



Liverpool Motor Club

The Bulletin



December 2010

Ed-lines

The last Bulletin of 2010, where has the year gone? The last few weeks have flown by as I have been busy preparing for the British Sprint Awards evening—trophies to get engraved, souvenir awards to prepare etc. I think all the rushing round has taken its toll, as my knee is still not right. Now the awards dinner is behind me I am taking it easy. I have already started looking forward to 2011 and will probably be making big changes in my usual schedule. Having cut my teeth on Commentating at Aintree it is looking like I will be doing a lot more of the same next year. I am still awaiting confirmation so can't divulge all my planned activities but it should mean a lot less travelling up and down the country with a lot more of my time being spent in the North.

So with 2011 looming large what is there to look forward to? Well the British Hillclimb & British Sprint Championships have their calendars finalised and for the hillclimbs it is business as usual. On the Sprint front the loss of the Easter Croft meeting due to the lateness of the bank holiday plus the total loss of the Colerne facility near Bath means that there are major changes in the British Sprint Championship. There will be a return to Snetterton in May as the championship moves onto the new 100 course for a 2 lapper, plus the reinstatement of Cadwell Park as the sprinters share the billing with the Kart Grand Prix in July. With the loss of Colerne the Sprint Championship will finish in mid-August, the earliest on record but it will once again feature 17 rounds!

On the 'who drives what and with whom' front there are several big changes. In hillclimbing it is rumoured that Martin Groves & Paul Ranson will have a sabbatical even though their Gould GR55 still hasn't sold. Alistair Crawford has finally bought the Basil Pitt Gould GR55B and sold his old GR37 to a chap in Australia. Paul Haines who has dominated the 2 Litre class on the hills for the past few years has also sold his car and we wait to see what he will be doing next season—could it be a run out in the BIG class at last? On the flat there was a big story breaking in November when I learnt that Steve Broughton was selling his Supercharged Hayabusa powered OMS and would be sharing Mark Smith's Reynard 903. However it doesn't stop there! The Vauxhall engine out of the 903 has already been sold and a brand new SBD Duratec 2 litre will slot into its place. Mark & Steve will campaign the Reynard-Duratec throughout 2011 but are planning a switch to a new OMS chassis for 2012.

Liverpool Motor Club already have a calendar brimmed with excellent events both at Aintree and elsewhere (see page X). Already the invited championships are lined up for our three sprints and it looks very promising. Our sorties into rallying will continue as will our association with Greenpower—if you still haven't made it to Aintree for the **only** race meeting on 4 wheels on the Club Circuit, do try to do so in 2011 as the event is always chockfull of incidents, close racing and enthusiasm!

Please remember to keep checking the MSA website for Regulation changes to the Speed Event Categories etc. There are several in the pipeline for 2012 which are on display now and if there is a BIG enough challenge then these 'proposed' changes will not take place. I am NOT advocating that you should object but just reminding members that there is that option available.

On the car front I have just acquired a new Citroen to replace the C5 Estate, I have plumped for the C5 Saloon as I could get the top of the range model for the same as the mid-range estate. In the meantime I am still looking for a potential replacement for the élan—I know it is 2 years since I sold it but I don't want to rush in!

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our club members a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year—let's hope that 2011 is better than 2010.

Steve Wilkinson

Membership Renewals

At the time of going to press all membership renewal notices and a copy of the 2011 Speed Championship regs have been posted and you should receive them by 10th December. If you don't receive yours, please let Ron Hunt know as soon as possible 0151 677 5346 / 07803 928369 or send him email by clicking [here](#).

Chairman's Chat

Where does time go?

If you've got the answer and, more importantly know how to slow it down, don't keep the solution to yourself, please let me know! It doesn't seem more than a couple of months since I was saying in my notes that our first Aintree event would soon be on us. Well, that was back in April and it's now time to reflect on how well our season went and to ensure that our plans are in place for 2011.

Continued >

Chairman's Chat continued ...

Looking back on the year, it's fair to say that the recession eventually hit our events at Aintree. Though not quite full at 143 entries, the April Sprint was well attended thanks to our visitors from the Caterham Academy. However, at 110 entries each, the June and September sprints were a little disappointing, ideally we could have done with at least 10 or so more competitors to make each event a financial success. There's quite a fine line between covering our costs and taking a loss on the events these days; costs have risen sharply over the last few years and whilst we have tried to absorb as many of the increases as possible, there will have to be a rise in the entry fee for 2011. Having said that, we have managed to limit the increase to just £5 per driver, which we hope you will agree is pretty good in the circumstances.

Similarly, the October Track Day was the first for several years in which the three road-going sessions were not full. Again, there will be a modest increase in the booking fee for 2011, the first increase for 4 years, and once again, we have limited the increase to just £5.

We hope that you will appreciate that we are doing all that we can to contain costs as we strive to make sure that our events are excellent value, particularly when we give people so much time on track when compared with events elsewhere.

October Track Day

As mentioned above, although the October Track Day was slightly down on numbers, it was still a great success. Once again, we were fortunate to experience a one-day-window of fine weather in the middle of a series of wet days. In fact the day could almost be described as warm! And our participants certainly made the most of it too. Not the least being Anthony Taylor who turned up with yet another of his wild and wonderful classic 5 litre engined racing cars, this time in the form of a hefty Avalone Can-Am beast. He calmly mentioned that it was the first time the car had moved under its own power for 40 years, but it sounded great and certainly didn't disgrace itself at all.

Above & beyond the call of duty?

Talking of the October Track Day, it was the first Aintree event for a long time that Peter Lawton was unable to attend. He's been acting as Clerk of Course or my Deputy at virtually every one of our events for the past 6 or 7 years, but explained his absence by offering the feeble excuse of having to attend a wedding that weekend. You'd think he'd find a better excuse than that wouldn't you! What most of you probably don't realise is that his "commute" to each of our events involves a round trip of over 730 miles, all the way from Farr, near Inverness (aka Farr-Farr-Away – Ed). And he still manages a little banter and the occasional smile with competitors and officials alike when he gets here – quite remarkable! I think you'll agree that his dedication to our events at Aintree is outstanding. We thought so too, and earlier this year presented him with the Basil Tye Award. This is an award presented on an irregular basis in recognition of an individual's outstanding service to the Club, and I am sure you will agree that Pete was a worthy recipient in 2009. Incidentally, Pete is also heavily involved with the Highland Speed Championship, is an MSA Steward & Training Officer, and amazingly also finds time to compete in off-road events in his venerable 40 year old Land Rover too. What a man, it's a good job he's retired! Pete's place was taken in October by relative newcomer to Aintree, Peter Preston-Hough. PPH has been involved with motorsport at Oulton Park for some time, and is currently training for his Clerk's Licence. He must like the way we do things at Aintree, as he's already joined the Club after just two events, so welcome aboard Peter. (With two Peters officiating in similar roles at our events, this is going to get confusing!)

Mulling it over?

No sooner had we finished the Aintree season, than I whisked my wife up to the Isle of Mull for 12 days holiday. Of course, it just happened to coincide with the Mull Rally – how strange! And what a fantastic event it was once again. If you have never been I can't recommend the event too highly, whether as a competitor (and you have to be brave), a marshal or spectator. As rally week gets underway, the atmosphere on the island is unbelievable, and the rally itself – 2½ days of flat out competition on the island's closed single track public roads – produces some incredible examples of the very best of club rallying. Yet again local men Callum & Ian Duffy won in their Mk2 Escort after an epic battle with a brace of 4 wheel drive cars snapping at their heels throughout the event. If you've got internet access, and haven't looked at it already, the YouTube footage from inside the Duffy's Escort makes riveting viewing. Escorts shouldn't go like that, should they?

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with our events at Aintree this year; we put on a great series of events that are only successful because of the small band of folk – not all of whom are members – who turn out in all weathers. Many not only marshal the events, but also help set out the venue, and tidy up again afterwards. And if you think it can't be that big a task, you just try unloading and positioning the 200+ straw bales that we need to put out, then load them all back onto the farmer's trailer again at the end of the meeting. No wonder we sleep well. Thanks also to all of you who helped with our various "other" events during the year. In addition to the 5 Aintree events, we were involved with the North West Stages, Tour of Cheshire, SMC Stages, various hillclimbs at Loton Park, Cholmondeley Pageant of Power, Oulton Gold Cup, Greenpower, Tour Britannia and of course last week's Rally of the Tests. It all adds up to quite a calendar of events and it all requires a fair bit of organising too. So, may I take the opportunity of saying many thanks to all our marshals, and my fellow Committee members, for helping to keep the Club's name at the forefront of local motorsport. You do a great job!

Continued >

Chairman's Chat continued ...

What's next? Well, the next event that we shall be officially involved with will be the North West Stages in February, followed by several other rallies during the year, and of course our own events at Aintree. So have a look at our calendar – what will you do to help your Club?

Stay safe, have a great festive season & I hope to see you at one of the events in the New Year.

John Harden

ANWCC Events Calendar

Here's a link to the [ANWCC](#) calendar. If you know of an event that others should be aware of, let Steve our editor know via our [contacts page](#) or give him a ring on 01704 225 267.

Are you competing in an ANWCC Championship in 2011?

If so, please tell their championship co-ordinator that you are an LMC member, or if you are a member of another club, please mention membership of LMC on your entry form in addition to any other clubs that you belong to. Your championship scores will then contribute to LMC's position in the ANWCC Clubs' Championship, and I'd like to see our club a little higher up the charts next year.

2011 BRITISH SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP Calendar

26th Mar: Rd 1 Castle Combe;	17th Apr: Rd 2 Silverstone;	30th Apr: Rd 3 Inghliston;
1st May: Rd 4 Inghliston;	29th May: Rd 5 Snetterton;	30th May: Rd 6 Snetterton;
4th Jun: Rd 7 Pembrey;	5th Jun: Rd 8 Pembrey;	11th Jun: Rd 9 Anglesey Internat'l Circuit;
12th Jun: Rd 10 Anglesey National Circuit;		2nd Jul: Rd 11 Kirkistown;
3rd Jul: Rd 12 Kirkistown;	17th Jul: Rd 13 Cadwell Park;	30th Jul: Rd 14 Kames;
31st Jul: Rd 15 Kames;	13th Aug: Rd 16 Lydden;	14th Aug: Rd 17 Lydden

2011 BRITISH HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP Calendar

1st May: Rds 1 & 2 Prescott;	14th May: Rds 3 & 4 Barbon Manor;	15th May: Rds 5 & 6 Harewood;
29th May: Rds 7 & 8 Gurston Down;	5th Jun: Rds 9 & 10 Shelsley Walsh;	
12th Jun: Rds 11 & 12 Loton Park;	19th Jun: Rds 13 & 14 Doune;	3rd Jul: Rds 15 & 16 Harewood;
14th Jul: Rds 17 & 18 Bouley Bay;	16th Jul: Rds 19 & 20 Val des Terres;	
31st Jul: Rds 21 & 22 Wiscombe Park;	6th Aug: Rds 23 & 24 Craigantlet;	
21st Aug: Rds 25 & 26 Shelsley Walsh;	28th Jul: Rds 27 & 28 Gurston Down;	
4th Sep: Rds 29 & 30 Prescott;	18th Sep: Rds 31 & 32 Doune;	25th Sep: Rds 33 & 34 Loton Park

Towing Eyes. If you are competing in any of the events using the "North & Midlands Speed Classes and Clarifications" in 2011, please note that you will be required to have at least a front towing eye fitted, or in the case of single seaters, a towing point clearly identified. Check the regs carefully when you get 'em!



Left: The Top 3 in the 2010 British Sprint Championship; (L to R) Stewart Robb (2nd) LMC Member Nick Algar (1st) and Mark Smith (3rd)



Right: The Scott/Wood Chevrolet Camaro during the Tour Britannia event that called at Aintree in September

Social Meetings

Here's another reminder that the Club has informal social meetings from 8pm on the second Monday of the month at the [Unicorn Inn](#), Cronton (405 Cronton Rd, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 5QF), not far from the M62/M57 junction. We have nearly 200 members, of whom around 150 live within 35 miles of Aintree. Yet our social meetings attract a dozen members at the most, often only 5 or 6. Where are you? The venue is a nice cosy un-modernised pub, very convenient for the motorway and we don't bite! At the last meeting most of those present had travelled over 20 miles to get there, so if they can make the effort, why can't you? I do hope I'll see you at one of the meetings in the near future. The last social meeting for 2010 will be on Monday 13th December, please come along and have a good old natter—and it's not all about motorsport!

LMC Forum

Got something to say? Want to know what's going on and can't wait until the next Bulletin? Got something to sell? Want advice? Then don't forget the [Club Forum](#). It's there for you, it's running way under capacity, it's dead easy to use, and it's free! It is also an ideal place to keep an eye on what we are doing on track and what events are coming up. There have been several recent sales successes there, so give it a go!

What did you do at the weekend?

Do you compete in other clubs events? We have several members who regularly compete in Rallies in the North West, but we never hear how they got on. Please drop a note to the Editor and let us all know how you are doing. We are not looking for war & peace, but a few lines will help publicise your efforts and may even encourage others to have a go too.

Events in our 2011 LMC Calendar – so far!

10 th January	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
5 th /6 th February	North West Stages Rally , Blackpool area – can you help?
14 th February	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
5 th March	Tour of Cheshire Classic Rally , venue(s) TBA – can you help?
14 th March	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
2 nd April	The Flying Scotsman Rally for “Pre-War” cars , Arley Hall, Cheshire – can you help?
10 th April	SMC Stages Rally , Weeton Camp, Nr Blackpool – can you help?
30 th April	LMC Spring Sprint, Aintree – help needed
9 th May	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
28 th May	LMC Track Day, Aintree – can you help?
13 th June	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
25 th June	LMC Jack Neal Memorial Sprint, Aintree – can you help?
11 th July	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
8 th August	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
28 th /29 th August	Oulton Park Gold Cup – cars needed for LMC display
3 rd September	LMC Autumn Sprint – can you help?
12 th September	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
15 th September	Greenpower Electric Car Races , Aintree – can you help?
1 st October	LMC Track Day, Aintree – can you help?
10 th October	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
21 st October	Chester & Liverpool MC's Championship awards
14 th November	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton
10 th December	Le Jog Classic Rally , venue TBA – can you help?
12 th December	LMC Social Meeting, The Unicorn, Cronton

We shall publish the contact details of our co-ordinator closer to each event but, if you just can't wait and urgently need to find out what is required, please use the “contact us” facility on the LMC website, or see the [LMC forum](#).

News from the MSA: During October's RAC MSA Rally of Scotland, MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton took the opportunity to meet with Scottish Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson MSP and Sports Minister Shona Robison MSP. Hilton briefed Stevenson on the MSA's campaign to achieve closed-road motor sport on mainland Britain, before discussing with Robison the potential creation of a Whole Sport Development Plan within Scotland. For more information on this & other stories go to the [MSA Website](#) and click on NEWS.

Aintree Circuit Club Film Night: (see [ACC's](#) website for more details) LMC Members welcome Tuesday 14th December 7:30pm at The Aintree Suite, Park Hotel, Dunning's Bridge Road, Netherton, L30 6YN (on A5035, 1/2 mile from Aintree). - Free Admission on production of your 2010 LMC membership card. Featuring THE JIM EVANS COLLECTION. A great opportunity to see fabulous footage of Club Racing at Aintree from the 1970s to 1982, plus fly-on-the-wall film of one of the famous Tuesday evening test sessions from the 1970s. A DVD of the show is available to buy on the night. Other exciting films shown too, and plenty of time for a natter afterwards!

People you should know!

Club Contacts

President & Publicity	Geoff Ashworth
Chairman	John Harden
Treasurer	Jim Bebbly
Secretary	Dr David Drucker
'Bulletin' Editor	Steve Wilkinson
Competition Secretary	Phil Gough
Chief Marshal	Bill Gray
Marshals' Coordinator	Pete Proudley
Track Day Booking Info	Ron Hunt
Sprint & Hillclimb enquiries	Phil Gough
Membership Secretary	Ron Hunt
Web Site Matters	Ron Hunt
CMC/LMC Championship	Ron Hunt

To reduce the number of spam emails we receive we no longer publish our officials' email address. If you wish to contact any of the members listed please use the contact facility on our website by clicking on the link below:

www.liverpoolmotorclub.com/about/contact-us

or contact LMC secretary:

Dr. David Drucker on 01625 582770 for advice.

The Bulletin and Spin-Off are the official journals of The Liverpool Motor Club Ltd.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Club, its officials members or committee.

Material for publication should be sent to the Editor, Steve Wilkinson,
47 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TD
Tel 01704 225267 (before 9 pm please)
or by e-mail to LMC-editor@liverpoolmotorclub.com