

NEWSLETTER No. 63 - April 2008

Introduction

Firstly, welcome to everyone who is new to the club and has raced with us for the first time. For some of you it may have been your first taste of racing and for others your first time racing on carpet. I hope that everyone enjoyed the experience because for those of us on the committee it was a large organisational undertaking. I was particularly pleased to see drivers from neighbouring clubs at Eastbourne and Sidcup who have always given us their support. For new members their first meeting can be a daunting experience – I hope that our committee members (who should be wearing their badges), race control staff and other drivers in the pits were able to assist in making the experience a little easier.

Winter Championship

I hope everyone will agree that it was an excellent winter season. There was some excellent racing through all the classes. In particular I remember the super stock “A” final at the meeting before last, was one of the best finals ever with amazingly close, but contact free driving. Well done to all those who took part and provided the rest of us with some great entertainment.

I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of everyone to all those who made the championship possible. In particular to that group who turned up in the cold and dark to set everything up and lay the carpet and track? Unrolling and taping the carpet down is a thankless task and tough on the knees as well. Worse still is untaping it and rolling it back up again afterwards. Thank you to all those who helped us clear away when racing was finished, many of them spectators and friends or relations of drivers. The development of the patent Ian Skilling “carpet rolling machine” helped greatly in not only rolling the carpet more quickly but in keeping it in neat rolls and preventing it from becoming something that looked like an ice cream cone when it was finished!

Grant again designed and built a great variety of tracks – some fast and some slower and more technical. Steve was in charge of transponders (and sticky numbers) whilst Jim was the ever popular scrutineer! Thanks also to Gemma and Laura for taking round the treasure hunt board.

In line with the club rules there are a few people who are due refunds (of 50%) for meetings that they cancelled within the required time scale and these will be paid within a week or two. Please remember that we do not give refunds for meetings that were cancelled late or where those who took advantage of the nine for eleven option have attended less than nine meetings.

Below are the results for each class. Please remember we use your best eight from ten to calculate the final positions. Sadly if you have done less than eight meetings in any one of the classes you won't appear here although your results will be on the club's web site. Trophies will be awarded for all those shown below. The club champion is the driver who has the most points (when the best 8 from 10 calculations have been done) irrespective of motor class. In that case well done to Stewart Bevan!

Results – Superstock BL

1 st	Tim Hancock	2394 points
2 nd	Darren Simpson	2378 “
3 rd	Terry Edlestone	2374 “
4 th	Alex Boniface	2347 “
5 th	Ian Fletcher	2300 “
6 th	Tim Boniface	2274 “

Results – Superstock Brushed

1 st	Dan Hughes	2402 points
2 nd	Dan Hamblin	2363 “
3 rd	Vince Menzies	2361 “

Results – Stock BL

1 st and Club Champion	Stewart Bevan	2406 points
2 nd	James Brooker	2386 “
3 rd	Tim Fry	2370 “
4 th	Terry Holmes	2350 “
5 th	Shawn Herrington	2337 “
6 th	Colin Duck	2317 “
7 th	Ben Ryan	2309 “
8 th	Simon Taylor	2274 “
9 th	Andy MacEwan	2238 “
10 th	Neil Fletcher	2236 “
11 th	Chris Spedding	2206 “

Results – Stock Brushed

1 st	Jez Clarke	2401 points
2 nd	Grant Riddall	2391 “
3 rd	Andy Crawford	2353 “
4 th	Phil Gidley	2334 “
5 th	Garry Napier	2311 “
6 th	John Plummer	2299 “
7 th	Luke Riddall	2279 “
8 th	Josh Doorne	2266 “
9 th	Steve Collins	2258 “
10 th	Daniel Veness	2249 “
=11 th	Tom Doorne	2207 “
=11 th	Rhys Herrington	2207 “

Web-site

The web site continues to be a well used resource and was also our prime method of booking and paying for winter racing. The forum is also very popular but is suffering with being rather slow. Because of this it is being moved to be hosted elsewhere which means the old site will be “read only” for a few months and we will be effectively starting the new one from scratch. Thanks to Dave and Claire for continuing to maintain the site for the club.

Track update

On 6th February committee members from the club (Ian Skilling, Tim Fry and Brian Mills) met with representatives from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to discuss our plans to build a

tarmac track on land at Haysden Country Park. The plans were formally lodged in October 2004 but have been delayed because of ongoing concerns about traffic on Lower Haysden Lane due to the completion of a cycle route that uses that road.

The Council fielded officers from the Planning and the Leisure Services departments as well as the Chairman of the Tonbridge Sports Association, all of whom were I think positive about the scheme going ahead.

When your new committee meets one of the things it will have to do is to consider whether we want to progress this project or not. Amongst other things they must decide if we could afford to build and then continue to fund such a scheme. If you have any views on this subject then please make either myself or any of the committee members aware of what you think.

Committee

By the time you read this the committee elections will be under way once more. I'm particularly pleased to see that because there are more candidates than there are places available, an election was necessary this year. It's always good to have new people putting their names forward as fresh ideas are almost always a positive thing. Of course the fact that there are more than eight candidates means that one person will be disappointed. However, you don't need to be on the committee to help the club and members can be co-opted to assist with a particular project. If you feel that you would like to have a say in the way the club is run or in the way things are done then you ought to consider putting your name forward as a candidate next time.

Unfortunately, Jim Litchfield has decided not to stand again and so will no longer be our scrutineer. Jim has been involved with the club since our buggy days at Tunbridge Wells when his son Danny started racing. In those days Danny used to drive whilst sitting on Jim's shoulders! I would like to thank Jim for everything he has done for the club over the years. He was particularly active when we erected the shed two years ago as we prepared to race on carpet for the first time. I hope Jim will visit us regularly in the future.

I would like to offer an apology to Ian following a "typo" (that Jez pointed out) that appeared in his manifesto. As you all know Ian is extremely old, but my assertion that he has "been involved with the club since 1895" is, I'm afraid, a little wide of the mark.

BRCA

For those who don't know, the BRCA (British Radio Car Association) are the sports governing body. It is a requirement of racing at our club that you are a BRCA member. This is because BRCA membership entitles you to the benefits of their public liability insurance. If you would like an application form please ask at race control or download one from <http://www.brca.org>

I will be asking everyone to produce their card when we start racing outdoors. If you are a new member you can race at three of our meetings (from January to December) before you have to join the BRCA. If you have already done three meetings this year please join without delay.

Off Road Racing

Steve Andrews is currently working on a site for an off road track in Leigh, just outside Tonbridge in Kent. This is partly due to the fact that the South East region of the BRCA is short of locations to hold their one tenth scale regional meetings at. Because such a meeting can only be run by a BRCA affiliated club we have agreed that they can be run under the banner of WKRCC and so we will be hosting two meetings on May 4th and May 18th. If you have a one tenth scale electric buggy then speak to Steve for details and come along to race.

WKRCC Membership

Please bear in mind that all club memberships expire on 30th April. If you intend to join or renew please can you do so as soon as possible. This spreads the load for us and also saves the delay that occurs if everyone waits for the first meeting in May. Application forms are available from race control with prices remaining unchanged since 2001. However, Ian is still negotiating

with the school about the rent for the tennis courts so it is possible that there may be a change in daily race fees, possibly to £4 for seniors and £3 for juniors which is the same as when we are indoors. I don't think, in all honesty, that anyone could complain about the overall cost of racing when you consider, for instance, how much you pay to see a game of football.

I intend to repeat our "11 for the price of 9" offer that we've run for a couple of years. This means if you pay £36 in advance (assuming a cost of £4 per meeting) this will cover you for all eleven meetings. However it does mean that you have to make the financial commitment in advance.

Summer Championship

Motor classes

There are three motor classes this year:-

- Stock – 27 turn brushed motor (bearings permitted)
- Stock – 13.5 or slower brushless motor (bonded or sintered)
- Open – any **other** brushed or brushless motor

Batteries

These can be either:-

- Packs of 6 cell, 7.2v NiCad or NiMH or
- LiPo's - 7.4v

If you choose LiPo's they must be enclosed in a hard case, used with a suitable cut off device and charger and also charged in either a LiPo sack or a metal container.

Weight and ride height

A ride height will not be imposed but the weight of cars will be checked to ensure they are a minimum of 1500g in order to keep things reasonably fair.

Club rules

Please consider the following and life will be more enjoyable for everyone:-

- No smoking anywhere on the school site
- Trainers only on the tennis courts.
- Parking on the playground only to load and unload, otherwise park beyond the lift up barrier.
- No litter to be left anywhere.
- Everyone must show their BRCA card
- Treat other drivers and their property with respect
- Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated
- Allow lapping drivers through
- Straight out to marshal after your heat
- When marshalling watch only your area and not the race
- When marshalling wear your tabard
- No additive of any kind is permitted on the tennis courts
- No practice without a peg - don't hog a practice peg – others will be waiting
- Run the correct number on your car and a reverse sticker if you have reverse on your speedo (stickers available from race control)

Dates

The calendar is printed at the end of this newsletter. I hope we may be able to organize a fun type event either indoors or on the tarmac to fill in the gap after the summer season is over.

Access

Recently there has been a problem with the SIM card in the club's mobile phone. I am currently waiting for a replacement and will publish the number as soon as I have it. For those who don't know we have a phone in case anyone has trouble getting access to the site as sometimes the gates close after we have all arrived. As previously there will be a notice on the front gate with the number on it for the benefit of late arrivals or visitors.

Good News

I hear that Glen Relf, Andy Creasey and Stuart Colby have all recently become fathers. Dan Hamblin has passed his driving test and Dave and Claire have become engaged. Congratulations to all of them.

Finally

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

Brian. April 2008

Summer Championship 2008

Practice & AGM	13 th April		Round 6	6 th July
Round 1	27 th April		Round 7	20 th July
Round 2	11 th May		Round 8	3 rd August
Round 3	25 th May		Round 9	17 th August
Round 4	8 th June		Round 10	31 st August
Round 5	22 nd June			

Winter Championship 2008/2009 (provisional dates)

Practice	26 th October		Round 5	18 th January 2009
Round 1	9 th November		Round 6	1 st February 2009
Round 2	23 rd November		Round 7	15 th February 2009
Round 3	7 th December		Round 8	1 st March 2009
No Meeting	21 st December		Round 9	15 th March 2009
Round 4	4 th January 2009		Round 10	29 th March 2009