



Chairman –
Ian Skilling 01892 529721

Secretary and Treasurer –
Brian Mills 01732 832691

Funding Co-ordinator –
Barry Healey 01634 246007

NEWSLETTER No. 56

Welcome

First of all “welcome” to those of you that are new to our club whether you are members or visitors. I hope you have enjoyed racing with us outdoors and will be joining us when we begin our indoor winter championship.

Summer Championship

Once again we had an excellent season with some very close racing. This is reflected in the results below that show how, after ten rounds, some of the places are separated by just a few points. What makes it interesting for me is not so much who wins but all the little battles going on throughout the formulas.

We were very lucky with the weather again although it was touch and go a couple of times. For the last few races we knew that the hall was available should we need it.

Results

Formula TQ

1 st and Club Champion	Dave Mills	671 points
2 nd	Grant Riddall	658 “
3 rd	Dan Hamblin	625 “
4 th	Kris Healey	622 “
5 th	Jason Gidley	615 “
6 th	Clive Bonner	612 “
7 th	Phil Gidley	600 “
8 th	James Brooker	562 “
9 th	Barry Healey	508 “

Formula 1

1 st	Mike Spurway	618 points
2 nd	Claire Piper	613 “
3 rd	Andy Frederick	587 “
4 th	Shawn Herrington	558 “
5 th	Tim Fry	551 “
6 th	Stuart Mundy	545 “
7 th	Richard Hathaway	519 “
8 th	Charlie Stevens	501 “
9 th	Kevin Denman	482 “
10 th	Lee Edwards	473 “
11 th	Dave Edwards	465 “
12 th	Danny Litchfield	457 “
13 th	Joe Denman	439 “

Formula 2

1 st	Martin Warmington	567 points
2 nd	Brian Hopkins	487 “
3 rd	Mike Hoare	472 “
4 th	Brian Fuller	441 “
5 th	Martin Hoare	431 “
6 th	Jamie Walker	427 “
7 th	Kelly Walker	423 “
8 th	Joe Hartfield	399 “
9 th	David Thomas	398 “
10 th	David Boyd	374 “
11 th	Carl Hopkins	366 “

Web Site

Thanks again to Dave and Claire for administering the club's web site. The number of hits stands at about 25,000.

To clear up any confusion, the web site (www.wkrcc.co.uk) belongs to the club. The club's forum is hosted free for us on www.rccarworld.co.uk (which belongs to Claire and Dave). The club therefore is not involved in what appears on the forum. However, as I've said before, those that use the forum ought to consider that all of their comments are visible not only to members but also to the wider world. Some of the recent comments on there have, I feel, given the wrong impression. Please use it for its intended purpose – promoting r/c in general.

Fund Raising

During the season we have continued with Barry's idea of the "Track Builder Treasure Hunt". Thanks to Jim Litchfield and Marleen who have been selling squares on the board. It still amazes me how some people are so mean that they won't even throw a pound in the pot to help build a new track. If you don't believe me you can take the board round at a meeting and see how you get on! People seem to forget that the track is for **them**. It certainly isn't for Ian and I – we could quite happily carry on as we are now and save ourselves an awful lot of work. No – the tracks for you and as I've said regularly before you need to get behind the committee, who are working on your behalf, and support them 100%.

Finance

As always our financial position is very strong with almost all of our cash held in a deposit account so that we can make ourselves a modest amount of interest (about £130 in the last year). I always have the accounts with me at all the meetings and any member is entitled (and indeed encouraged) to ask to see them.

Spring Meeting

Once again the sun shone upon the righteous. The day had its familiar mix of regular and novelty races which seemed to go down pretty well. This year our thanks go to chefs Jim Litchfield and Colin Sexton who made a first class job of the bar-b-q. Most, if not all, of their customers have now made a full recovery. Kris Healey organised the team event – a notoriously difficult job given that so many people turn up with just one crystal and never want to be in the team you've given them! Barry Healey put an awful lot of work into fund raising with a treasure hunt, raffle and tombola. He even built a tombola machine that wouldn't have looked out of place at the most select of Church

possible promotion. So, the plan is that if you are going to take part in the winter championship you need to let me know that you will be racing. Once I know that I can work out the changes. **Please let me know by October 21st if you intend to race.** That allows me ten days to prepare. **If I don't hear from you I will assume that you are not attending.** You can phone, e mail (brian@wkrcc.co.uk), use the personal messenger on the forum, write or knock on the door! Thanks to those that have already let me know after the post that I put on the forum. It's also worth bearing in mind that drivers can move up (or down) even if they haven't completed seven from ten meetings.

Dates for the winter championship are:-

Round 1 - Oct 31st

Round 2 - Nov 14th **

Round 3 - Nov 28th

Round 4 - Dec 12th

No Meeting on Dec 26th

Round 5 - Jan 9th

Round 6 - Jan 23rd

Round 7 - Feb 6th

Round 8 - Feb 20th

Round 9 - Mar 6th

Round 10 - Mar 20th

Round 11 - Apr 3rd

Spring Meeting 2005 - April 17th

** This is Remembrance Sunday and in keeping with other sporting fixtures WKRC will observe the two minutes silence at 11.00 am.

One of the dates in February or March will be used for **Enduro 2005** although at the moment we don't know which one. To make room we have done away with the usual practice meeting so we go straight into the championship.

The first Enduro was a great success, although as is the way whenever you try something new, there are always lessons to be learnt. I know Claire has some new ideas but I'm sure she would welcome suggestions if you have any. I hope we can borrow Steve Hamblin's projector again but this time perhaps we can make it work properly!

Don't forget that 2005 will be the club's 20th anniversary year.

Marshalling and Stuff

For the benefit of new members and visitors (and possibly some others!) can I remind you of what we expect from drivers during racing. When Ian calls your heat you need to collect your transponder so you are ready to go as soon as the heat in progress is over. Please don't walk onto the track until all the cars are finished. When your heat is over take your car back to Steve and leave it for scrutineering. Remove the transponder and hand it back, turn off your transmitter and put it back in the correct box. Then go straight out to marshal. Don't come to race control to see how many laps you did - the results will be on the board by the time you have finished marshalling. When you marshal just look after your section of track and don't watch the race. Retrieve any crashed cars as quickly (but as safely) as you can. Keep your section of track tidy and replace any that gets out of shape. At the end of that heat just check that your section of track is tidy before you go to collect your car from scrutineering. Please remember that transmitters are not allowed in the pits during racing.

Trophies

This time when we present the Summer Championship trophies we will not only be presenting the Clubman Trophy but also the new Chris Janes Memorial Trophy.

The Clubman Trophy is given to someone who has regularly given excellent service to the club and is awarded annually. The recipient keeps the shield for one year but also receives a smaller shield which is theirs to keep.

The Chris Janes Memorial Trophy will be (as decided by the committee) presented to the driver who is considered to be the most improved in the last year. The winner will again keep the trophy for one year but will have a smaller version to keep.

For those that don't know, Chris was one of the founders of the club who sadly passed away earlier this year. Several of our previous members have made donations towards the cost of the trophy in his memory.

Points

One question that has cropped up outdoors concerns points being scored if you break your car. In order to gain any points in your race you must cross the loop at least once. If you break your car before you cross the loop for the first time you will not get any points from that race.

We often get asked how the points system in general works. It has been suggested that we post a detailed description on the web site so this should be appearing soon.

Good News

Nice to have some of this for a change! During the season both Marleen Maher and Danny Litchfield passed their driving tests so well done to both.

BRCA

As you know we took the decision back in April to become affiliated to the BRCA. This means that if you become a member (of the BRCA) you are automatically covered by their third party insurance. So if, for example, you are setting up your car on a Saturday night in the car park and accidentally drive your car into someone and break their ankle then you are covered. It does not however cover your car or equipment against theft. Also, importantly, it does not cover you when you are marshalling as this is considered to be a risk that you accept. I'm pleased to see that most of you chose to become BRCA members at the time you renewed your WKRCC membership. Unfortunately the two memberships do not run concurrently which means BRCA membership will become due on January 1st. Sadly, due to the enormous increase in litigation your committee has decided that in future everyone must be insured to race at our club. It will not be compulsory to be a BRCA member (and so use their insurance) but it will be compulsory to have insurance of some kind. If you want to join –or renew- your BRCA membership you can do that via us for £10 or directly to the BRCA yourself for £12. Whatever you choose to do I'm afraid you must be insured in some way and have proof of it. You can race at 3 meetings as a visitor without joining the BRCA or providing your own insurance, but please remember that visitors can't earn championship points. Let me know if you want a BRCA form – I usually have plenty with me but please don't leave it until the last moment.

Constitution

The club's "Constitution and Rules" are being revised at the moment. When the committee is happy with the wording they will be made available to the members for comments so that a final version can be prepared.

Track

Progress on the track continues to move along. I'm pleased to say that we have now made a formal planning application to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the site at Haysden. All we can do now is to wait and see.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have helped get us to the stage we are at now. Thanks to Barry Healey who helped me survey the area so that we could locate the site as accurately as possible on the map. Also to Richard Hathaway who spent a considerable amount of time getting estimates and talking with contractors. Marleen and Dave also spent ages on the phone chasing companies to give us quotes so my thanks to them as well. Terry Holmes very kindly provided me plenty of information about cess pits. (He must be a riot at parties!). Brian Hopkins has also been very helpful in planning construction for the site. Particularly thanks to Phil Gidley who prepared not only all the drawings but also some excellent 3D artists impressions of how the finished article would look. He did all this not once but twice! This was because we sent a set of plans for the planning department to look at in advance of the formal application and then made the alterations and additions that they suggested.

Finally

Lastly can I thank everyone who has supported the club over the last season but especially the following. Ian in the role of Race Director, Steve Hamblin who looks after transponders and transmitters, Kris Healey for his help in race control, Barry Healey who continues the fund raising (and for printing the last newsletter), Charlie Stevens who got us a toner cartridge for the club printer so I can print this one myself and to Dan Hamblin for writing another race report for "Racer" magazine.

Lastly thanks to that small band of people who help to pack away all the computer and sound equipment because they are always the last to leave.

We all know that the playground is a far from ideal surface to race on but that was all that was available to us. Hopefully we may have a purpose built track of our own before too long!

As I always say, this hobby is meant to be fun so do please ...**enjoy your racing.**

Brian

September 2004

Chairman's Chatter

Well! Another summer season is over. How quickly it goes. It seems like yesterday we were all feasting on Jim and Colin's burgers and hot dogs and looking forward to the summer season and now it's all over again. The days seem to get longer very slowly but they certainly seem to draw in very quickly once August is over.

The summer championship seemed to start really well but we've lost a few drivers on the way. Unfortunately for us we don't have a proper track and some drivers who I must admit are free to race wherever they like have been tempted to go elsewhere to race on purpose built tarmac circuits. I am sure when we do eventually have our own circuit they will be back but it will be the hard core of faithful loyal members that will have made it happen for the club. My thanks go to all those longstanding loyal

members for sticking with us. Without you we wouldn't even be contemplating building our own track.

Some drivers who have visited other circuits say they just don't have the atmosphere that we seem to have at WKRCC. But then they don't have a "Brian" who will do his best to insult or upset everyone – he certainly tries my patience every other Sunday. Joking apart he's a great guy and I defy anyone to do his job as well as him. Keep up the good work, we're all behind you mate.

At the last meeting I saw the drawings of our circuit that Phil Gidley had produced for the club. I hope when the council see them they will have no hesitation in granting us the necessary permission to go ahead and start building. It will be a long haul but I'm sure we'll get there in the end.

As some of you know I have come to a bit of milestone in my life regarding our Eltham shop. After thirty seven years trading at the Eltham shop we have come to the end of the lease and decided earlier this year that we'd call it a day and just concentrate on the Tunbridge Wells shop. This will effectively give both my brother Ray and me more spare time to do more of the things we want to do rather than the things we have to do. I know my wife has a long list of jobs for me. We do apologise to those of you who used the Eltham shop but we can always mail items to you or bring them to the club.

Well that's about it for another newsletter – otherwise Brian will moan about me rambling on again. So once again thanks for all your support.

Ian
September 2004