



# Newsletter December 2023



## **Chairmans Craic:**

I remember (just) being young, and all the old folk telling me that as you get older, the years go by faster, but as usual, I ignored these pearls of wisdom, and yet, here we are with another year gone by.

But what a year it's been. Our "bigger" events, jointly promoting the Border Counties, then the Berwick Classic and then the Northumberland Rally Festival, were all very successful and well received.

On a more local level, our autotests, 12-car rallies and various club nights throughout the year added to the diverse range of motoring activities we as a club were involved with.

So, to all those involved with organising, marshalling or indeed assisting in any way, please accept our truly grateful thanks. These events don't just happen by themselves.

Then we had a very good turnout at our AGM in the Pilot at the beginning of December where the club members appointed the officials and committee members for 2024. Again, thank you to all who came along and supported it.

That committee is already beginning to scope out our planned activities for '24 and as soon as we have some firm plans, you'll be the first to know.

Until then, it just leaves me, on behalf of the whole committee to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

### **2024 Committee**

Chair: Tom Wilkinson

Vice Chair: Mick Cotton

Treasurer: Simon Henderson

Club Secretary: Darren Smith

Competition Secretary: Michael Deans

Membership Secretary: John Straughan Jnr

Newsletter Editors: John Straughan Jnr & Joanne Douglas

Club Safeguarding Officer: Joanne Douglas

General Committee: Jonathan Rowley, David Brown, Darren Tennant, David Malthouse, Paul Clough, Bob Lowrie, Chris Johnson

Our regular spot for stories of years gone by.

To have your story published please get in touch with either Chairman Tom Wilkinson at [tom@gnarnia.co.uk](mailto:tom@gnarnia.co.uk) or John Straughan Jnr at [45speks@gmail.com](mailto:45speks@gmail.com)

## A Christmas Tale

It was Christmas, back in 1976. Up on the remote farm we were having problems with the old Lister generator, we were waiting for a delivery of diesel, and it was cold. It was a no-brainer for us all to go to my sister's in Cramlington for Boxing Day. They had electricity, they had good reception on the TV and they had central heating.

By mid-afternoon, Coke and I were bored with the old folks going on about the good old days ( sound familiar?), the folk they used to know and how they wondered what had happened to old so-and-so who they never saw any more.

In a moment of boredom, I picked up one of those free newspapers that used to get pushed through the letterbox, and there, in the cars for sale column, was Ford Escort mark 1 rally car. It was a 2 litre, big arches, full safety devices roll cage, wide wheels. As our Anglia 1500GT had just failed it's MOT and suffering from a missing wing where the front nearside wheel had parted company from the rest of the car (thanks Mum!), this sounded as though it would fit the bill.

So an appointment was made to go and see this thing down on the seafront in Whitley Bay.

When you're of tender years, full of enthusiasm and naivety, you really should be wary of the rose-tinted glasses, but we weren't! It looked like the dogs danglies (well,



anything would after an Anglia missing a front wing). It had had a 3 litre Capri engine fitted, but the then-owner had blown it up and replaced it with a V4, but it was at least the 2 litre version and not the asthmatic 1700.

We bought it for £395 and drove it home, relishing in the noises coming from the half-missing exhaust. We transferred the seats and belts from the Anglia before we tipped it into the automotive graveyard on the farm and concentrated all our effort into the new steed.

Sure enough, we made our motorsport debut on the 1977 Tour of Cumbria in the mighty Escort RS-V4 (christened by Basil as you might expect!). Coke drove, I navigated (the one and only time I navigated on a stage for him) but I'm sure you don't want to know how we got on.



The moral of this tale what with modern life being filled with Ebay, Facebook Market Place and all sorts of web-sites selling all sorts of projects, when you get bored with eating turkey sandwiches on Boxing Day, avoid all these things at all costs. You might just make a decision that haunts you for the rest of your life!

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

### **Your ticket to grassroots motorsport**

Sign up for your free [RS Clubman Licence](#) and join Motorsport UK today.

The 2023 RS Clubman digital licence is completely free and easy to obtain, accessible at any time from any device.



## Editors Craic:

Well folks, that's a wrap for 2023. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed this year. It has been good to get some craic for a variety of people from a variety of events.

We hoped you have enjoyed our newsletters and we are always happy to take stories from the past and the present from any members, the more the merrier. You are all stuck with us for another year at least as we were voted in to serve another term at the AGM back at the start of December.

2024 Memberships are now open and a few have been sent in already, If you want to continue getting the newsletters and be kept up to date with our events then please get your memberships in to us.

Please remember to let either me, Speks or Michael Deans know if you have been out and about marshalling, competing or navigating at events, the events may count towards championship points so its important to tell us what you been at, you can email [bdmc.newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:bdmc.newsletter@yahoo.com), [45speks@gmail.com](mailto:45speks@gmail.com) or [michael@tweedmouth.net](mailto:michael@tweedmouth.net).

Keep sending us your reports and content. It is much appreciated.

Joanne & Speks AKA The Editors



## Jim Clark Trust Event

Some of you may already be aware of this event in 2025, taken from their Newsletter and a date worthy of your 2025 diary.

28-29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 we will be holding an event again at Duns Castle to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jim's greatest racing year when he won his second F1 world championship, Indianapolis 500 and various others including the Tasman championship. If current thinking and plans are fulfilled, you will see live Formula1 cars and others being driven up and down the castle drive which should be noisy and exciting so watch for further details!



## RAC 2023—Stuart Bankier

I am sure that many members have a tale from the RAC. I had a very enjoyable day out the week before helping set up in Harwood for the stage run twice on Sunday. That stage ran from just below the summit of Simonside to Harwood Village and I was part of the crew running the timekeeping at the end of the stage. It was very uneventful really with a few people getting stuck in ditches and Oliver Solberg breaking the axle of his RS1800 mid stage ruining his chances of an outright win as at that point he had a five minute lead. Monday morning saw us running the stage finish at Shepherdshield and that stage claimed a few scalps with several cars off at the same point mid stage immediately after a large hole in the road. Oliver Solberg went off literally 50 yards from the flying finish ending up with his rear wheels on the edge of the road and the front down a very steep bank having been caught out by a bump on a crest. His navigator, Elliot Edmondson, said that had they been in a modern 4WD car the suspension travel would have smoothed it out.





Some of the cars recovered re-joined the event after missing a stage but the Solberg car was going no further. One car caused a bit of excitement as they missed the flying finish boards and sailed through the stop line at high speed. After our stage was completed and the stage finish cleared up we headed over the road to watch the first 50 cars through the final stage. The first few were very impressive, Seb Perez in particular in the Stratos which apparently revs to 10,000.



DATE	RALLY	LOCATION
<b>January</b>		
31-15	Dakar Rally	Saudi Arabia
12-15 Th-Su	Autosport International	NEC
20 Sa	Brands Hatch Winter Stages	Kent
20 Sa	Builth Showground Stages	Wales
25-28 Th-Su	Rallye Automobile Monte Carlo	Monaco
<b>February</b>		
3-4 Sa Su	Galway International Rally	Eire
10 Sa	Snetterton Stages	Norfolk
11 Su	Riponian Stages	N Yorks
15-18 Th-Su	Rally Sweden	Umea, Sweden
18 Sa	Kirkistown Stages	Kirkistown
18 Sa	Hall Trophy Stages	Lancashire
23-25 Th-Su	Race Retro	Stoneleigh
24 Sa	Ormco Accounts Stages	Isle of Man
25 Su	East Riding Stages	Beverley

### January Club Events

Wednesday 3rd Jan Clubnight:

Craic and Beer at the Pilot Inn, Berwick Upon Tweed

Sunday 28th January:

Autotest location TBC



## 2024 Provisional Scottish Rally Championship Calendar

Following on from a very successful and well received 2023 KNC Groundworks Scottish Rally Championship, the SRC organising team are pleased to confirm a tried & tested, but slightly slimmed down calendar for 2024. Subject to approval from Motorsport UK, the Events calendar for the 2024 Scottish Rally Championship will be as follows:



1. AM Phillip Trucktech Snowman Rally, Inverness - 2nd March
  2. The McDonald and Munro Speyside Stages, Elgin - 19th & 20th April
  3. Beatson's Building Supplies Jim Clark Reivers Rally, Duns - 26th May
  4. Dunoon Presents Argyll Rally, Dunoon - 21st & 22nd June
  5. RSAC Scottish Rally, Dumfriesshire - 20th July
  6. Voyonic Grampian Forest Rally, Banchory - 9th & 10th August
  7. Armstrong Galloway Hills Rally, Castle Douglas - 14th September
- Reserve: Anglo Caledonian Rally, South Scotland & Kielder area - 23rd-24th Nov\*

\*Note the reserve event will cover the first 45 miles of this 2 day event

With the Carlisle Stages sitting out 2024 whilst the organising team focus on a new event (which forms the reserve event as listed above), we have taken the opportunity to reduce the series to 7 rounds, with the best 5 scores to count.

## The calendar of events for the 2024 HRCR MOTOSCOPE Northern Historic Gravel Rally Championship will likely be as follows.

- Rd 1: Riponian Stages Rally Sunday 10th February
- Rd 2: Malcolm Wilson Rally Saturday 9th March
- Rd 3: Border Counties Rally Saturday 11th May
- Rd 4 Kielder Forest Rally Saturday 15th June
- Rd 9: Malton Forest Rally Sunday 3rd November
- Rd 5: Greystoke Stages Rally Sunday 7th July
- Rd 6: RSAC Scottish Rally Saturday 20th July
- Rd 7: Galloway Hills Rally Saturday 14th September
- Rd 8: Trackrod Historic Cup Friday 27th-Saturday 28th September

The Scottish Association Of Motorsport Clubs has announced a programme of training for 2024. This training is organised and run by the Scottish Association of Motor Sports Clubs, as the Regional Association for Motorsport UK in Scotland. It is supported financially by grant funding from the British Motorsport Trust, and supported administratively and technically by the Scottish Motorsport Marshals Club (SMMC)

### **January:**

Thursday 11 January, 7pm – CPD Webinar – Disability in Motorsport

Tuesday 30 January, 7pm – Marshals Development Pathway Webinar – Fire Theory (including aspects of Electric Vehicle Awareness (GE01A/GE01C))

January (date tbc) – In Person – First Aid Training (incorporating First on Scene), Central Scotland

### **February:**

Saturday 3 February (date tbc) – In Person – Motorsport UK Event Secretary and Event Steward Training, Edinburgh

Thursday 8 February, 7pm – Motorsport UK Medical Webinar

Saturday 10 February, all day – In Person – Rally Marshals Training, Inverness

Saturday 17 February, all day (date tbc) – In Person – [Scottish Motor Racing Club](#) Race Marshals Training, Knockhill Racing Circuit

Tuesday 27 February, 7pm – Marshals Development Pathway Webinar – Multi-Discipline First on Scene (GE01G)

February (date tbc) – In Person – Fire Practical (GE01B), Central Scotland

### **March:**

Thursday 7 March, 7pm – CPD Webinar – Event Organisation / PR

Saturday 23 March (date tbc) – In Person – Motorsport UK Club Safeguarding Officer Training, Perth

Tuesday 26 March, 7pm – Marshals Development Pathway Webinar – Working Together (GE01D), and Safe, Fair, Fun (GE01F)

### **April:**

Saturday 6 April, all day – In Person – Rally Marshals Training, Duns

Thursday 11 April, 7pm – Motorsport UK Medical Webinar

Tuesday 30 April, 7pm – Marshals Development Pathway Webinar – Report Writing / Incident and Safety Management (GE03D/R03A)

**Berwick & District Motor Club Ltd**

**Founded 1935**

**Motorsport UK Registered**

**Hon President: Louise Aitken-Walker MBE**



## **Club Membership Form 2024**

**(one form per member)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:**(Use Block Capitals) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel No:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been a Member of B&DMC at any time in the past? *Yes/No:* \_\_\_\_\_

B&DMC Existing Membership No *(if known):* \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership £10**

**Under 18 Junior Membership £5**

*I would like to be included in the B&DMC directory of members. Under GDPR, B&DMC confirm that the information held will only be used within the club itself.*

*I agree to become a member of Berwick & District Motor Club Ltd which was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee from 1st May 1997. I understand that the limit of my liability as a member is the sum of £1.00 (One pound only)*

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to Berwick and District Motor Club Ltd**

**Memberships will only be accepted with a signed and completed membership form.**

**Please return your completed form to:**

**John Straughan Jnr, Flodden View, Branxton, Cornhill on Tweed, TD12 4SN**