

## NEWSLETTER No. 59

### Introduction

Firstly can I offer a warm welcome to those of you, and your families, who are new to the club and say that I hope you have enjoyed racing with us. We always try to promote the fact that this is very much a club aimed at families, whether you race or come along to provide moral support. It's rather a shame that numbers are down slightly on last year but this is common "across the board" in car clubs, although I'm pleased to see that we have some younger members starting out racing with us.

I must apologise for the fact that this newsletter is shorter than normal due to pressures at work and other club commitments. This may not be bad news to everyone!

### Winter Championship

I think it's true to say that we had some excellent racing during the season which is borne out by the closeness of some of the scores. It's rather a shame that the Tamiya formula didn't attract as much interest as we had hoped, however we will keep it running for the summer season outdoors and make a decision later about keeping it for the following winter. Congratulations to all those of you that completed 7 meetings from 10 which means you will receive a trophy at the beginning of the summer championship. I hope to have the promotions/demotions worked out by the Spring Meeting.

### Results

#### Formula 1

1 <sup>st</sup> and Club Champion	Dave Mills	1405	points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grant Riddall	1390	"
3 <sup>rd</sup>	James Brooker	1377	"
4 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Andrews	1366	"
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kris Healey	1349	"
6 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Wise	1337	"
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Spurway	1326	"
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Fry	1321	"
9 <sup>th</sup>	Shawn Herrington	1318	"
10 <sup>th</sup>	Barry Healey	1243	"
11 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Collins	1163	"

#### Formula 2

1 <sup>st</sup>	Danny Litchfield	1343	points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Andy Crawford	1322	"
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Martin Warmington	1300	"
4 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Hathaway	1297	"
5 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Hartfield	1255	"

### Formula 3

1 <sup>st</sup>	Simon (Rio) Taylor	1311 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steve Griffen	1290 “
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Luke Oliver	1255 “
4 <sup>th</sup>	Luke Riddall	1253 “
5 <sup>th</sup>	Rhys Herrington	1223 “
5th	Nathan Blanchard	1010 “

### Formula Tamiya

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kris Healey	1398 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mike Spurway	1387 “
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Andy Crawford	1375 “

### **Committee**

The results of the postal ballot were announced at the AGM on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and are listed below. The eight candidates with the most votes are elected. I must just say (again) how surprising I find it that only 31 voting papers were returned out of a total of 51. In terms of a general election this level of voting would be described as brisk. However, considering that a stamped addressed envelope was included, and it was only necessary to make a few crosses, fold the form and post it, it still seems to be a poor response.

Brian Mills...29, Ian Skilling...29, Richard Hathaway...26, Grant Riddall....26, James Brooker....23, David Mills....21, Tim Fry....17, Jim Litchfield....14, Claire Piper....12, Steve Collins....7.

I would just like to pass on my thanks to the committee members who are standing down and also to this year's two unsuccessful candidates. However, not being on the committee doesn't preclude you in any way from helping the club. The agenda's and minutes of committee meetings are on the club forum for all members to read.

The first meeting of the new committee should take place within a month when officers will be appointed, so if you have anything you would like them to discuss please let me know.

### **Spring Meeting**

This year's spring meeting will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (note the 3 week gap) and will start around 09.15. For those of you that haven't attended one before it is an all day meeting with a break for lunch and is very much a fun day (no limit on tyres or motors) with not only normal racing but a concours, a team event and a rally sprint. It is an open meeting which means anyone (members, visitors and friends) are all welcome to come and race. Certificates and trophies will be awarded to the days winners. When you book in you will be asked to tick boxes on the form to show which events you want to take part in. With the team event we will put you into teams with an equal spread of F1, F2 and F3 drivers. One advantage of this kind of event is that it gets drivers to mix more and get to know those from other formulas.

Normally at the Spring Meeting we have a bar-b-q which is included in the cost of the day. Sadly, this year our resident cook (Jim Litchfield) is without his "club sized" bar-b-q because it caught fire (!). This means that unless I post something to the contrary on the web-site you will need to bring a picnic or your own bar-b-q. The cost to race for the day will be £5 regardless of age. If the weather is bad we have the use of the hall up until 16.00 although this will be an expensive option for the whole day. Please bear in mind that if we are in the hall then you must be wearing trainers – outside shoes are not allowed in the sports hall.

## **Membership**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May all memberships become due. It would greatly help our Membership Secretary, Richard Hathaway, and indeed me if you were to pay as soon as possible. The rates are the same as last year and in fact haven't altered since their introduction in 2001. Seniors pay £25, juniors £12.50, family of two seniors £47.50 and family of one senior and one junior £35. There is a form on the web-site that you can download, so that you can fill it in and bring it with you to the Spring Meeting or alternatively post it to Richard, at the address on the form, with a cheque made out to WKRCC. As always, if your financial situation is such that you would like to pay in instalments then please come and speak to Richard, Ian or me as we can always make some arrangement. There is a space on the form for your e-mail address. If you fill this in then you will get an e-mail (usually on race day) to say that the latest results are up on the site.

## **Finance**

At the present time our bank balance (deposit account) stands at just over £17,500, although we ought to bear in mind that £5,000 of this is the grant from Awards for All towards the cost of a permanent track. What will happen to this is unclear at the moment. Barry Healey is talking to A4A to see if we can either keep it for longer (we have already been given a three month extension), use it for another purpose (foreign holidays for race control staff (!)) or give it back and possibly re-apply for it again later.

Apart from memberships and race fees the only other regular source of income, limited though it is, is the Track Builder Treasure Hunt where you pay a pound for a numbered square on a board and the winning ticket is drawn from a hat with the club and the winner sharing the prize fund 50 - 50. For a reason that isn't clear, Joe Hartfield still seems to be on his lucky streak!

The indoor season was an expensive one for the club with us buying a new laptop, AMB decoder box and a set of transponders. The cost of all this was £3,000. It's true that perhaps we should have saved the cash and spent it on the new track when the time comes, but I don't agree with that. There is no point in having a pot full of money for a track if everything else is falling apart around your ears and causing the kind of problems with timing that we were having. We need to look to the future without forgetting the present.

When we moved into the sports hall back in October last year the committee decided that all race fees would increase by £1 to help cover what was to us a huge increase in costs compared to the hall at Hugh Christie. As we will be back outside for the summer championship it seems only fair to return the race fees to their previous levels which were £3 for adults, £2 for juniors and £5 for visitors. If however we have to use the hall due to bad weather then I'm afraid you will all need to pay an extra pound on the day. I hope you don't think that's unreasonable.

## **Web site**

The number of hits stands at 37,500. Thanks to Dave and Claire for administering it. The forum is a useful tool for passing on information and allowing members to chat on pretty much any subject they want to. If you are a club member and haven't used the forum then go to [www.wkrcc.co.uk](http://www.wkrcc.co.uk), click on the forum button and then click the link to create an account. You will get a mail back to say what your log on details are.

## **Carpet**

One of the things your new committee will be considering is the purchase of carpet for the sports hall in time for the next indoor season. We have discussed this already and found that there are a number of issues that we need to address before we commit ourselves. There is a shipping container right outside the hall that we have been told we can hire to use for storage although it will need some repairs to make it waterproof first. We will, of course, also be able to keep the tracking in there as well which means we won't have to carry it backwards and forwards from the shed. New track will need to be made that is more forgiving than the solid

wooden stuff we have at present. The major problem I foresee is that of laying and lifting the carpet in a short space of time and indeed having the volunteers that are prepared to do it.

### **Summer Championship**

The new championship starts on 14<sup>th</sup> May (note the 3 week gap since the Spring Meeting) and is back on our fortnightly cycle. This will be a practice meeting to give you a chance to get used to the change in surface and allow you to get your outdoor setup right. At the AGM a suggestion was made about introducing a “control” tyre – something I am personally in favour of. However, as in all democracies, we put it to the vote and the suggestion was voted down in favour of the same ruling we had last year outdoors. This was that foams, mini pins and rally blocks would be banned but any other tyre would be legal. Whilst on the subject of tyres can I remind you that **no** tyre additives are permitted. You may clean the tyres, but whatever you use should evaporate and not leave a residue. On the subject of motors we will again use the same system as last outdoor season in that F1 drivers may use modifieds if they wish whilst F2 and F3 must use 27 turn stock or silver can.

One thing that has always been the rule but may not be common knowledge is that in the finals, in order to score any points you must have registered at least one lap. If the computer sees you as a DNS (did not start) then you will get no points for the final. If you look at the points on the web site and don't agree with them, please feel free to let me know – I have been known to miss the odd point or two – sorry.

The sports hall is available if the weather is bad although from a purely cost point of view I would rather not use it unless we have too. Having said that it is nice to know we have a backup and can carry on racing if it rains. Just bear in mind that you must be wearing trainers to use the sports hall – this is a condition of our hire. Also as I mentioned at the AGM, smoking is not allowed anywhere on the school site. Ian and I have no particular axe to grind about it, I'm afraid it's a school rule. Please remember that we expect everyone who uses the track to help tidy it away in the shed as soon as racing is over and not sneak away without helping. As always transmitters must be in the pound during racing and must have your name on.

Can I just remind you that if you need to ring about anything on a Sunday morning, or the gates are shut please don't ring home numbers but instead use the club mobile number which is 07870 163792.

I never cease to be amazed by the things that get handed in that forgetful drivers have left behind or lost. We have a transmitter that we have had for a few meetings (with no name) but strangest yet is a **pit table!** If it's yours let me know and I can return it before it goes to the dump.

### **Thank you**

I would like to record my gratitude once more to those of you who go that extra mile to help the club. Thanks to Steve Hamblin who is our transponder and transmitter man. Also to Steve Andrews for providing the trolley that we stack the tracking onto. Steve and Grant were also responsible for altering the shed so that the trolley can be pushed inside with the track still on it. This saves a lot of time when we clear away. Thanks to Grant for some excellent tracks.

To change tack slightly here, it's rather nice to see young members coming along and bringing their families with them. Without being sexist it's the kind of hobby that Fathers and sons can do together even if they don't both race, and also something that Mums can come and watch. When racing is over you might expect that they would clear away their gear and go, but that isn't always the case. It hasn't gone unnoticed how much some of the newer member's Mums and Dads (and Grandads) contribute to clearing away and sweeping up. I know who you are, so

thank you to you all. Lastly thanks to all those, who in some small way makes things run just that little bit more smoothly for everyone else.

### **The Track**

It is now eighteen months since the planning application was formally lodged. TMBC are still in discussions to try and buy the strip of land necessary to take the cycle track fully off road. When I spoke to Leisure Services just before the AGM they said that they had now been asked to find an alternative route within Haysden Country Park to avoid the need to purchase the land. They said they will update me with any developments and I will, of course, pass these on to members.

### **Finally**

If at some time racing doesn't seem to be going quite your way, remember the words of a sadly now deceased BRCA official who put things into context when he said "Never forget, we race toy cars for plastic trophies!"

Don't forget this is a hobby so do please.....**enjoy your racing.**

Brian. April 2006

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### **Chairman's Chatter**

An interesting winter season this year with the new hall. It certainly is large enough as Grant has proved to us with some great track designs. It's a pity that this season we have been somewhat down on attendance – only managing on average 25 to 30 drivers – not really enough taking into consideration the costs involved. There were some drivers who raced in the summer and didn't even come along to collect their trophies when they were presented and haven't been since.

We're not quite sure what is causing the downturn in attendance – although it does seem to be a nationwide thing as most clubs seem to be struggling a bit for members. We could really do with about 40 drivers per meeting. This makes for nice full heats, no shortage of marshals, enough heats to make a comfortable race program without us in race control getting too hassled. It's hard to believe that one or two meetings in the old Hugh Christie hall we had up to 70 drivers – we don't want that many again but a few more than we're getting would help to make it more interesting.

I'm rather disappointed that the Tamiya formula hasn't proved to be the success that I thought it would be. I must thank however the experienced drivers who were already racing in another class for their efforts in promoting it but racing in two classes is very difficult at any time never mind when things go wrong. You're either driving, marshalling, or trying to fix the car for the next heat. We just didn't get sufficient newcomers to compete in the class. But we have tried.

Going back to the lack of drivers it's not obvious what has caused the downturn but the sales of entry level cars has reduced considerably over the last year. So out of all the entry level cars sold some will filter down into the clubs. This may be why there is a shortage of new drivers. Also when starting in the hobby as everyone knows it's not easy and the new members need all the help they can get in those early meetings, especially when they go home having not managed to complete a single heat throughout the meeting – very disappointing. So any new drivers, if you need help ask any of the other members. Also all you regulars try to make sure the new guys are alright and they will hopefully go home having had a good time and want to come again.

Anyway folks that's all for this time – Brian will moan that the old fool has rambled on too much as usual. See you all at Spring Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ian. April 2006



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WEST KENT RADIO CAR CLUB

# Meetings 2006/2007

**SPRING MEETING ..... 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006**

## 2006 Summer Championship

14 <sup>th</sup> May.....Practice (note 3 week gap)	28 <sup>th</sup> May.....Round 1
11th June .....Round 2 ***	25 <sup>th</sup> June .....Round 3
9 <sup>th</sup> July .....Round 4	23 <sup>rd</sup> July .....Round 5
6 <sup>th</sup> August .....Round 6	20 <sup>th</sup> August .....Round 7
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept.....Round 8	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept.....Round 9
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.....Round 10	

\*\*\*11<sup>th</sup> June is the British GP and we may make an early start.

## 2006/2007 Winter Championship

29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2006.....Practice	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2006.....Round 1 **
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2006.....Round 2	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2006.....Round 3
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2006..... <b>No Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2007.....Round 4
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2007 .....Round 5	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb2007.....Round 6
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2007.....Round 7	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2007.....Round 8
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2007.....Round 9	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2007.....Round 10 & AGM

\*\* 12<sup>th</sup> November is Remembrance Sunday and in common with other sporting fixtures on that day we will observe the two minutes silence at 11.00am.

It is possible that there may be some changes to the above if an ENDURO meeting is held.