



2009—March Issue

## Ed-lines

So it's round two of the Liverpool Motor Club's 2009 Bulletins and Spin-offs. What's been happening since Spin-off hit the streets? Well I have learnt of a couple of events that have already been cancelled through lack of entries and also of several drivers whose 2009 plans have been radically altered. The British Sprint Championship has just lost the final round it was planning at Cadwell Park after the original date was handed over to a motorcycle racing club and MSV & the organising club could not reach agreement on an alternative date. This isn't the first time that an event at one of the country's leading racing circuits has been 'gazumped'. However MSV did make an effort to reschedule unfortunately the supporting championships involved were unable to agree with any of the dates so it was regrettably cancelled. Still no replacement for the Elan but I am still looking; I did ring up about a race-prepared MG but 24 hours after being advertised it had been sold! I hope to bump into more LMC members on my travels but, for the time being, that is all from sunny Southport, enjoy your motor sport and keep it on the island!

*Steve Wilkinson*

## Chairman's Chat

Phil Gough, Ron Hunt, David Mitchell & your Chairman joined around 100 other MSA officials to attend the MSA Clerks' seminar in Brighthouse a couple of weeks ago and once again came away having learned something new about motorsport. It's not that we thought that we already knew it all, rather that we never stop learning, or to put it another way, the MSA keep changing the rules! A great deal of time was spent by the presenters explaining the reasons behind the various rule changes that appear in this year's MSA Yearbook (the Blue Book) which by now I hope you have read thoroughly.

## Emissions

I can understand why many of the regs have been changed. Catalytic Converters becoming compulsory on all post 1999 petrol engined production based saloon, touring, sports & kit cars for example. If such devices are compulsory on all road going cars from the same period, then although we may not like it, environmentally we have to follow suit if we are to be seen to be being responsible in motorsport. The "green" lobby is becoming increasingly powerful and certainly has the ear of national Government. If we were to carry on regardless, then motorsport's days would most definitely be numbered.

## Noise

A prime example of how things are changing is the surprising decision by the High Court to reject an appeal by the operators of Croft Circuit against a previous decision to limit the number of weekdays motorsport at the venue from 200+ to just 40 days pa. The circuit manager's ex-wife and her family moved to a property adjacent to the circuit when he took on the job, but after they split, they objected to the place being used so intensively during the week (no objection to weekend use note) and obtained an injunction as their quality of life was being affected. Despite the family moving to the venue after motorsport was well established, the judge decided that they were being unreasonably upset by the noise and has found in their favour, even though the local authority and many other locals supported Croft in their appeal.

The bottom line is that we are all going to have to work very hard in the future to ensure that motorsport is seen in the correct light by the general public. After all, can you imagine anyone trying to run motorsport events at a venue surrounded by hundreds of houses? What...? You know of one? Where? Oh, yes.... Aintree! I know that we are already careful about noise, but you can see where things may lead in the next few years if we let our guard down.

## Fuel

One area that is going to be more strictly policed is the use of "trick" fuel additives. We all know of someone who's car produces some rather strange fumes (watering eyes is often the first tell-tale). Well, with immediate effect, all new-build cars in Sprints, Hillclimbs, Stage Rallies, Rallycross and Racing must be fitted with a means of taking a fuel sample, in the case of fuel-injected cars this must be a dry-break coupling in the fuel lines. See page 150 of the Blue Book for more information.

## **Tyres**

One piece of good news is that the MSA is considering dropping the requirement for list 1A tyres for production cars in 2010, instead allowing any road legal (e marked) tyre to be used. It's not in this year's regs however, so make sure your tyres are legal.

Talking of green issues, does anyone know of anybody who may be interested in sponsoring the IMechE Greenpower Electric car Races for Schools event at Aintree in September?

Greenpower is a charitable organisation that promotes & organises the events which help kids of 7-17 design, build & then race a car powered by just two 12v car batteries. As I have said before, this is a great opportunity for children to learn about racing car design & engineering at an age that may sow the seed for them to get into motorsport in the future. If you know anyone who would be interested, do let your Chairman know.

## **Jim Bebb**

As some of you already know our enthusiastic Club Treasurer Jim Bebb, has had what he calls a funny turn, quite a serious one actually, and is currently recuperating at home. He has decided to stand down as Secretary of the Meeting for events at Aintree, a role that he has undertaken for at least 15 years to my knowledge. Jim will still be around of course, keeping an eye on his understudy, David Drucker, who will be known to many of you as the pilot of the dark blue TVR Cerbera that led our Championship for a good part of last year.

On behalf of everyone who's first face to face contact with us at our Aintree events has been Jim's mischievous greeting, may I offer our sincere and grateful thanks to him for all his work over the years, a duty which means he has rarely seen any of the cars in action on the circuit. Now that's dedication. Thank you Jim, though I imagine that we shall soon be having trouble keeping you in check again, (as usual!),

That's about it from me for this month. Don't forget that there's a great deal going on in the North West this year, lets hope that the press induced recession that is never out of the news does not have too great an effect on our events.

Happy motoring!

John Harden, Chairman

## **Marshals Wanted**

The club will be involved in a couple of rallies this month so please help if you can. We are looking for marshals as we will be assisting Stockport in running the stage at Weeton. Date/ details as follows :-  
March 29 – SMC Stages Rally – Weeton - Stockport 061 MC

Just a reminder of our Aintree dates for 2009 — get them in your diary now.....

<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>- Spring Sprint</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>- Track Day</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>- Jack Neal Memorial Sprint</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>- Autumn Sprint</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>- Track Day</b>

## **Events Calendar 2009**

We intend featuring a calendar each month giving details of events that we think you may be interested in. If you know of an event that others may want to know about, drop our editor a note via the contacts page of the LMC website, or give him a ring on 01704-225267 but before 9pm please!

Here's a extract from the fantastically comprehensive calendar on the ANWCC's excellent website

[www.anwcc.org/](http://www.anwcc.org/)

Mar 07 - Malcolm Wilson Rally (Forest Rally) National B - Kirkby Lonsdale MC (ANWCC Forest Rally Championship)  
Mar 07 - Tour of Cheshire (Historic Road Rally) National B - Knutsford & DMC (ANWCC Historic Road Rally Championship)  
Mar 08 - Roskirk Stages (Stage Rally) National B - Blackpool South Shore MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
Mar 08 - Slaters Rally (Stage Rally) National B - Caernarvonshire & Anglesey MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
Mar 08 - John MacKenzie (Autotest) National B - Hagley & DLCC (ANWCC Autotest Championship)  
Mar 14 /15 - Robin Hood Stages (Forest Rally) National B - Lindholme MSC (ANWCC Forest Rally Championship)  
Mar 14 /15 - Robin Hood Historic (Historic Stage Rally) National B - Lindholme MSC (ANWCC Historic Stage Rally Championship)  
Mar 14 /15 - Moonbeam Rally (Road Rally) National B - Telford AC (ANWCC Historic Road Rally Championship)  
Mar 22 - (Autosolo) National B/Clubmans - CSMA North-West (ANWCC Autosolo Championship)  
Mar 22 - (Prod Car Autotest) Clubmans - CSMA North-West (None)  
Mar 22 - Lookout Stages (Stage Rally) National B - Trackrod MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)

Mar 28 - Bulldog Rally (Forest Rally) National B - Wolverhampton & S Staffs CC (ANWCC Forest Rally Championship)  
 Mar 28 - Bulldog Historic Rally (Historic Stage Rally) National B - Wolverhampton & S Staffs CC (ANWCC Historic Stage Rally Championship)  
 Mar 29 - SMC Stages (Stage Rally) National B - Stockport 061 MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
 Apr 04 /05 - VK Derbyshire Rally (Road Rally) National B - Matlock MC (ANWCC Historic Road Rally Championship)  
 Apr 04 - Horiba D'Isis Stages (Stage Rally) National B - Quinton MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
 Apr 11 - Three Sisters Sprint (Sprint) National B - Longton & DMC (ANWCC Allrounders Championship)  
 Apr 12 - Loton Park (Hillclimb) National B - Hagley & DLCC (ANWCC Allrounders Championship)  
 Apr 13 - Loton Park (Hillclimb) National B - Hagley & DLCC (ANWCC Allrounders Championship)  
 Apr 19 - Derbyshire Trial (Sporting Trial) National B - Lancashire & Cheshire CC (ANWCC Allrounders Championship)  
 Apr 19 - Twyford Stages (Stage Rally) National B - Mid-Derbyshire MC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
 Apr 25 /26 - Night Owl Rally (Road Rally) National B - Aberystwyth & DMC (ANWCC Historic Road Rally Championship)  
 Apr 25 - Matthews Trial (Car Trial) National B - Caernarvonshire & Anglesey MC (ANWCC Car Trials Championship)  
 Apr 25 - Matthews Trial (Car Trial) Clubmans - Caernarvonshire & Anglesey MC (None)  
 Apr 25 - Aintree Spring Sprint (Sprint) National B - Liverpool MC (ANWCC Sprint Championship)  
 Apr 26 - Bolton Autotest (Autotest) National B - Bolton-le-Moors CC (ANWCC Autotest Championship)  
 Apr 26 - Dennis Wells Memorial (Car Trial) National B - Clwyd Vale MC (ANWCC Car Trials Championship)  
 Apr 26 - Lee Holland Memorial (Stage Rally) National B - Pendle DMC (ANWCC Stage Rally Championship)  
 Apr 29 - (Car Trial) Clubsport - Ilkley & DMC (None)

### What do you know about you Club? Are we the oldest active motor club in the UK?

We were founded as the [Liverpool](#) Self-propelled Traffic Association in 1896, the local subsidiary of a national organisation that had been formed the year before to promote the new-fangled horseless carriages. The Liverpool branch of the organisation was formed to run a "test for heavy motor cars" (i.e. trucks!) on Everton Brow, a steep section of roadway in Liverpool, part of which still exists today though no longer carrying traffic.

The organisers thought that the winner would be the vehicle that actually got to the top of the hill, though as it happens several did manage to complete the course, so the one that did it in the fastest time won. I suppose this was an early Hillclimb!

The winner received a prize of £100, which was a great deal of money back then, worth about £3500 today. The trial was run for, we think, about 4 years then other events were run including "motor tours" for cars around the North West of England. All very adventurous then when virtually everything was moved by horses and only the properly surfaced roads were maintained by local turnpike trusts.

Have a look at the image of the 1898 winner's certificate; it's the only one we've been able to find but it looks fantastic. In 1898, the Lancashire Steam Motor Company's truck won, they later became Leyland Trucks, & are still making vehicles today though now absorbed into Volvo trucks & Bus.

The Club was reformed as Liverpool Motor Cycle Club in 1902, changing its name to Liverpool Motor Club in 1904 to reflect the interests of members with cars as well as those with motorcycles.

There's more of our history on our website <http://www.liverpoolmotorclub.com/about/club-history/> .

We are still trying to piece our early history together as all our records were lost during WW2 when central Liverpool was virtually destroyed by Luftwaffe bombing raids. If you have any information regarding the club, from the turn of the last century right up to the 1980's, our archivist, Geoff Ashworth would love to hear from you.

(the following Image on the next page is courtesy of The Road Locomotive Society <http://www.roadloco.org.uk/> )

#### People you should know!

President & Publicity: [Imc-president@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-president@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Chairman: [Imc-chairman@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-chairman@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Treasurer: *still in the dark ages, no email yet!*

Secretary: [Imc-clubsec@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-clubsec@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

'Bulletin' Editor: [Imc-editor@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-editor@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Comp Sec: [Imc-compsec@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-compsec@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Sprint enquiries & entries:

Chief Marshal: [Imc-marshals@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-marshals@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Track Day Bookings: [trackday-bookings@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:trackday-bookings@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Membership Sec: [Imc-membership@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-membership@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Website matters:

CMC & LMC Speed Championship:

Geoff Ashworth

John Harden

Jim Bebbly

Geoff Maine

Steve Wilkinson

Phil Gough

[Imc-entries@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-entries@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

Bill Gray

Ron Hunt

Ron Hunt

[Imc-webmaster@liverpoolmotorclub.com](mailto:Imc-webmaster@liverpoolmotorclub.com)

[info@speedchampionship.com](mailto:info@speedchampionship.com)

**To reduce the amount of spam we receive we have changed all LMC email address please amend your contacts accordingly ASAP as the old addresses will cease to work over the next few months**



### Membership Matters

I am please to say that I am up to date with the processing and mailing of membership cards, the last batch went in the post on the 3rd March which means that all renewals or new applications received before that date have now been processed and posted. Please allow up to five days for the latest batch to arrive. If you have not received your Membership card please let me know as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your patience

Ron Hunt  
Membership Secretary

### Championship Registrations

Championship registrations are now up to date with all those received before the 3rd March actioned and posted. Please allow at least 5 days for them to arrive.

Ron Hunt  
Championship Co-ordinator

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 editor@liverpoolmotorclub.com