



HIGHWAY

www.blackpalfrey.co.uk



April 2021

The **Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent Ltd (BpMCK)** is a member of **Motorsport UK**, the **HRCR** and of two Regional Associations, the **ASEMC** and the **ACSMC**. Blackpalfrey is also a partner club in the **Weald Motor Club** consortium. These organisations allow Blackpalfrey members to compete in a wide range of events, for both **classic** and **modern** cars, organised by many other motor clubs all over southern England.

The home of Historic Road Events in the South East

It won't be long now! We'll soon be competing or marshalling again, as an Expert or as a Novice, and we have plenty of both. A few words aimed mainly at Novices - Motorsport is far more diverse than some of you ever imagined, with hundreds of motor clubs across the country organising around 5,000 events each year.

Many of these events are designed to give you a cost-effective way to compete. For example, popular club events such as AutoSOLOs and navigation rallies, including our 12Car RegRuns, are designed for standard, unmodified road cars.

In fact, there are many types of motorsport where you can take part without any special preparation or training, and at an affordable cost.

You can apply for a competition licence and get stuck in to the many regional and national championships on offer. Have a look at <https://www.motorsportuk.org> to get a good idea of what's available to YOU!

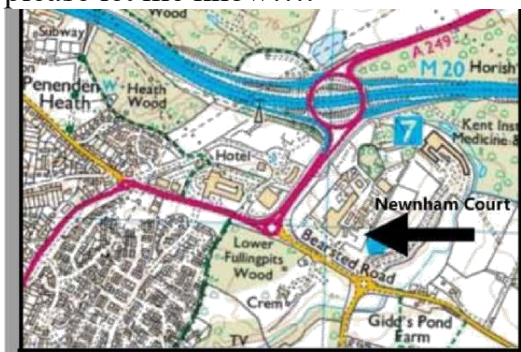
Scheduled Blackpalfrey events:

Sunday 9 th May	12Car RegRun - CoC: Phil Littlemore and Archie Pelling
Sunday 13 th June	12Car RegRun - CoC: Peter Boyce
Sunday 18 th July	12Car RegRun - CoC: ?
Saturday 21st August	Hughes Historic Rally – HRCR Championship - CoC: Dave Hughes



Notice: APRIL FOOLS DAY is cancelled this year, because no made-up prank could match the unbelievable sh*t that's going on in the world right now! - *just a personal view - Ed.*

The **Hughes** is progressing well, with Test venues sorted but, unfortunately, due to work commitments, Phil Smith will be unable to commit enough time to fulfil the complete role of **Chief Marshal** this year. So, if anyone 'out there' thinks he/she may be able to help (the role could be split into two or three), please let me know....
- Editor



Club Night is still CANCELLED, but Boris willing, hope to do something about this soon !

You'll be the first to know!

Newnham Court Inn near M20 J7
(OS178/781570), just off the Bearsted Road, opposite Crem.,
from 8pm onwards.

Inside: West Malling SPRINTS – p3. Food for Thought – p4. Chris Craft – p5. LitterCams – p6. RS Clubman Licence – p8.

Copy for May 2021 HIGHWAY by 26th April, please - have YOU got any stories, pics etc for YOUR mag?

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Committee members: Dave Hughes / Harry Pace / Simon Ingarfield

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Please keep an eye on our Facebook page < www.facebook.com/groups/154079804681313/ > where we will be keeping you up to date with developments. Let's hope things start to get back to some form of 'normality' soon.

We are always looking to 'recruit' new members to our Committee so, if you have a little time to spare and wish to know more about what's involved, contact brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk and/or come along to our next Club Night.

I have to say, **Greg Thompson continues to find excellent 'footage', old & new, for our Facebook** – worth a look.



What a start to the 2021 F1 Season. With just 10 laps to go, in the **Bahrain Grand Prix**, Max Verstappen found himself trailing Lewis Hamilton, but on tyres that were 11 laps fresher.

Verstappen finally made his move but put all 4 wheels of the track and Race Control immediately informed Red Bull that he had to give the position back, which he did, putting Hamilton again up into the lead.

Verstappen wasn't able to put together another attack, bringing his RB16B home 0.7s behind race winner Hamilton.

A good, hard fought win for Hamilton, who conceded that, if it weren't for that mistake, Verstappen could have taken the win. Bottas finished 3rd in his Mercedes.



Sergio Perez

For me, the hero of the race was Sergio Perez, new to Red Bull, who's car stopped on the formation lap with complete software shutdown. Perez was able to reset the system, despite no communication with 'the pits', restart the engine and start the race from the pit lane, then driving right through the field to finish 5th.

Topical joke, from Thomas Sosebee - an electrical engineer, a mechanical engineer and a software engineer were carpooling and the car died. The EE said it was the battery, the ME said the car needed a valve job, the SW engineer said, "why don't we just get out and get back in".

Halcyon days at West Malling Sprints, during the 1970s & 80s



John Piper's STOIC Racing F5000 Trojan took several FTDs at W.M.Sprints. A really 'nice' guy, John always made a special point of thanking the Organising Team and Marshals for a great event – sadly, John was killed in a road accident in France, soon after our last Sprint.

2021 - with Doctor's Surgery and Waitrose/Asda on right



1970

After many years when West Malling Aerodrome was used for Rally Special Stages and Autotests (hard surface & grass) we obtained a Speed Track Licence and, together with other local clubs, ran full-blooded Sprints and the 'Fourways Engineering Sprint Championship', for several seasons – until the site was bought and turned into yet *another* office/housing estate. The venue certainly, for some years, filled the gap for us - left by the demise of road-rallying in Kent, until we revived the Hughes, as an 'Historic' event in 1996 - guaranteeing a full entry for every event, with a great mixture of fast road-going cars (we even had a special class for Ferraris), 'specials' and single-seater racers. Unfortunately, I don't seem to have very good results/reports/pics etc, during this period and, therefore, cannot identify the other three racers above (I'll leave that to Andy Craker and others). If anyone has saved 'information' of our Sprints & Slaloms at West Malling, I'd be pleased to hear from them.

CoC Barry Rapley starts a Ferrari (type? - David Hughes)



BJM

1970's FOOD FOR THOUGHT (!)

Did you ever stop to think just how good a driver you are?

The average 'clubbie' has a pretty good idea of what's what, and is certainly a better driver than the 'man in the street'.

Moving onto the 'local heroes', such as Peter Rook or Chris Daisy etc., who win most of the S.E. events - but these chaps don't get a look in when people like John Taylor, Doug Harris or Roy Edwards etc., come out and have a go. These drivers usually manage class wins and results in the top ten, on the smaller internationals (Pedro) (B) Van Reeken (NL) or Larent and Echeverras (F).

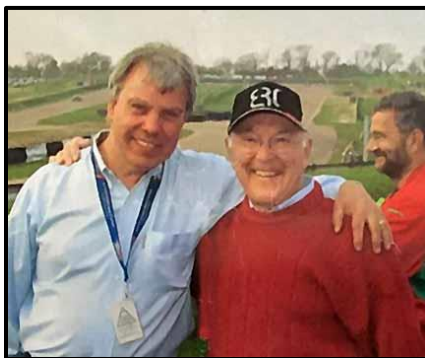


So now we're up to National hero level and, when the supermen move in, our national stars play 'second fiddle', even though they have any amount of local knowledge.

I'm always amused when I hear people saying, "Oh, it's their cars", "They've been practising for weeks" or, "It's their job" because, sure all these are true, but any of those fabulous few could take on any club driver with 50 brake or less and still leave him standing.

John Jensen (now) – in case you want to throw stones, John now lives on the South coast somewhere.

(John spoke with some authority here, having codriven with Peter Rook, Doug Harris, Per-Inge Walfridsson (Volvo & Stratos), Tony Maslen, John Taylor, Graham Elsmore, Erkki Pitkänen, Andy Dawson et al, on WRC and ERC events in the 70's. In the late 1960's, JJ and I had much fun and friendly 'navigator' rivalries, and we enjoyed lunch-time fish and chips, every Thursday, discussing last or next Saturday's night Rally, behind the counter at John Liddell's, Rochester branch, where John was Manager and I was working at Thorn RVT, Rochester Airport – Ed)



Widely regarded as 'the voice of Formula One' for 23 years, with both the BBC and ITV, you will have enjoyed Murray Walker's (pictured here, with Alan Blissett at Brands Hatch) spirited commentaries at many types of Motorsport, over many years. Described by Martin Brundle as a "national treasure, communication genius, Formula One legend" Murray has died aged 97.

Rest in Peace Murray, a gentleman and a legend.



Here's a memory nicked from our Facebook page:

Going back in time to the mid 70's, participants in an MMKMC evening Autotest at Great Elderden Farm. Myself on the left with my Mini MOO310, Terence Patrick McKeown on the right in the Cortina GT MKP111F and standing in the middle with the 70's glam rock hairstyle is Dave Cook.

Terry commented, "It's funny, I don't recall hairdressers being closed back then, but from the look of Dave Cook and me, you might think they were."

Grahame Standen



Memories of Chris Craft

Overshadowed in the motoring world by the death of Hannu Mikola and, more recently, Murray Walker and ace Nürburgring aficionado Sabine Schmitz, we lost another ‘legend’ of motorsport at the end of February. Although born in Cornwall, Chris Craft spent much of his late teens and twenties time in and around Essex. I first met him at Crystal Palace in 1966, sharing unsurfaced paddock space with my back of the field mini next to his orange Cortina GT before a Clubmans race. I often shared time with him, as his career developed with sponsored Superspeed Anglias partnered with John Young, then Broadspeed 1300 Escorts partnered with John Fitzpatrick, where Chris was very successful in XOO 341F in the BSCC in 1968 and 1969 and European Touring Car Championship sharing with Jackie Stewart. In 1970, Broadspeed replaced their cars with 1594cc Lotus EVX248H and 256H, the former Chris’ car continued his class winning ways.



Whilst developing his single seater career in F3 with Techno, he continued to race in the saloon car championship in Capris, initially the Kamasa Tools, Aqua liveried 3 litres, partnered with Graham Goode and latterly, more successfully in the red 2.8 partnered with Gordon Spice. Driving Porche 908 and McClaren sports cars led to a partnership with Alain de Cadenet, entering Dome then Rondeau in International Events, including several attempts at Le Mans, with 3rd place in 1976. His ‘toe in the water’ in Formula 1 came to nothing, with two events in a Brabham late in 1971, with a ‘did not qualify’ and ‘engine failure’.



He also did a few F5000 events, and may also be known for his hairy driving of the Jeff Uren Supervan, a Ford Transit on F2 chassis and running gear. Latterly Chris formed the Light Car Company with Gordon Murray. We became reacquainted about 5 years ago at Race Retro – Chris is pictured here, in the blue shirt.

[I’ve been a great and persistent follower of Broadspeed and Alan Mann Escorts and knew Alan before his death in 2012, and now keep in touch with Alan’s son Henry. I purchased an Alan Allard/Chris Sclater early development Escort GT, with 1600cc in 1969 - having sold my Austin 1300 Janspeed to our old friend, Blackpalfrey’s John Fowler !!

As an ‘aside’ – John started as a Student Public Health Inspector at Southwark when I had just qualified, and I got him involved in motorsport and Blackpalfrey. We exchanged several cars +/-£££....I took over his Mini 1275 GT for sprints and hill limbs, when he bought his red RS2000. Tom Ash joined us at Southwark from Aston (Birmingham) later on.]



Alan Blissett

To Renew or Apply For your free RS Clubman Licence – go to:

<https://rsclubman.motorsportuk.org/>



The Latest Keith Oldfield Project

Keith reports, from locked-down France, that “I’ve just finished this motorbike, have to alter the gearing to make it go well - still can't get it right straight away ...!!”.



New LitterCam means more fines for motorists

by Louisa Smith | Mar 2, 2021 | Fuel, Motoring

In a bid to rid our roads of rubbish, a new anti-litter scheme is being rolled out in some areas, with the installation of the new LitterCam to begin in April. **Maidstone Borough Council in Kent will be one of the first to introduce the scheme.**

The LitterCam will be able to identify motorists who discard litter from their car windows whilst driving, with fines being as high as £120. Litter includes items such as coffee cups, fast food, cigarette ends, and even apple cores.

This new initiative comes after Highways England revealed that a staggering 200,000 sacks of litter are removed every single year from England’s road, often including items that take several years to biodegrade.

While motorists can already be fined for littering, catching offenders in the act has previously been the responsibility of wardens, meaning that many motorists have continued to litter unnoticed.

However, with the new LitterCam, offending motorists will be caught on video footage that will then be scanned by high-tech LitterCam software. The video footage and photographic evidence will then be passed on to the DVLA after the vehicle number plate has been verified. As with speeding tickets, an address for the vehicle’s registered keeper will be identified, and a fine will be sent out. The fine begins at £90 and will rise to £120 if left unpaid for 15 days.

The initiative has been met positively by motoring organisations and environmental experts alike.



A thief has removed all the motorway signs in Yorkshire.

Police are currently looking for Leeds.

Freda Rashdi, Highways England, stated: ‘The simple fact is that if litter wasn’t dropped in the first place, it wouldn’t need to be picked up.

‘Litter is not only unsightly and a risk to wildlife and the environment, but it also puts our workers at risk collecting it and diverts time and money that could be better sent improving the network.’

Environmental expert and presenter Jeremy Paxman also praised the initiative and questioned the conscience of those who litter from their cars without thought:

‘What goes through people’s minds, I guess, is that they want to keep the inside of the vehicle clean and therefore throw the rubbish out the window without realising they’re making it a problem for everybody.’



For the latest range of fashion accessories - have a look at
http://www.blackpalfrey.co.uk/?Club_Clothing

and, now, see our fast selling new 'rugby shirt' at only £25!
(see website for rugby shirt colours/sizes/order form)



It's time to have a look at our fabulous range of fashion accessories and a great golf (rally?) umbrella – just £20.

Be an icon and the envy of all your friends....



Dates for your 2021Diary

9 th	May	Sun	Winter Series
13 th	June	Sun	Winter Series
18 th	July	Sun	Winter Series
21 st	August	Saturday	HUGHES Rally
12 th	September	Sun	Winter Series 1
3 rd	October	Sun	TOUR of KENT
17 th	October	Sun	Winter Series 2
7 th	November	Sun	Winter Series 3
12 th	December	Sun	Winter Series 4

Updated by Dick Athow – March 2021

Provisional 2021 HRCR Clubmans Championship Rally Calendar is:

9 th May	Sun	White Rose Classic
19 th June	Sat	East Anglian Classic
1 st August	Sun	Cotswold Historic
8 th August	Sun	St Wilfrids Classic
21st August	Saturday	Hughes Historic
12 th September	Sun	Ilkley Jubilee Historic
25 th September	Sat	Tour of Cheshire
9 th October	Sat	Dansport Historic
23 rd October	Sat	Devils Own

Which reminds me – this happened a few days ago and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend (it honestly wasn't me!) has just had his 2nd dose of the corona vaccine. Afterwards, he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should see a doctor or be hospitalised. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but to get someone to drive him back to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses.



'Team Blackpalfrey'
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Just email Harry, with your name and address + which and how many you want
(please include 'Blackpalfrey Badges/Stickers' in Subject)

....about your **RS Clubman Licence**

The RS Clubman licence (see p5) can only be used to participate in Autocross/Clubcross (inc. Minicross), Autotest/Autosolo, Trials, Cross Country and Road & Navigational Rallying (inc. 12 Car & Scatter) which are run on a Motorsport UK Clubman permit. To participate in any other event, please apply for a Motorsport UK Competition Licence either online or by downloading the application form from <https://www.motorsportuk.org/resource-centre/competitors-licensing/> and emailing it to membership@motorsportuk.org

As an RS Clubman licence holder, you will receive Motorsport UK's member benefits package including reduced cost fuel, reduced cost tyres, free eye tests, discounts at Halfords, reduced insurance premiums and many more money saving deals. It is possible to save hundreds of pounds a year by utilising your member benefits. You will also receive Motorsport UK enhanced personal accident insurance covering you for any Motorsport UK permitted event and offering you peace of mind for unexpected eventualities.

If any non-members see **HIGHWAY** and would like to know more about the BpMCK and what we do these days, or would like to join or rejoin, the annual membership fee is only £15 (£5 for under 25s and students) or £20 family membership. If you want to know more, any Committee Member would be pleased to help....

....have a look at www.blackpalfrey.co.uk for more information about the Club and, for our on-line membership system <http://www.blackpalfrey.co.uk/index.php/join> - specially designed for YOU.

*Note: some of the views expressed in **HIGHWAY** may not be those of The Club.*