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NEWSLETTER No. 57

Introduction

Once again it's time for the newsletter which I aim to produce twice a year to bring members the results of the latest championship and also news about what's happening in the club. Welcome to those of you who have joined us since the last newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed racing with us and will be joining us for the spring meeting and then at our new venue for the summer championship. It's good to see so many young people like Ross Edwards, Max Burgess and Ben and Jonathan Nazer joining us.

The club is now in its twentieth year which is no mean achievement for any voluntary organisation. I hope that says something about not only how we run it now but also about the foundations that were put in place in 1985 by Chris and Ian. From looking at the old newsletters (I have a copy of number two but sadly not of the elusive number one) it seems that the club began in the autumn. Perhaps we ought to arrange a celebration of some sort to mark the anniversary towards the end of the year. Any suggestions gratefully received.

Spring Meeting

The 2005 spring meeting will take place on the playground at Hugh Christie Technology College on the 17th April. There will be the usual mix of normal racing (three heats with finals down to "F") plus a concours, a team and a sprint event. You don't need a "team" to enter the team event – just tick the box when you book in and we will make up teams that have a mix of drivers from all the formulas but please remember to bring as many crystals as you can. Drivers run for 4 or 5 minutes and then come into the pits to let the next team member go out. You can only be marshalled by another member of your own team so tactics are very important. The sprint event is a head to head with two drivers at a time on a reduced size track against the clock. You may have seen the same thing on TV where two cars start each side of a barrier and cross over a bridge half way through. It's just like that but without the bridge! Trophies and certificates will be presented to the winners on the day after the track has been cleared away.

Barry will again be in charge of the raffle so if you have anything that you would like to donate as a prize then please give it to him. There will be a barbeque at lunch time with genial hosts Jim Litchfield and Colin Sexton, and soft drinks will be available. I'm sorry to say that for the first time since the spring meetings began we have had to increase the cost so that drivers will now pay £6 which will entitle them to race and have a burger, a sausage in a roll and a soft drink. Non-drivers can pay £1.50 to have the barbeque and a drink. We hope to start at 09.15 with judging of the concours event which in the past has produced some really excellent body shells. We are normally finished around 16.30. Do try to come along and support the club on what is essentially intended to be a fun day. I understand that the hall is available in case of bad weather. If that changes I will e-mail you all to let you know.

Constitution and Elections

For the first time since the club was formed we have held elections to a committee that will run the club and make decisions, on behalf of the members, as to how we move forward in the coming year. It was a requirement of grant awards that the club be fully constituted with the elections to committee forming only a small part of the document that was prepared by Richard Hathaway. He then re-wrote it after suggestions from members were received following the circulation of the draft copy. Thank you for your hard work Richard. If time allows there will be a copy enclosed with this newsletter.

The constitution requires that an election and an AGM are held annually. The AGM was held at round ten of the winter championships when the election results were announced. The ballot is a postal one and is overseen by an independent scrutineer who has no connection with the club and who collates the votes and sends the results in a sealed envelope to the Chairman who opens them at the AGM. This year I'm pleased to say that there were eleven candidates standing for eight places. If there had been eight or less then an election would not have been required.

The results in order of votes cast were:- Ian Skilling (35), Brian Mills (35), Barry Healey (31), Dave Mills (24), Kris Healey (22), Richard Hathaway (22), Claire Piper (22), Grant Riddall (22), Mike Spurway (17), Brian Hopkins (16), James Brooker (11).

Congratulations to the first eight but commiserations to the bottom three who were sadly not elected this time. I hope that won't put them off trying again next year. Also I hope it won't stop them putting their ideas forward or deter them from working in some way for the club.

My thanks to all those who formed the first interim committee (made up of volunteers) and gave their time to the club and to getting the constitution up and running. Thanks also to all the members who took the trouble to fill in and return their voting papers. It's pretty hard to understand why so many didn't take part, particularly as everyone was provided with a stamped addressed envelope. There was one spoilt voting paper received.

Please feel free to ask any of those who have been elected to raise a point on your behalf at a committee meeting (there are four per year) if you think there is something that needs discussing. Minutes of the meetings will be available for club members to read.

Winter Championship

There was some excellent racing again this season and some very close results. It's good to see the battle for places still going on at the very last meeting of the championship. Congratulations to all those that took part and those that earned trophies. Remember that you need to have done at least seven meetings from ten to qualify for a trophy.

Results

Formula TQ

1 st and Club Champion	Dave Mills	669 points
2 nd	Grant Riddall	649 "
3 rd	Clive Bonner	647 "
4 th	Kris Healey	641 "
5 th	Jason Gidley	604 "
6 th	Steve Andrews	601 "
7 th	Dan Hamblin	598 "
8 th	Phil Gidley	588 "
9 th	Andy Frederick	562 "
10 th	Claire Piper	416 "

Formula 1

1 st	Gary Wise	625 points
2 nd	Stuart Mundy	580 “
3 rd	Shawn Herrington	579 “
4 th	Tim Fry	573 “
=5 th	Charlie Stevens	519 “
=5 th	Barry Healey	519 “
7 th	Lee Edwards	507 “
8 th	Dave Edwards	498 “
9 th	Nick Riddall	480 “
10 th	Richard Hathaway	473 “
11 th	Martin Warmington	455 “
12 th	Steve Collins	434 “
13 th	Mike Hoare	360 “

Formula 2

1 st	Danny Litchfield	552 points
2 nd	Joe Denman	527 “
3 rd	Dave Sexton	502 “
4 th	Terry Holmes	500 “
5 th	Mark Collier	435 “
6 th	Brian Fuller	417 “
7 th	Martin Hoare	401 “
8 th	Aidan Holmes	400 “
9 th	Joe Hartfield	399 “
10 th	Chris Baxter	384 “
11 th	Kelly Walker	379 “
12 th	David Thomas	371 “
13 th	Ben Nazer	365 “
14 th	Jamie Walker	342 “

As usual drivers will be moving up and down the formulas. This season I want to try and even the numbers out so will probably be moving more up than I do down. **In order for me to make the changes please can you all let me know if you intend to race in the summer championship or not.** If I don't hear from you I will assume that you are not taking part. Please let me know before Sunday 24th April. You can e-mail me at brian@wkrcc.co.uk or ring the number on the front page of this newsletter or tell me at the spring meeting.

ENDURO 2005

This was the second such event that we had tried and although it was an enjoyable day we didn't raise as much money as we did last year. With some sponsorship money still to come in the total stands at £826.15. This is partly due to so few people getting their friends or relatives to sponsor them although I don't understand why this should be. The phrase that springs to mind is "You can't please all of the people all of the time" and it is certainly true of the Enduro. Last year the club picked the teams (although not for visitors) so that there was an even spread of abilities in each. That appears to have been wrong with large numbers of our members not turning up because they weren't allowed to pick their own teams. This year we allowed members to pick their own and that was also a mistake! Drivers said that with all the TQ's in one team there was no chance of anyone else winning. Actually that was a perfectly justifiable comment to make. It's strange though that people can't take part in anything nowadays without having to feel a failure if they don't win. The whole idea of the

event was to have fun and raise some cash for the track fund while we did it. It's not as if there was a huge prize for the winners. Perhaps if the event is repeated next year there needs to be a rethink about how teams are sorted. Alternatively someone may suggest a fresh fund raising idea. I offer our collective thanks for their work on our behalf to:-

- Claire and Dave for organising the event and donating the Monster Truck in their raffle. Also to Dave for his tweaked version of "Race Control" which allowed us to run a three hour race.
- Grant for designing another first class track complete with pit lane.
- Ian for donating the trophies and for acting as Race Director.
- Barry who once again twisted the arms of our sponsors to extract some excellent raffle prizes and for running the raffle itself.
- Steve "H" for once more being in charge of transponders.
- Phil for lending us Eltham's transponders for the day and for printing and making the board for Claire's raffle. Very professional.
- Big Jim who took round the "Treasure Hunt" board and parted you firmly but gently from your cash.
- Our colleagues from Eltham, Sevenoaks and New Ash Green Clubs.
- Steve "A" who cleaned the floor before racing to give you more grip.
- Gary for collecting the trophies from the engravers for us.
- All of the shops and businesses who supported us.
- Everyone who enticed or cajoled their friends to come along and take part.

The results were:-

1 st . Modelworld 692 laps,	2 nd West Kent(4) 651 laps,	3 rd Sevenoaks 636 laps,
4 th New Ash Green 632 laps,	5 th Eltham 628 laps,	6 th West Kent(2) 552 laps
7 th West Kent(3) 544 laps,	8 th West Kent(1) 534 laps.	

Please let me have your sponsorship forms and money back as soon as possible.

Web site

Thanks to Dave and Claire for administering the site for the club. The number of hits is close to 30,000. I hope that in the future we may have some kind of forum or message board working again that we can use as a means of passing information to members.

Track Update

Despite the passage of time not an awful lot has happened with planning permission. I was hopeful that our application was going to be heard by the committee at last December's meeting. It wasn't, because TMBC were waiting for a report from Kent Wildlife Trust. In January and February they were waiting for a report from the highways department and the March meeting was cancelled due to a shortage of agenda items. However I don't think we should see this as negative, in fact just the opposite. The feeling I get is that the Council are keen for the application to succeed and indeed all the departments that I have spoken to at TMBC have seemed very positive about it. The only problem that exists as far as I know is the proposed cycle route from Tonbridge to Penshurst. The original plan was for this to use Lower Haysden Lane which is the road we would use for access. A concern was raised by a Councillor about us both using the road at the same time because it is very narrow in places. Fortunately the Council are working on a plan to take the cycle track fully "off road" which would remove that objection. The Council have told me that if the land owners agree to sell the land for the cycle track then it could be built as early as this summer. I think at the moment that we just have to be patient and in the mean time push ahead with fund raising so that we need to borrow as little money as possible when building starts.

On the subject of the plans that we submitted I must record my thanks to Phil Gidley who drew the plans for us in a most professional way despite the lack of clarity on the drawings and notes that I gave him to work from!

Finance

The club's finances at the moment are very strong. We still run two bank accounts, a current one for paying bills and one we use as a deposit. I move as much cash into the deposit account as I can to maximise the amount of interest we receive. The clubs account book is always with me at meetings and I encourage **any and every** member to ask to see it.

Of course one of the reasons that we are "well off" is that we were awarded a grant of £5,000 (the maximum possible) by the National Lottery via Awards for All. This was as a result of an enormous amount of hard work by Barry Healey who prepared the bid. Thank you Barry for all your efforts. Our hope is that in the not too distant future TMBC will also award us a grant towards the track building costs. In round figures the current situation is as follows:-

Cash raised by the club.....	£12,800
Awards for All.....	£ 5,000
Promise of interest free loan.....	£ 5,000

Total towards building costs.....£22,800

The total cost of building the track is dependant on:-

- Which estimates we accept (they vary wildly) and
- How much of the work we are prepared to do ourselves

The committee discussed this a while back and fell into two distinct camps. The first was in favour of paying someone to do most if not all of the work so that we had a guarantee. The second preferred us to do some work ourselves to keep costs down. The only problem with this is that we are dependant on members turning up to help when they say they will. I'm pleased to say three people have already said that they would like to be involved in the construction in some way which is encouraging.

Membership Renewal

I'm sure you all know by now that your annual membership becomes due for renewal on May 1st each year. Please can I ask you all to renew as soon as possible to make my life easier. You can pay at the spring meeting or send the form through the post. **Whatever you do don't wait until the meeting on May 1st to pay.** That will be the first meeting at the new venue and we have decided that there will not be time to take memberships that day. If you haven't paid by then you will have to race as a visitor which means paying £5. Please remember that championship points can not be earned by visitors. Membership forms were handed out at the meeting on March 20th which gave you six weeks to fill them in. Thank you to those that have paid already.

For the fourth year running the cost of membership will remain unchanged. However that may not be the case for race fees especially when we go indoors at the new venue.

At the moment at Hugh Christie we pay £50 for the morning. After the college is rebuilt, booking the hall will be organised by a private company and I have been warned in advance that we could expect to see the cost of the hall that will replace it triple in price. This may sound excessive but one of the alternatives that Richard and I looked at before choosing Hayesbrook was charging £33 per hour. It's obvious that we cannot pay anything approaching that much and leave race fees unchanged. However, for the moment

Hayesbrook have agreed to us using their playground for the same as we used to pay Hugh Christie for theirs so there is no immediate problem. The committee will have to decide on what rise, if any, there will be in race fees when we go into the sports hall in October this year.

Insurance

As most of you know one of the conditions of hiring any sports hall is that we must have public liability insurance. The simplest way of doing this is for our members to pay £10 per year and become members of the BRCA, the sports governing body. You are then covered by the BRCA insurance. If for some reason you don't want to join the BRCA you are quite entitled to obtain your own insurance elsewhere as long as you show Ian or me a policy document of some sort to prove you have cover that is at least as good as the cover offered by the BRCA. Visitors can race at three meetings per year and be covered by BRCA insurance before they have to join.

Unfortunately, just to confuse things, the club's year and the BRCA year do not coincide as ours begins on May 1st whilst the BRCA's begins on January 1st.

New Venue

For a few years now we have known that at some point the Hugh Christie College would be demolished to make way for a new school. That time has now come and the spring meeting on April 17th will be the last meeting we will hold there for the time being. Fortunately we have found a new home at The Hayesbrook School, Brook Street, Tonbridge due to the efforts of Richard Hathaway and Charlie Stevens. Thanks to both of them for their efforts. As you drive along Brook Street going out of Tonbridge the school is 3/10ths mile on the right hand side, just after all the chicanes finish. If you reach Old Barn Close you have missed it. When you drive through the gates go straight ahead down the side of the school and the tarmac area is almost straight ahead. The sports hall is just beyond it. I have been asked if I can arrange some time to try out the tarmac before the practice meeting, possibly a couple of hours one evening or one weekend. Please let me know if you are interested. It is possible there may be a small charge.

There is an area of good quality tarmac that we can use during the summer and an almost new sports hall for the winter. The tarmac area can be used for racing but not for parking. During the summer this won't be a problem as there is ample parking at the top of the tarmac area and in the winter we are allowed to drive across it to load and unload. We have permission to put a shed up to use for storage although I doubt it will be the old shed from Hugh Christie! We may need your help to build the new one, remove the old one and move the tracking. There are toilets in the building that houses the sports hall and we will have use of these during the summer and winter. We can also take our power from that building. Please bear in mind that all areas of the school are covered by CCTV cameras.

There are some important points to remember when we move to Hayesbrook:-

- Trainers only are permitted in the hall. Nobody will be allowed into the hall with outdoor shoes on. This applies to drivers, visitors and spectators. This is because the surface was extremely expensive to install and must be protected.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the hall itself although they are permitted outside in the corridor areas.
- No tyre additives to be used inside or out.
- The school gates will open automatically at 08.00 and close at 09.00 so please make sure you arrive during those times. Entry at other times is by swipe card.
- Most importantly **the entire school site is strictly NO SMOKING**.

Summer Season

The first meeting of the summer season will be on May 1st. This is a practice meeting which is run in the same way as all the others but no points are awarded. This allows you all to get the feel of the new surface at Hayesbrook and also allows us to decide whether to introduce a control tyre or not. There are then ten championship meetings of which you must do a minimum of seven to qualify for a trophy. I have gone back to the old idea of putting the dates on the back of this newsletter for those who want to stick it somewhere (notice board perhaps). We will aim to start racing at 09.30 or sooner if we are ready. Please book in as soon as possible to give us maximum time to prepare the heats board and load it on the computer. If you arrive late it may mean missing the first round. Note that we hope to start extra early on July 10th as this is the date of the British Grand Prix.

The track will be stored in a shed as before which means someone has to bring it out and put it back. That "someone" is you the drivers. Please don't make us have to deduct points from those who continually avoid doing their bit. If you race on the track then you need to help put it away after use.

Please remember that we need a quick changeover between heats. Drivers should not be going back to the pits with their cars after they race. They should switch off their car and transmitter, put their transmitter back in the pound, give Steve the transponder and go straight out to marshal. If everyone does that it will make things run far more smoothly. Please make sure you wear the yellow bibs so we can see when the marshals are in position.

Motor limits are as previous summer championships in that TQ drivers may use modified motors whilst F1 and F2 must use 27 turn stock motors or silver cans if they prefer. One thing we may consider later is splitting you into four formulas instead of three.

Thank You

I know I've said it before but it is still true – that is that the club relies on a large number of it's members who all help us in a variety of ways to make things run just that little bit more smoothly. Thanks to Big Jim and Sue Fuller who have both taken round the Treasure Hunt board. They both report the same thing – how difficult it is to get some people to buy a ticket for a pound! Thanks to Grant for dreaming up more challenging tracks, to Steve Andrews who cleans up the floor before racing and to the other Steve – Steve Hamblin – who is in charge of transponders and transmitters. Thanks to Ian for being our Race Director, and to Dan Hamblin for his race reports that have appeared in "Racer" magazine. Thanks to Brian Hopkins for sweeping up when you have all gone home and to those who arrive early and get the tracking out.

The year ahead may be a challenging one with the change of venue and the first elected committee in the club's history taking the reins. However, I feel confident that by this time next year we could be the proud owners of a purpose built track which will be the envy of many. For that to happen we will need support from the members who ultimately are the people who will benefit from it the most. I hope you all understand that that means you.

Finally, can I say thank you to everyone who has supported the club during the winter season. Most importantly, don't forget that this is meant to be fun, so do please**enjoy your racing.**

Brian
April 2005

WEST KENT RADIO CAR CLUB

Brian Mills (Secretary and Treasurer) - 01732 832691 & Ian Skilling (Chairman) - 01892 529721
<http://www.wkrcc.co.uk>

Meeting Dates 2005/2006

***** 17th April 2005.....**SPRING MEETING** *****

Summer (Outdoor) Championship 2005

1 st May	Practice Meeting (new venue)		
15 th May	Round 1	24 th July	Round 6
29 th May	Round 2	7 th August	Round 7
12 th June	Round 3	21 st August	Round 8
26 th June	Round 4	4 th September	Round 9
10 th July	Round 5 (early start for British G.P.)	18 th September	Round 10

Winter (Indoor) Championship 2005/2006

30 th October	Practice Meeting (new venue)		
13 th November	Round 1**	5 th February 2006	Round 6
27 th November	Round 2	19 th February 2006	Round 7
11 th December	Round 3	5 th March 2006	Round 8
25th December	No Meeting	19 th March 2006	Round 9
8 th January 2006	Round 4	2 nd April 2006	Round 10 and AGM
22 nd January 2006	Round 5	16th April 2006	Spring Meeting

Please note that dates may change at the end of the winter season to allow for an ENDURO or similar event.

The AGM will take place immediately before racing starts.

** 13th November 2005 is Remembrance Sunday. In common with other sporting fixtures on that day the club will observe the two minutes silence at 11.00am.