putting in a great performance in his Saxo VTS to take a relatively easy win over newcomer Simon Harris (Ross & DMC) in his very effective Lupo diesel. Chris Judge (Sevenoaks MC) travelled from Kent to take 4th in class just behind John Wadsworth from Harrogate.

Pictured: Shawn Franklin – championship leader, kicking up the mud in his Saxo VTS at the Woolbridge MC Golden Springs Trial

The clubman Class 1 was won by local up and coming triallist Jez Searle on only his second outing in his 1100 Saxo, having forsaken his diesel Peugeot 106 to gain the new tyre pressure advantage. Special mention and thanks must go to Gary Morris who opted not to compete but went home to collect his 4x4 to help with 'extraction' at the end of the day.

Class 2 was very disappointingly supported by just Wayne Grimshaw in his Nova. Ironically the clubman section was the biggest class of the day and Jim Forsyth (Woolbridge MC) made it four overall wins in a row for the GST Clubman Trophy in his Saxo. Will Lawrence, another Woolbridge MC driver on top form took the class win in his 1100 Saxo.

Class 3 had six contenders, three of which are registered ASWMC contenders. Barrie Parker took his Westfield to a dominant overall victory, leaving runner-up Nigel Weeks (SDMC) as the top placed ASWMC contender, with 2014/16 ASWMC champion Mark Hoppe in 4th, debuting his Dutton Melos at a national event. Gemma Weeks took 6th in the shared Imp. Clubman Class 3 saw a diminished field headed by the thundering V8 Morgan of Alan Foster (Woolbridge MC) ahead of Alastair Stevenson in his MG TD. Julien Lightfoot and Dom Bishop brought along their newly acquired SRB sporting trials car to get some practice in and enjoyed their day.

Overall it was a little disappointing to see only six of the 17 registered ASWMC contenders out on the event, compared to the seventeen registered to date. In 2016 eleven competed at Round 1, so let's hope it will improve as we look forward to Rd 2 at Bristol Pegasus' Dundry venue for the Cross Trophy Trial. Unfortunately, the indications are that we will have a low turnout of ASWMC contenders due to a clash with Round 2 of the MSA/BTRDA championship, meaning we will lose Franklin, Weeks, Weeks, Judge and Hoppé to the national event.

Something tells me we will have a new champion this year, with previous 3-times champion David Robinson not planning to do many, or any, events in 2017 and this being a development year with my Dutton. Let's hope we see more of you on the hills as the season progresses.

Mark Hoppé



2017 Classic Reliability Trials Championship

The first two months of the championship year has been very busy with a trial nearly every week from mid-January to mid-March. Our fourteen enthusiastic contenders have all entered at least one event and some have entered all of them! The championship has only (*"only"*! - Ed) 15 championship rounds this year as both Stroud and District MC's Ebworth Trial and Woolbridge MCs Hardy Trial are taking a sabbatical.

The season started with the much-improved Clee Hills trial which finished in daylight, although very few contenders headed north this year. North Devon MC's Exmoor trial had a low entry, probably due to it being sandwiched between the Clee and the very popular Cotswold Clouds, but it was once again very well organised, and marshalled, and despite the gloomy weather also finished in daylight. Highlights of the day were the infamous High Bray where many, even with a restart, went clean but at the expense of a tyre or wheel damage; on Stoodleigh 2 most of the lower classes were once again caught out by the restart. The trial was won on the last two sections, Floyds bank and the final hill with a very muddy cross track which caught out all but Keith (Scimitar) who took class 5 and the trial overall. Paul Merson, Craig Allen and Bill Bennett all won their classes.

The well-respected Cotswold Clouds had a near full entry the following Sunday and, despite rather high tyre pressures and long delays at an early section, was well received with most finishing in daylight. Duncan Stephens, Aaron Haizelden, Craig Allen and Bill Bennett achieved class wins. After a week's break the popular Holsworthy Chairman's Trophy Trial saw Craig and Aaron once again winning their classes to take early leads in the championship; three of the championship contenders, however, were not so lucky and had to retire - no names, no pack drill, no comment!

Carlie Hart



2017 Sporting Trials Championship

Round one, 750 MC's Picadilly Sporting Trial had 18 starters and was won by Paul Price after a daylong battle with former champion Andy Wilks, debuting his new Crossle, and Stuart Beare who returned to his old live axle Sherpa. Price had an inspired last round to take the lead when it mattered after a wonderful cross camber trickle that won him a bottle of wine from Beare. Much fun was had by all the competitors in the misty conditions over the thirty hills at Syde, on a day which saw a return of fortune for the live axle cars which filled half the top ten.

Wilks led initially, revelling in the performance of the Crossle, and was happy with second and Reis championship points in a year that's sure to see his first national win. Beare shared his

Sherpa with his son, Sam, who showed great skill and determination, having never sat in the car before, to finish twelfth overall. Steve Courts' engine screamed well, climbing to fourth at the end, just a point behind Beare and one ahead of double 750 MC champion, Phil Haines. Sandy Veale borrowed big brother Josh's Gold Star winning Sherpa to finish three points further back despite an engine that wasn't fully 'on-song'. John Cole showed moments of brilliance to finish eighth, tied with Ian Fullwood. Alan Murton completed the top ten overall and finished in spectacular style with the biggest wheelie of the day on the very last hill.



The Calvin Trial on the 12th June has been added to this year's championship. It would be good to hold an afternoon 'play' to introduce new people into the sport the day before, somewhere in Cornwall? As Stuart Beare has said, we need to encourage newcomers and lending your car for someone to experience may be a way to do that – it's open to ideas, so please let me know what you think.

Stuart also mentioned that at the BTRDA sporting trials committee open meeting there was mention of a fundamental re-writing of their rules, including altering the class structure completely, with immediate effect. From a ASWMC prospective I will stick with the current red-blue-green format, which is how we have been classified already this year – it's extra work but in recent times this has resulted in a very open championship that has often gone 'down to the wire'.

Duncan Stephens



2017 Southern Counties Autocross Championship

With less than 5 weeks until Torbay MC host the first round of the championship, plans are well underway to give you another event to remember. The new venue for the club's Spring event will be Coryton Park at Kilmington, with hopefully a 1000m+ track on a smooth and undulating grass field with a difference! There are 2 possible layouts, dependent on the weather leading up to the event, so please look out for updates as they become available. There has been a good level of entries already, so please DO NOT leave entering until the last minute (as many did last year) as this can leave clubs guessing whether to run the event or cancel.

Other important news is that Southsea MC are at an advanced stage of organising an event on the Isle of Wight with the IOW CC. From what I have heard, the island club is very enthusiastic about becoming involved and have sourced a 30-acre site. Although crossing to the island may sound expensive, there may be discounted ferry crossings through one of the IOW club members, which could be as low as £60. For competitors travelling from the South West, the total cost would therefore be similar to that of entering an event in Essex, as we have in the past. Please show your support for the event as the clubs are doing everything possible to make it happen ... there is also talk of a Hog Roast on the Saturday evening! The initial proposed date was August 12th and 13th, but there are other events that weekend which will make it difficult for some competitors, so July 29th and 30th may be considered instead. The date is not definite at the moment so, again, please look out for updates.

Some of you may be aware that WSMC are holding a Sandocross on May 27th and entries are available - please note however that this is NOT a championship round this year.

Good Luck to you all for your 2017 season!

Colin Anderson



2017 Autotest Championship



2017 Autosolo Championship

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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