



Liverpool Motor Club The Bulletin



December 2011

Ed-lines

Well this is it, my last edition of the Bulletin. I have enjoyed my tenure as Editor and am sad to move on however I will be remaining as an ordinary member of the club—you can't get rid of me that easily! I am also planning to write a few articles for inclusion in the up-coming Bulletins so keep looking!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS from Steve Wilkinson



Wishing you all the very best for the New Year

On the racing front of course there have been no events but I did attend the end of season Awards Night for the British Sprint Championship. It was great to meet up with the drivers, their wives and helpers especially Stewart Robb and his wife Gail. Stewart has been so desperately close to being sprint champion in previous seasons that it was a superb effort from him to finally get the title. Also a little known fact is that Stewart is the first father to follow his son in winning a speed event National title—the only other father and son pairings have always seen the father take the title first. For 2012 there will be fewer British Sprint Championship rounds as it has been very difficult to negotiate dates that do not clash. One victim is the Chester Motor Club sprint at Anglesey Racing Circuit in June. Due to a move of date from Pembrey

combined with Chester MC not being able to move their date in parallel, the Anglesey week-end has been switched to the Longton & District Motor Club event in October.

You will also be aware that the June Aintree Sprint on Saturday 30th June will be followed on the Sunday by the Longton & District Motor Club's second sprint at Three Sisters. Although it will not happen in 2012 there is a strong chance that in 2013 BOTH events could feature rounds of the British Sprint Championship, just like it did up until 1998.

On the car front I have made little progress in securing a replacement for the Elan however I haven't given up just yet! In the meantime I hope to see you at future LMC events; all the very best wishes for the festive season.

Steve Wilkinson

Chairman's Chat

Last month I asked for your thoughts on how we should deal with the potentially thorny issue of charges levied for paying for event bookings on-line. Well, just one response flooded in (from new member Rod Pickup – thanks Rod) suggesting that we continue to provide on-line booking but those booking that way should bear the transaction cost.

Following a great deal of discussion, the Committee has agreed and decided to give it a further try for 12 months, probably opening up the on-line payment option to all events in 2012 (and possibly membership too) for a small additional fee that will just cover the extra cost. Of course, we would prefer not to pass on the charge at all, but our events (particularly the sprints) simply cannot accommodate the charges and still break even. It will still be possible to avoid paying the extra fee, just pay the traditional way by cheque at the old price – it's your choice. If you have any comments about this, do please let us know.

LeJog:

Our visit to Manheim Auctions Haydock site to run a test for LeJog Classic Endurance Rally proved to be enjoyable despite being incredibly wet. Disappointingly, it wasn't the best test we have ever run, being rather small and compact, but the cars entered went some way to make up for the tiny venue. We will try to ensure that for their next visit to our patch, we get to run a "proper" stage somewhere! Thanks go to everyone who turned up to help.

More Events:

In February & March next year, we will be helping with three rallies in quick succession, and any member is welcome to come along and help. Just keep an eye on the What's On feature on page three of this Bulletin and get in touch if you want to find out more before volunteering.

Continued >>>>>

Chairman's Chat continued ...

Manchester Indoor Classic Car Show:

We are looking for six or seven classic cars to display at the 2nd [Manchester Indoor Classic Car Show](#) at the Trafford Centre on 24th & 25th March. If you have a car that you'd be willing to display on the LMC stand, please let me, or Geoff Ashworth, know. Working classics are just as desirable for our stand as are pristine examples so, as 2012 is the Club's 110th Anniversary, can you help promote your Club? More details on the show [here](#). Your car will need to be in the exhibition hall by 8pm on Friday 23rd March, and it will need to stay there until 4pm on Sunday 25th, though you will not necessarily have to stay in person throughout the show. Road cars must have no more than 1/4 of a tank of fuel on board. We are not just looking for road cars, classic single seaters are of just as much interest. Our stand will be continuously manned whilst the show is open, and being an ex-bonded warehouse, overnight security is assured. Exhibitors will get free parking and free admission for 2 people.

Jim Bebb

It's sad to report that our ever enthusiastic Club Treasurer, Jim Bebb, isn't too well just now and has just returned home from a spell in hospital. I'm sure you will join with us in offering Jim our best wishes for a speedy recovery and the hope that he'll soon be firing on all cylinders once again. We're missing you Jim!

2012 Blue Book:

By now, those of you with licences should have received your 2012 MSA Licence and Blue Book. If you actually open said book, you will find a fair number of regulations appearing in red type – cleverly designed to draw your attention to things that have changed since the last book was published. Please make sure you check that your car and equipment complies with these changes, preferably now rather than waiting until two weeks before your first event next season! You have been forewarned about all these changes during the year via the snazzily titled “Rule Changes” insert that is sent out with quarterly the MSA Magazine. You know the things, plain white paper with “Do Not Throw Away” helpfully emblazoned in red on the front and loads of regs inside, many of which are crossed out. In fact you will have been sent the latest version in the last week or so. The good news is that all the changes that appeared in those updates during 2011 that are being implemented in 2012 have already been incorporated in the 2012 Blue Book, so you don't need to go wading through it to check that they are there. You really were going to do that weren't you?!!!

People Power:

A few of the Rule Changes that were originally published for consultation have subsequently been amended, and some have been shelved for now thanks to people passing on their comments to the MSA. So if you see a proposal in a “Rule Changes” publication during the coming year and you aren't happy with it, or can see a better alternative, don't be shy, contact the appropriate committee at the MSA and let them know how you feel. People power really does work at the MSA these days!

End of an era:

As mentioned in his editorial, this is the final edition of the Bulletin to be edited by Steve Wilkinson. No one has come forward yet offering to take over, or even wanting to find out more about what's involved, so time is running out. If you are even faintly interested, please do get in touch. There's no commitment, and we wouldn't force anyone into the role unless they really do want to take it on.

In the meantime, many thanks to Steve for putting the magazine together for the last few years. I know you will still be closely involved with the sport, and will be commentating in your own inimitable style once the Sprint & Hillclimb season recommences.

Finally, on behalf of all of us on the LMC Committee, may I wish you all a pleasant Christmas and a happy and successful New Year - and let's hope that someone, somewhere, offers to be editor of the Bulletin!

John Harden

MSA Registered Marshals Grading Scheme (Race, Kart and Speed disciplines)

The marshals grading scheme, which has remained unchanged for the past five years across all disciplines, is kept under constant review. As a result of views submitted, the Marshals Working Group – with support from the Volunteer Officials Advisory Panel – has introduced some changes to further improve and develop parts of the scheme. From 1 January 2012 these changes will be applied to all Race, Kart and Speed marshals seeking upgrades. However, for those only needing a training day signature for their upgrade, the existing scheme will continue until 31 March 2012.

Marshals Personal Record Cards

The 2012 MSA Personal Record Card (PRC) has been amended to reflect these changes; the cards are now colour coded to be discipline specific, and are intended to follow a marshal through their career. Further PRC changes have been made to cover attendance, training and upgrade signatures. Once completed, marshals should forward the card to their club, which will then verify that the requirements have been met. The club will in turn forward the card to the MSA for consideration and processing, after which it will be returned to the marshal so that any further signatures may be obtained and recorded. For full details of the changes – which do not affect Rally Marshals, for whom a separate review is expected to be completed during 2012 – please click on the following link to the MSA's leaflet explaining the [Changes for 2012](#).

Seasons Greetings from all your friends at Liverpool Motor Club

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 went 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.

Social Meetings.

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? Why don't you come along and have a good old natter? The venue is a nice cosy un-modernised pub, very convenient for the motorway and we don't bite! At the last meeting 50% of those present had travelled over 20 miles to get there, so if they can make the effort, why cant you? I do hope we'll see you at one of the meetings in the near future.

Help needed

Ever thought of coming along to help run or marshal our Aintree events? Then please [contact our Chief Marshal](#), Bill Gray, without obligation, and see if marshalling is for you. Previous experience isn't required, and you don't have to go trackside if you don't want as there are ways you can help at the startline, paddock or assembly areas. Everyone who helps out receives a cash contribution towards their travelling costs and we provide a free buffet lunch too.

ANWCC Events Calendar

Here's a link to the [ANWCC](#) calendar. If you know of an event that others should be aware of, let our editor know via our [contacts page](#), or tell any of the Club Officials.

ANWCC Championships

Are you are entering one of the ANWCC championships next year? If so, please tell their championship co-ordinator that you are an LMC member, or if you are a member of another club, put down LMC on your entry form too. Your championship scores will then contribute to LMC's position in the ANWCC Club Championship, and we'd like to see our club a little higher up the charts next year.

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.

What's On?

Here are details of the motorsport events taking place at Aintree in 2012:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 28th April | Championship Sprint |
| 26th May | Aintree Track Day 1 |
| 30th June | Jack Neal Memorial Sprint |
| 1st September | Championship Sprint |
| 2nd or 30th September | Sporting Bears "Dream Rides for Kids" Charity event |
| 13th September | Greenpower Electric Car Races for Schools & Colleges |
| 29th September | Aintree Track Day 2 |

(For Motorcycle Racing: see Aintree Motor Cycle Racing Club's own [website](#))

Away from Aintree, we also help other clubs in the North West by providing marshals and/or timing crews for their events. We are currently due to be involved with the following, but please do check on the Marshalling pages of the [Club Forum](#) before travelling to one of the events as some venues are closed to spectators and you may not get in unless you have registered with us first:-

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 3rd/4th February | North West Stages Rally , Blackpool area |
| 3rd March | Tour of Cheshire (Classic Rally), Nr Chester |
| 24th/25th March | North West Classic Motor Show , Trafford Centre (incorporating an LMC Display) |
| 25th March | SMC Stages Rally, Weeton Army Camp |
| 26th/27th August | Gold Cup Meeting , Oulton Park, Cheshire (incorporating an LMC Display) |

We are looking for people to help, marshal or observe on all these events. Previous experience is not necessary. If you can assist your Club with any of the above, please let us know, or see LMC [Club Forum](#) for more details.

Situation Vacant – Bulletin Editor

The Club is looking for a volunteer to take over the role of editor of the Club's newsletter, the Bulletin. The job entails enticing contributions from members and assembling them into a readable form. Most contributions will be provided by email, so it is usually just a matter of copying & pasting the articles to form the magazine. A very basic knowledge of MS Publisher would be an advantage, though not essential, as training and as much ongoing support as you require will be given.

The draft magazine is then emailed to our Webmaster who deals with getting out to members.

The role is not a committee position. However, the incumbent may decide to become involved there if they wish. It is intended that the Bulletin be published at monthly intervals, though sometimes contributors (particularly the Chairman) need a strong reminder that their jottings are due.

Interested? Please talk without obligation to any Committee member – or your Chairman – for more details.

Contributions wanted

Let us know what you are doing, what you've done, what you'd like to do, or what's causing you problems! The Bulletin is your magazine but it can only ever be as good as the contributions, so why not send something in for us all to read. It doesn't have to be earth shattering stuff (as you can see from our Chairman's missives), but let us know what you are doing, your successes, your failures, your intentions, your history. Please! If you like what we do, tell your friends....if you think we could improve something, please tell us!

Have we got your Email address?

Please help the Club save money & the environment! If you haven't already provided the club with your email address please do so as soon as possible. This will help the club to communicate with you electronically and will save the club money in the long run. Come on, do your bit for the environment!

Marshals' Training Days

28th January 2012 - Stockport (mostly rally, but other disciplines too) – Stockport. (email training@brmc.org.uk)
March, June & September 2012. - CSMA(NW) runs MSA approved multi-discipline marshals training sessions in Accrington. They include practical sessions (e.g. fire training) and are open to anyone who marshals at Aintree. For more information about dates & sessions, contact Steve Johnson on 01254 392 663 (evenings) or by email: steve.johnson@csmclub.org. Food generally provided, for a small fee!

BEWARE of the Spellchecker

Over the years I have tended to rely less and less on the wonders of Microsoft spellchecker. This is due to the rather curious changes that it makes to my text. My favourite changes have included Willem Toet (the well known F1 aerodynamicist) becoming Wily Totem, Graham Wight becoming Grease Right, and Rob Turnbull becoming the aptly named Rob Trundle!

Membership renewals

The 2012 LMC membership renewal invitations will be sent out early in the New Year, together with regs for the 2012 Chester & Liverpool Motor Club's Speed Championship. Publication has been slightly delayed as we have been waiting to ensure that the organisers of all the events in the Speed Championship have adopted the changes in the 2012 Blue Book, and that they have also agreed to use the amended wording in our Clarifications. We are nearly there, so printing should start shortly.

In the meantime, if you are taking part in an event in January and need your new club membership card to be able to enter, please contact Ron Hunt and he will look to process your renewal early.

Sponsorship

We are constantly looking for ways of a keeping entry fees as low as possible for our Aintree Sprint events and it is clear to us that one way of covering some of the costs would be to gain a sponsor (or sponsors) for our events. Do you know of a business that might be interested in being title sponsor of our events? Such sponsorship could extend to our Aintree Track Days too of course.

We have relatively little experience of going out looking for sponsorship, so any advice in this area would be greatly appreciated!



Left: Looking back to this time last year and the country almost came to a standstill because of a 'little snow'.

Right: Things are often Black or White!
This is a reworked photo of Andy Dunbar mistreating his tyres at Loton Park



Suspension bushes in Speed events

The 2012 Competitors' and Officials' Yearbook produced by the MSA (aka The Blue Book) contains new regulations regarding suspension in the Road-going Category of Sprint and Hill Climb events.

(S)11.7.6. states that "for Road-going Series Production Cars bushes may be changed for similar polymer materials but not to spherical or similar metal joints."

(S)11.7.2. states that "shock absorbers may be of any make and may be uprated from standard."

The MSA Technical Department wishes to clarify that if an uprated shock absorber had a metal top bush as part of the shock absorber assembly, it will be permitted because this bush is considered part of the shock absorber itself, which may be uprated.



REMEMBER WHEN?

Back in 1992 we had the last Two-Lap sprint at Aintree.

On the **Left** is the late Tony Marsh who set FTD in his Rovercraft V8 whilst on the **right** is stalwart competitor Barry Whitehead in RBS4F. Both photos taken on Club Corner.



2011 British Sprint Champion

On the **left** Stewart Robb clinching the title at Kames whilst on the **right** he picks up the MSA Trophy from Kim Kingham at the BMSA Awards Night.



ABOVE: this is a shot of Nina Baker in her Ginetta. On Page 6 in our MSA News feature there are details of her charitable activities scheduled for 2012.



A TRUE STORY

Not long ago and far, far away Santa Claus was getting ready for his annual trip but there were problems just about everywhere!

Four of his elves were poorly and the trainee elves were not producing the toys as quickly as the regular ones, so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of falling behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mother was coming to visit; this really stressed Santa even more.

He then went to harness the reindeer and found that three of them were about to give birth!

Then he spotted that another two had jumped the fence and were out in the adjoining fields getting amorous with the cows - even more stress!

Then, when he began to load the sleigh, one of the boards cracked and a big bag full of toys fell to the ground, split open and scattered its contents everywhere - Santa was so frustrated!

He went into the house for a cup of coffee looking forward to adding rather large glug of Irish Whisky.

When he went to the cupboard he found that the elves had hidden the whisky and that there was nothing to drink! In his frustration, he flung the coffee pot to the floor where it broke into hundreds of little pieces.

With a big sigh he went to fetch a broom and found that the mice had eaten the straw it was made from.

Just then the doorbell rang and Santa swore under his breath as he stomped his way to the front door.

When he opened the door there was a beautiful little angel with a great big Christmas tree standing there.

The angel said: "Where would you like me to put this tree Santa?"

And that my friends, is how the little angel came to be on top of the Christmas tree!

More News from the MSA

Andrew Holley is Marshal of the Year

Andrew Holley has won the 2011 JLT MSA Marshal of the Year award, which is designed to reward excellence among the 12,000-strong team of MSA-registered volunteer marshals without whom motor sport could not take place. A highlight of Andrew's marshalling career has been taking responsibility for – and transforming radically – the British Motor Racing Marshals Club North Region's training program, in his capacity as its Regional Training Manager. He has used his experience as a helicopter pilot instructor to create and manage an operational matrix for the training programs that is both complex and yet simple to follow, which has enabled hundreds of people to pass smoothly through the training sessions.

"I was completely gob smacked when I was told I'd won, as I didn't even know about the award, let alone that I'd been nominated!" he said. "I do what I do simply because I love the sport, so I was taken aback to be recognized in this way." Andrew will receive his trophy at the MSA's Night of Champions ceremony at the Royal Automobile Club in London on 20 January 2012.

MSA company report now online

The latest MSA company report is now available on the MSA website. The publication provides an overview of the MSA's role, a review of its activities in 2011, comprehensive event and licence statistics and a summary of the audited financial statement from the previous financial year. Click [here](#) to view the report online. A limited number of printed copies are available to MSA licence holders on request; please email media@msauk.org

Brian Snape appointed Officiel d'Honneur

The MSA has bestowed its highest accolade, Officiel d'Honneur, upon Brian Snape in recognition of his outstanding contribution to UK motor sport. Brian has served the sport through many years' membership – and past Chairmanship – of the MSA Timekeeping Advisory Panel, and the mentoring of countless trainee timekeepers.

The MSA's Allan Dean-Lewis, who presented the accolade, said: "It is a pleasure and a privilege to have the opportunity to make this very special presentation to Brian Snape to recognise what he has done to assist the success and safety of our sport over many years, especially in the area of Rally Timekeeping. He joins an elite band of around 25 other people who hold the Officiel d'Honneur title, which says much for the respect that so many people hold for Brian in what has been a lifetime interest in our sport."

Licence holder driving for breast cancer awareness

Competitor Nina Baker is aiming to raise awareness of breast cancer through motor sport. Baker was diagnosed with the illness in 2009. She has lost two sisters to the illness, which also claimed her brother-in-law Alan's life in September. "We ladies are still a minority in what is generally considered as fun for the boys, so I decided to raise awareness of breast cancer (and hopefully a lot of money!) through motor sport and my beloved Ginetta G32," said Nina. She has set up a fundraising website: www.JustGiving.com/Breast-Cancer-Car. Any companies or individuals who donate in excess of £250 will be acknowledged on her car, which is scheduled to appear at Sprint and Hill Climb events across Scotland, including MSA British Championship rounds at Doune and Kames.

People you should know!

Club Contacts

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

If you wish to contact any of the officials listed please use the contact facility on our website.

www.liverpoolmotorclub.com/about/contact-us

or contact LMC secretary
Dr. David Drucker on 01625 582770 for advice.

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

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