



NEWSLETTER No. 64 – September 2008

Introduction

First of all can I say welcome to those of you who are new to the club and are racing with us for the first time. I hope you enjoyed your first visit and will be racing with us when we go indoors for the winter series on carpet. However, if you came to race during the summer it is quite likely that due to the weather you have already experienced racing on carpet, albeit on a smaller track than we use for the winter. If you have any questions at all about racing please ask Ian or me in race control.

Summer Championship

As I've said the weather was so bad that we seem to have raced as much inside as we did outside. Last year was very similar, and I said then how unusual it was to lose just one days racing due to the weather. Now it's happened for two years running. There was however some excellent racing to be had as can be seen by how close the results are below. It was good to see drivers from clubs at Sidcup, Eastbourne and Sevenoaks who are always most welcome.

Results – Stock BL

1 st and Club Champion	Shawn Herrington	2396 points
2 nd	Simon Taylor	2360 “
3 rd	Daniel Veness	2345 “
4 th	Rhys Herrington	2335 “

Results – Stock Brushed

1 st	Luke Riddall	2394 points
2 nd	Josh Doorne	2390 “
3 rd	Tom Doorne	2375 “
4 th	Mike Hare	2362 “
5 th	Oliver Matthews	2344 “

Results – Open

1 st	Dave Mills	2388 points
2 nd	Grant Riddall	2350 “
3 rd	James Brooker	2344 “
4 th	Tim Fry	2343 “
5 th	Dan Hamblin	2286 “
6 th	Phil Gidley	2269 “

Results – Juniors

1 st	Josh Doorne	2390 points
2 nd	Daniel Veness	2345 “
3 rd	Rhys Herrington	2335 “

Web-site

The web-site continues to be well used as a source of information and also as a discussion forum. When booking-in for the winter championship opens it will be on the web site as it was last year

with some minor changes. The gallery has been expanded to include a lot of the “back catalogue” of pictures from meetings, enduro’s and presentations. There are also a few pictures of the late Chris Janes receiving a specially engraved mirror that we presented to him to mark his retirement from the club. For those who don’t know, it was Chris along with Ian who started the club back in 1985. If you look at the photos of the presentation from 1999 you’ll be surprised to see how much hair Ian had then.

Track update

As I said in the last newsletter, we had a meeting with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council back in February about progress on the site at Haysden. At a subsequent meeting of our committee it was decided that because of the high cost of trying to keep that particular site secure (it is very isolated) we should withdraw our planning application. The cost of suitable fencing would have used up a vast and disproportionate percentage of the cost of the entire project. I have written to the Council and informed them, with regret, of our decision but have said that should another suitable site come up then we would like the opportunity to evaluate it.

Sevenoaks Endurance

Sevenoaks Club are again holding a two and a half hour endurance race, this year it’s on Sunday October 5th. They are hoping to run outside on tarmac but if the weather is poor, they will go indoors are race on a wooden floor. Last year West Kent won this event so it would be nice if we could defend our title. If you would like to take part then please let me know.

BRCA

For those who don’t know, the BRCA (British Radio Car Association) are the sports governing body who are affiliated to the MSA. 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 need 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 indoors. 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. All BRCA memberships expire on 31st December each year. Tim Fry is the committee member with responsibility for organizing this so please see Tim if you have a query.

Off Road Racing

During May we were fortunate enough to host two rounds of the BRCA 1/10th scale off-road buggy races. These were run at a track that Steve Andrews had built on land behind “The Plough” public house in Powder Mill Lane in Leigh. Both of these meetings, a two wheel drive and a four wheel drive, were well attended by drivers from all over the south east.

There is also to be an “end of season” meeting there on September 28th, so if you have an electric 1/10th scale buggy (two or four wheel drive) then come along. It is not a BRCA sanctioned event so it will be a pretty relaxed day.

Winter Carpet Championship

After the success of last winter we are doing it all over again. This year there are one or two changes (like motor classes and control tyres) but otherwise things are pretty much the same. Sadly as with all things like this there are rules that need to be observed to not only make things fair for everybody but also (if everyone reads them) to make a more relaxed and dispute free day. I have attached a copy to this newsletter and also details for booking-in and paying. Thanks to Shawn Herrington for arranging a sponsorship deal with Schumacher Racing. They are very kindly donating £150 worth of goodies.

Contact on Race Days

The club now has a new phone and number (**07790 625278**) thanks to Tim Fry.

Good News

Congratulations to Helen and Jez Clarke on the arrival of Oliver, and to Dan Hamblin on passing his driving test. Congratulations to also to Laura (Simon Taylor's better half) on becoming a fully qualified Staff Nurse. I must speak to her about one or two little ailments.....

Bad News

Sadly we learnt a few weeks ago that Pete Gilbert from Eastbourne club had passed away. I'm sure everyone will remember Pete particularly from the winter series although he did visit occasionally in the summer. He had been unwell for some time and when I saw him last, only a few weeks before he died, he very much gave me the impression that he knew his days were numbered. I'm sure we will all miss him – Steve, Ian and I certainly will in race control. Eastbourne Club are holding a memorial meeting on September 28th with proceeds being donated to the hospital that looked after him. Go along and support them if you can – WKRCC will be making a donation.

Finally

I would like to extend my (our) thanks to everyone who has helped out during the season. To Grant for track building, to Steve Hamblin for looking after transponders and scrutineering, to the teams who get the track out (and carpet if it's raining) and put it all away again and of course grudgingly to Ian for acting as race director and inventor of the "Skilling patent carpet rolling machine". Don't forget this is a hobby so do please.....**enjoy your racing.**

Brian. September 2008

Winter Carpet Championship 2008/9 (note the **one week gap** between practice and round 1).

Practice	2 nd November 2008		Round 5	18 th January 2009
Round 1 **	9 th November 2008		Round 6	1 st February 2009
Round 2	23 rd November 2008		Round 7	15 th February 2009
Round 3	7 th December 2008		Round 8	1 st March 2009
No Meeting	21st December 2008		Round 9	15 th March 2009
Round 4	4 th January 2009		Round 10	29 th March 2009

** 9th November is Remembrance Sunday, and in keeping with all events that morning we will be observing the two minutes silence at 11.00.

Summer Championship 2009 (provisional dates)

Practice	26 th April 2009		Round 6	19 th July 2009
Round 1	10 th May 2009		Round 7	2 nd August 2009
Round 2	24 th May 2009		Round 8	16 th August 2009
Round 3	7 th June 2009		Round 9	30 th September 2009
Round 4	21 st June 2009		Round 10	13 th September 2009
Round 5	5 th July 2009			

RULES FOR WINTER 2008/9

School gates open at 08.00 but (normally) close again at 09.30 for security reasons. You may need to drive up to them for them to open.

If you have a problem ring the club phone on **07790 625278**. Do not ring home phone numbers. There will be a notice on the gate with this number on.

You can drive down into the main playground to unload and load but cars must be parked back up towards the entrance beyond the fold-down barrier.

Please note that the entire school site is no-smoking.

The Venue

The school only allows trainers to be worn in the hall itself because of the surface. This means that anyone (drivers, pit crew or visitors that you bring) wearing outdoor shoes will have to remove them and leave them in the entrance hall. Trainers with rollers in the heels are not allowed.

No food or drink is allowed in the hall but is permitted in the rest of the building.

Some pitting is available in the hall itself and there is plenty of space in the entrance halls at both ends plus the two changing rooms. There are limited mains sockets so it is advisable to bring a 12 volt battery. If you bring a mains lead you must bring tape to fix it to the wall/floor to prevent it being a trip hazard. This tape must be removed and put in the rubbish bin after use. If you bring a car battery it must be in a plastic container that will retain fluid in case of a leak. If you do any soldering or motor skimming you must make sure that you do it in a location that will not cause damage to the hall floor. Please ensure all sharp corners are removed from the body shell and that no screws are protruding from the chassis.

Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Booking in

Pre-booked drivers need to come and register when told booking in is open. If you have pre-booked you must book in before 9.00 or your place will be given to a driver on the reserve list. Visitors who haven't pre-booked can sign in on the visitors' sheet (by 09.00) to take advantage of any spare places that are left after everyone else has booked in. All drivers will be required to show their BRCA card within the first 3 meetings.

Cancellations

If you find after having booked a particular meeting that you won't be able to make it, then you need to let me know at the latest by 9.00am on the Friday immediately before race day. If you do this then there is more chance of your place being given to a driver on the reserve list.

If you do have to cancel then half the fee you have paid (assuming you are paying "as you go") will be moved to your next unpaid booked meeting. If you haven't got any other meetings booked then you will receive a refund (of half the fee) at the end of the season. If I don't receive any notice of cancellation by 9.00am on the Friday before racing then you will forfeit the whole race fee.

For those who have paid in advance for the whole series, a refund (of half the race fee) will be made, but only when you have attended less than 9 meetings. Refunds will only be given at the end of the season.

Practice

The Race Director will announce when the track is open. It will remain open until a short time before racing starts at 09.30. This is to allow those who have built the track to have some practice time themselves. You must have a frequency peg before you practice unless you are using 2.4GHz. Please remember that other drivers will also want to practice so return the peg as soon as you have finished a run. You may only practice when standing on the rostrum as this will limit the number of drivers out at any one time. Drivers who are using 2.4GHz or Lipo – please limit your practice time to be fair to other drivers.

Racing

Racing will consist of 3 rounds of heats and 1 leg finals. We use "RC-Timing" to time our meetings with staggered starts for the heats and grid starts for the finals.

A gauge and scales are available at race control for you to check your car ride height and weight. Repeated ride height/weight infringements will result in loss of points or ultimately disqualification. The decision of the scrutineer is final.

When coming out to race please remember that you are not permitted to do a warm up lap. You may place your car on the track at the rostrum and drive in the direction of racing only as far as the start. During racing please allow faster drivers through when being lapped to make things less expensive and more enjoyable for everyone.

Wait on the rostrum until all cars have finished racing. When your heat is over please put your car and transmitter on the scrutineers table, hand back your transponder and go out to marshal straight away as there is only a very short gap. You may use a personal transponder if you have one.

Marshalling

Drivers should not be going back to the pits between racing and marshalling. Marshals must wear a yellow tabard so we can see instantly that they are in place. Please be in position before the start tones begin to avoid any penalties. First failure to be in place will result in loss of FTD, second failure will result in loss of points for that day.

- Watch only your section of track – not the race
- Straight out to marshal after your heat
- Only one person on each marshal point
- Concentrate on marshalling – not on holding a discussion with another marshal

Cars

There is a 5mm minimum ride height and a minimum weight limit of 1500g.

Motors

There are three classes to choose from – all can use either NiCad, NiMH or LiPo:

- Stock - 27 turn brushed motor (bearings permitted)
- Stock – 13.5 (or slower) brushless (bonded or sintered)
- Open – for anything other than the above two classes

Stock 27 turn will run with 13.5 brushless, whilst cars in the open class will run on their own, although all three classes will be allocated separate points.

Batteries

These can be either:

- Packs of 6 cell, 7.2v NiCad or NiMH (unless you are running 5 cell mod in the open class) or
- LiPo's – 7.4v

However, if you choose to use LiPo's you must:

- Use a type that is enclosed in a hard case.
- Use them with a suitable cut off device and charger.
- Charge them in either a LiPo sack or a metal container.

Tyres

Sorex are the control tyre for the Winter 2008/09 Carpet Championships.

Any Sorex tyre is acceptable, although the club will have 28's and 32's available at the meetings for the discount price of £20 per set of four pre-glued to rims for any member who wants to buy them. You DO NOT have to buy your tyres from the club in order to race. If you wish to use a tyre other than Sorex that is perfectly acceptable (any slick or tread), however you will not be allocated championship points.

Additive is permitted providing:

- It is totally odourless **and** it is in a SPILLPROOF container with an applicator.
- Products containing Wintergreen are specifically prohibited.

Winter Carpet Season 2008/2009

Booking in is now open! There are some slight differences for members and non-members so please read below. Please be aware that in order to book on line you **must** be registered on the club forum.

Members

Members can go to www.wkrcc.co.uk and follow the link. You may pay by either “Google Checkout” or cheque. There is no cost to you to use Google – you just need to open an account and pay by debit or credit card. Those without internet access can request a form from me or collect one from race control. Members can:-

- Pay for the whole series of 11 in advance for the cost of just 9. This is £36 for seniors and £27 for juniors. (Note: only available if you book and pay for the whole series in one go).
- Pay for one meeting when you make your booking and then after that book and pay a meeting in advance. If you wish you can book and pay for more than one in advance.
Don't forget you must do one of the above to guarantee your place.
- Just turn up on the day and hope there is room for you to race although we can't guarantee this. The cost is £4 for seniors and £3 for juniors.

Non-members

Non-members can go to www.wkrcc.co.uk and follow the link. You may pay by either “Google Checkout” or cheque. There is no cost to you to use Google – you just need to open an account and pay by debit or credit card. Those without internet access can request a form from me or collect one from race control. Non-members can:-

- Pay for the whole series of 11 in advance for the cost of just 9. This is £63 for all drivers.
- Book just the meetings you want to do at £7 each.
- Just turn up on the day and hope there is room for you to race although we can't guarantee this. The cost is £7 for all drivers.

Payment

Cheques must arrive or payment made via “Google Checkout” within 7 days of booking. Cheques must allow time for clearance. After 7 days, preference will be given to other bookings.

Cancellations

If you find after having booked a particular meeting that you won't be able to make it then you need to let me know at the latest by 9.00am on the Friday immediately before race day. If you do this then there is more chance of your place being given to a driver on the reserve list. If you do have to cancel then half the fee you have paid (assuming you are paying “as you go”) will be moved to your next unpaid booked meeting. If you haven't got any other meetings booked then you will receive a refund (of half the race fee) at the end of the season. If I don't receive any notice of cancellation by 9.00am on the Friday before racing then you will forfeit the whole race fee. For those who have paid in advance for the whole series, a refund (of half the race fee) will be made, but only when you have attended less than 9 meetings. Refunds will only be given at the end of the season.

Please read the above carefully and if you have any questions you can e-mail me at brian@wkrcc.co.uk or ring me on 01732 832691.

Don't forget half year membership is still available. Just click the “Membership” button on the front page of www.wkrcc.co.uk and scroll down to “Half Year Membership” and join on-line.