



Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club

Newsletter

December 2021



Presidents Piece !

With 2021 coming to an end we must all look forward and hope that 2022 will be a better year ! With the wretched Covid still with us at the beginning of 2021 and motor sport clubs not authorised to run events until the end of March, our Club then had the misfortune to be at the mercy of the weather with more than half of our events having to be cancelled due to the rains descending on the days just before the event.

Luckily, to lessen the disappointment of our Club competitors other clubs did not suffer in the same manner which enabled drivers to enjoy competing and improving their skills!

I hope our full calendar for 2022 will not suffer in the same manner and I look forward to you all being able to enjoy a full year of motor sport whether it be competing or helping with the running of our events.

I send you the Club's very best wishes for a safe, happy, and competitive 2022.

Lyle

Editors Ramblings.

As we come to the end of another disrupted year both by covid and weather I realise we have been producing our monthly newsletter for over a year now. The aim has been to keep you our members, be you a competitor, marshal or not actively involved, informed about club activities and motoring related issues generally. The committee has seen this as particularly important over the last 18 months that the covid restrictions have been in place. I would therefore like to thank all those who have contributed content, to hopefully provide something worth reading other than my blather. I have been grateful for all your contributions, but special mention must be made of Emma Olsen for her sterling efforts and particularly twisting members arms to tell us how they became involved in motorsport. We have had our trials and tribulations particularly with the weather and have seen the passing of friend and colleague John Ashwell someone, I personally have grown up with as a mainstay of many club events since I joined the club as a teenager.

We are planning to have greater variety of events in 2022, nothing new but resurrecting some that have fallen by the wayside for various reasons. The year will kick off with a new event a 12 Car Rally on 21st January which already has a full entry. Let's hope the years continues in the same vein and is not interrupted by any further covid restrictions. And please if it is going to rain, do it when our events are over!

Bruce

Up and Down the A20

- Long time competitor and past club member Kevin Haselden with co-driver Gary Evans has scored successes on both the Rally of The Tests (1st in Class and 8th overall) and 4th in Class 3 in LeJog 2021.
- The DVLA has reports that there were 719,000 untaxed vehicles on the road in 2020 up from 634,000 in 2019. What with this and an increasing number of low emission and (low tax vehicles) on the road. How long will it be before the Government raises revenue in some other way?



- Why is fuel always priced as £1.479/litre? Isn't this just kidology? Why not £1.48?
According to the RAC the cost of a litre of fuel is made up as follows: -

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Wholesale price | £0.3932 |
| Bio content | £0.0986 |
| Oil Company & Delivery costs | £0.0170 |
| Retailer's margin | £0.1416 |
| Fuel Duty | £0.5795 |
| VAT | <u>£0.2461</u> |

£1.476 or £6.70 /gallon

- With the increase in sales of scooter's some police forces have been seizing and destroying those that have been used in public places and are not part of any official approved government trial.
- As Halfords have acquired National Tyres and Autocare, will MSUK licence holders be able to get 10% discount through the member benefits scheme?
- The driving licence changes that allow drivers with a full licence to tow a trailer up to 7500kg came into effect on the 12thDecember 2021.



2021 in Review.

After a disastrous covid disrupted 2020 we began 2021 in the same vein having to cancel the 12 Car Rally planned for January. All the hard work by organiser Liz Jordan could hopefully be used at a later date. With covid-19 still raging in February our usual Awards Evening and get together to celebrate the successes of 2022 was moved to an online Zoom meeting in March. Only the wonders of modern technology were keeping us in touch and hopeful of better things to come!

March or April in a normal year should see the running of the Tyrwhitt Drake Car Trial but as a matter of prudence we moved it to the Autumn as MSUK were not yet issuing permits for club events.

By the time we got to May things had not improved, so once again the AGM was held online via Zoom, but this did not improve the attendance over non covid years in the way that other online meetings had seen increases. With Headcorn Aerodrome being used as a Covid Test Centre we were totally reliant on Otham and the good will of owner Ian Betts as our only autotest venue. Unfortunately, Ian had not managed to combine the two fields he has into one during the off season as he had hoped. We had also planned to run an Autotest Training Day at the beginning of May but this and the first evening autotest both had to be cancelled with covid rates still high.



Jim Pullar was due to run the autotest at the beginning of June but for family reasons had to withdraw. Having had his event cancelled in May Richard Olsen kindly stepped in and ran what would be our first autotest of the year. After a dry spring with no motorsport the weather gave us a precursor of what the rest of the year was going to be like. Wet and dry spells at the times when we did not want them. The wet weather had made the grass grow long and we were indebted to Tim Mewett who trekked over to Otham with his tractor & mower and reduced the grass to a level that enabled the marshals to see the competing cars. The trial use of the Timing App Live App in 2020 was considered such a success that this was adopted for this and all successive autotests in 2021. The next evening autotest was in the middle of June when Lloyd Covey ran his first autotest as Clerk of Course. Lloyd made the most of the two fields at Otham and produced an enjoyable evening on his first attempt. The only drama of the evening being a car catching fire after the dry grass cuttings built up around the exhaust. Lloyd's swift action preventing it becoming anything more than a minor incident. What a difference a day makes as the dry weather turned so wet that despite Liam Carfrae's best efforts two weeks later, we had to cancel his event after heavy rain to avoid damage to the fields.



With covid still an issue there was a reluctance of competitors to enter the Mike Jordan Tour at the beginning of July so that also had to be cancelled before the Club was committed to paying for venues along the route.

The next scheduled evening autotest in the middle of July was due to take place at Headcorn. Fortunately, by this time the Aerodrome was no longer required as Covid Test Centre, so Brian Sharpe was able to run the first Club event at Headcorn since 2019. In the same week the co promoted Lydden Sprint was run in good weather for once. Although not supported by many club

members, Paul Bernal Ryan kept club honours alive as the only MMKMC competitor. However, a number of members did help by marshalling without whom the event would have not been viable.

August is known as the holiday month due to its usually fine weather. Unfortunately, somebody had told the weather Gods that Andy Jenner was running the "Summer" Slalom on the 1st August. Sure enough, the week leading up to the Slalom was fine but having set out the tests at his new venue at Hole Park the weather turned very wet again. All looked good to go but on the day of the event it rained and some of the



tests turned into a mud bath. Despite everything a full entry enjoyed the day and the hospitality provided by Hole Park. Unfortunately, the Owner of Hole Park was not amused and indicated that he would not be happy to host the event again. A great shame as it is a good venue with all the right facilities and Andy had put a lot of work into acquiring its use and organising the day.

The yoyo nature of the weather saw Ben Dawson's mid-August evening autotest having to be cancelled again due to wet weather. The Wings All Day autotest was more fortunate with the ground looking wet but being Headcorn was dry enough to host a small entry for what was an all-day event. Another first time Clerk of Course Tim Mewett aided and guided by John Muir, spent the day manoeuvring the tests around the wet patches so as not to wreck the field. After all, our plan is to be back at Headcorn in 2022!

The end of August saw the delayed Blackpalfrey's Hughes Rally take place. This is an event that is well supported by a strong contingent of marshals from our club and this year was no exception. Stanley Graham navigated by our Chairman Liz Jordan did however enter in their recently purchased Triumph Dolomite, only for the clutch to give out on one of the Hole Park Tests.

Originally an umbrella organisation formed by Martin Chinnery the Weald Motor Club has morphed into a full blown club to run the Kent Forestry Stages in mid-September. Having been postponed from its original inaugural date in 2020 it saw some re-gigging of the format to become a single venue event at Mereworth. Competitors from most southeast clubs and beyond ensured a full entry. With a requirement for 200 odd marshals a good contingent from MMKMC turned it into the best social event of the year.

Also taking place in mid-September was the rescheduled Tyrwhitt Drake Car Trial. Trials have not been particularly well supported in recent times but a strong contingent from the MG Car Club South East bolstered the entry to a reasonable level. The event managed to coincide with one of the dry periods and was won by Alan Hockam in his Austen 7 special with Simon Fowler (the man at Motorsport UK who issues our event permits) sitting alongside.

The last event of the year was to be the Brian Lewis Car Trial at the end of October. Entries for this event were at a good level but the weather forecast for the weekend was horrendous. Unfortunately, the forecasters got it right and the setting up crew on the Saturday could only watch the rain come down in Camels and Elephants (one step up from cats and dogs). With the venue awash the event was postponed with the idea of running it at the beginning of December. When entries reopened the response was disappointing, so it was cancelled for 2021. The year however did end on a high note with Lloyd Covey organising a Go-karting evening in December.

Dan Ger


Highway Code Changes

It is probably a document that none of us read once we have passed our driving test but of course we should, especially to keep up to date with all the latest changes that affect our day to day driving. Most of the rules are just common sense but more and more they are becoming law rather than just advisory. Should you be unfortunate enough to encounter some law enforcement, you may find you have fallen foul of some of the most recent changes set out below.

RULE H1: NEW HIERARCHY OF ROAD USERS


DRIVERS of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of HGVs, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

Three of the biggest Highway Code changes



RULE H2: NEW PRIORITY FOR PEDESTRIANS AT JUNCTIONS

DRIVERS, motorcyclists and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting at a zebra crossing (currently it's only if they're already crossing), and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.



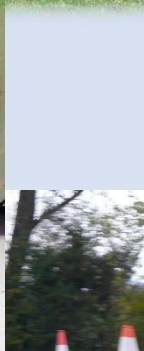
RULE H3: PRIORITY FOR CYCLISTS WHEN CARS ARE TURNING

YOU should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse-drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction, or changing direction or lane. You should give way whether they are using the road, a cycle lane or cycle track. Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist, horse rider or horse-drawn vehicle going straight ahead to stop or swerve. You should stop and wait for a safe gap if necessary.

www.autoexpress.co.uk

Photos From The Archives





Extreme E 2021

The inaugural season of Extreme E concluded at the Bovington Army Training ground in Dorset on 19th December. Local girl and one time competitor at club evening autotest's Catie Munnings with fellow driver Timmy Hansen, scored a very credible 4th Overall in the series. Compared with Icelandic extreme 4x4 it just looks like a very expensive form of autocross?



Social Evening 21st December

Instead of the usual meet at the Penenden Heath Bull, Lloyd Covey organised a go-karting evening for members instead. Well as Lloyd said, "8 did anyway". We had a great time as it turns out electric Karting is fast and quite physical. With it being an indoor track, it had lots of bends and went a bit like this.....

"Cross the line into right hairpin, then left hairpin, right hairpin into left long hairpin, up a ramp into a 90 left, short straight into left hairpin, into right hairpin, short straight into 90 left and down a ramp into left hairpin. Short straight into 90 right, short straight into left hairpin right, short straight to finish line".

Toby Cook was fastest at 2.5 seconds. He was third fastest of the week and 4th fastest of the month! Another three of us got into the top 10 fastest of the week and 4th fastest of the month.

Great fun was had by all and hopefully to be repeated at another time.....perhaps?



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HAYNES

THE HAYNES GROUP OF COMPANIES



2022 CLUB DRAFT FIXTURE LIST

| Event | Clerk of Course | Secretary of Meeting or Contact | Date |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 12 Car Rally | Liz Jordan | Toby Groves | 21 st January |
| Annual Awards Evening | Liz Jordan | Lyle Cathcart | 15 th March |
| <i>Autosolo (Provisional)</i> | <i>Ben Dawson</i> | <i>Andy Jenner</i> | <i>19th March</i> |
| Tyrwhitt Drake Trial | Andy Jenner | Bruce Jenkins | 27 th March |
| Annual General Meeting via Zoom | Lyle Cathcart | Liz Jordan | 4 th May |
| Autotest Taster Day - Otham | TBA | | 8 th May |
| Evening Autotest - Headcorn | TBA | | 18 th May |
| Evening Autotest - Otham | TBA | | 1 st June |
| Evening Autotest - Headcorn | TBA | | 15 th June |
| Evening Autotest - Otham | TBA | | 29 th June |
| Mike Jordan Celebration Tour | Liz Jordan | | 2 nd July |
| Evening Autotest - Headcorn | TBA | | 13 th July |
| Lydden Co-pro Sprint | Steve Castle/ Tony Perrett | Simone Cornish | 16 th July |
| Summer Slalom | Andy Jenner | Hilary Jenner | 31 st July |
| Combine Ops Show – Headcorn Parking | Tim Mewett | | 13 th /14 th August |
| Evening Autotest - Otham | TBA | | 10 th August |
| John Ashwell All Day Autotest - Headcorn | TBA | | 21 st August |
| Kent Forestry Targa Rally | Dave Clark | Toby Groves | 10 th September |
| Brian Lewis Trial | Tom Thompson | | 30 th October |

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