



Maidstone and Mid Kent

Motor Club

Newsletter

Summer 2023



Editors Ramblings.

Our topsy turvey weather continues but fortunately it has not affected our recent events. There have however been some alterations to fixtures due to other circumstances. The postponed Tyrwhitt Drake Trial is now going to be held on 29th October but this will unfortunately mean cancelling the Brian Lewis that was due to take place on the 1st October. It will also avoid a clash with the Blackpalfrey Tour of Kent which is a popular event for many. Also finding a date that does not clash with other trials has been another issue.

After the hey days of the 60's and 70's when membership was in the 400's, this century it has been constantly around 130. Since Covid membership has risen 170. Unfortunately, this has not been reflected in the number of competitors attending club events particularly autotests. We started off well with the number in the high twenties, but this has declined to the high teen's low twenties.

Disappointing in a year when we have largely been unaffected by weather, but the Committee must be doing something right or Lloyd Covey's efforts with social media are paying off?

Those not attending competitive events will not have seen them, but we have had some rather fine artwork on event bespoke mugs for all our awards this year. Thanks must go to Si Kellow and Andrea Howatson for this.

Let's hope we can finish the year as successfully as it has been to date.

Bruce

Up And Down The A20

- Did you know if you hire an eScooter you need to have a driving licence, to be legal.
- Operation Brock was back on again for the holidays on the M20. They must be getting their money's worth out of the cones! Now it's off again!
- Apologies to Andre Martin after I changed his gender in the last Newsletter, although he may not remember after his bang on the head at the Summer Slalom.
- The fire at the Lydden Rallycross event is a timely reminder to us all to be vigilant to the dangers inherent in our sport with the rise in the number of EV's.
- Our Chairman is off on her travels to far flung places leaving us to see if we can cope in her absence.
- The London ULEZ has been in the news a lot lately, but we have our own congestion zone around here. Have you tried getting to Otham lately?

Rally Barbados 12th June 2023

Maybe Liz Jordan will tell us the full story of her exploits when navigating for Dick Manger on the Barbados Rally when she returns from her antipodean adventures?

In the meantime, here are some photos of her competing in this year's event.



Evening Autotest 14th June Headcorn.

As the 17th May event had to be cancelled, Brian Sharpe stood in as Clerk of Course for this event as Jim Pullar was unavailable. What was effectively the first autotest of the season attracted 26 entries.

Results:-

Class A - Lloyd Covey - BMC Mini

Class B - Mike Thomas - Renault Clio

Class D - Anthony Newton - BMW Compact

Class E - Josh Smith - Mazda MX5

Class P - Richard Walls - Ford Ka

Class J - Miles Stanley - BMW 120D

Best Junior – Lottie Penfold - Nissan Micra

Best Novice – William Atherton-Jackman – Citroen Saxo

Mike Jordan Tour 24th June

Some people have no sense or feelings as having not found anybody brave or stupid enough to navigate for me on the 2022 Mike Jordan, an ex-work colleague of mine said he would



accompany me this year. We duly arrived at the Pepperbox and indulged in a coffee and bacon roll after signing on and being handed the road book. It was at this point that my navigator admitted that he had been known to suffer from travel sickness. Despite this he bravely decided to take his chance with my driving.

A field of 21 cars assembled in the pub car park on fine and sunny morning ready to sample the lanes of Kent on a route planned by Liz Jordan. The first car was flagged away on time at 10 o'clock and we were soon following them on a route heading towards Lenham. A bit of confusion occurred around which direction to take at the Lenham Road Sandway crossroads with a few people turning back thinking they had gone the wrong way. Fortunately for us I live in this area and use the road regularly so followed correct route to Lenham Square. The route then took us across the A20 and up on to the North Downs to Challock. From Challock we went on to Wye only to be caught by the level crossing and had to follow the local bus which was not entered in our event!. After crossing the B2068 to Stelling Minnis we came across the first passage check in Westwood Forrest. This gave crews an opportunity to take a breather under the watchful eye of Nigel Watson. On leaving Westwood Forrest it was back across the B2068 and some interesting roads. At this point we caught up with Alan and Joanne Carfrae in a borrowed Triumph Herald Estate. This brought back memories of the Triumph Herald 12/50 I bought new in 1964. Some interesting roads then led us down onto Romney Marsh with Alan Carfrae doing a good job of providing advanced warning of potholes, giving us advanced warning and allowing us to avoid them.



Romney Marsh was remarkably devoid of traffic, but the corrugated roads did nothing for my suspension or my false teeth. After an interesting drive across the Marshes, we ended up at the Romney Marsh War Time Collection, a private museum, where we stopped for lunch. The museum

staff served lunch as the competitors arrived. Remarkably the sun was beating down and a bit of a scabble ensued to get a table in the shade. A trip round the museum followed the refueling of the inner man. The museum holds an incredible collection of WW2 aeroplane parts collected from around the local area. The thing that amazed me most was the number of air strips that had been built in the area to service the war machine. Most of the personnel based at these air strips and flying the



planes were in fact Polish. Unfortunately, at this point we lost Paul Bernal Ryan and Kevin Parry, as they had suffered a puncture just before the lunch break and despite visiting all the local garages were unable to find any to repair the puncture or any repair kits! What do people do in the modern cars with no spare?

After a good lunch and a natter with other participants, cars set off again at 14.30 heading down the main road towards New Romney. It is a fast straight road and the right turn taking us back on to the marsh could easily be missed, if your navigator was not on the ball. Again, we travelled on some interesting roads without meeting any traffic. The route exited the marsh around Ham Street where

we were to encounter the second passage check at Orlestone Forest Car Park, again greeted by the smiling fizog of Nigel Watson. That man gets everywhere! This gave me an opportunity to check to if what is left of my teeth were still in place!



The last part of the route was on some familiar roads to me heading towards Bethersden, Hothfield, Little Chart, Pluckley and Grafty Green, before ending back at the Pepperbox. After a day's driving in beautiful weather the end of Tour meal washed down with some Kentish Ale concluded an excellent day's Tour of Kent. Liz Jordan had put together an excellent route with some interesting stops which was enjoyed by myself and my novice navigator, who remarkably did not put a foot wrong. He said may even do it again next year!!



Bruce Jenkins

Evening Autotest Otham 28th June

Attending my first ever auto test at Tunbridge Wells I was feeling apprehensive, nervous, and excited all at the same time. Some of my family members had been auto testing for years and were always buzzing afterwards, saying how much fun they'd had so I decided it was finally time for me to give it a go.

I was eased into it with all forwards courses which was very much appreciated. Being an absolute beginner with an awful sense of direction I started (and still am) in the passenger class, and it's great because I get to spend time with my stepdad, Si, and not all the pressure is on me if we go the wrong way! My first meeting flew by even though there were 3 of us all sharing our Micra, meaning we were constantly swapping over. I went into it with the mindset of just having fun, but it quickly turned very competitive with checking who'd done each course the quickest. It was so much fun flying around, talking strategy and trying to understand how to read the maps and drive at the same time!



Since then, I have had another meeting at Tunbridge Wells, and a couple at Otham, including Lloyds *interesting courses*. My sense of direction still isn't great but I'm working on it; sometimes you may

hear 'Left of that cone. LEFT LEFTTT' from Si, and me shouting 'WHICH CONE? WHICH LEFT?' in reply. I think I may be ready to start learning how to do handbrake turns soon as well which is a whole other level of scary and exciting all in one.

Niamh Howatson

Results :-

Class A - Lloyd Covey – BMC Mini

Class B - Toby Cook - Nissan Micra

Class C - Peter Willing – Vauxhall Astra

Class E - Josh Smith - Mazda MX5

Class F - Steve Stringer – Silva Striker

Class P - Kate Smith - Mazda Mx5

Class J - Ryan Howatson

Best Novice Mathew Soans - Silva Striker

Don't forget that full results for all our events can be found in the result section of the Club Website www.mmkc.co.uk

Evening Autotest 12th July

Ben Dawson managed to attract the best entry of the year with 27 competitors.



An interesting collection of junk ready to puncture tyres, left behind in the field and collected before the Autotest.



The Results for the evening were:-

- Class A - Grahame Standen – Ford Ka
- Class B - Brian Sharpe - Nissan Micra
- Class C - Peter Willing - Vauxhall Astra
- Class D - Alistair Sutton - BMW
- Class E - Alan Steadman - Suzuki Cappuccino
- Class F & FTD - Steve Stringer - Silva Striker
- Class J - Mathew Soanes – Silva Striker
- Class J PCA Miles Stanley - BMW
- Best Novice - Tim Ovenden Ford Ka

Lydden Co Pro Sprint 15th July.

The Club ran the second of its two 2023 co promoted sprints at Lydden on 15th July. It was good to see Stuart Ashwell and his son Peter give their Formular Ford an outing and join regular Paul Bernal Ryan as the only Club members to take part. Peter managed to beat his father by 2.16 seconds and take the class win as well as the best MMKMC member.

Denis Usmar put together a group of marshals and upheld the club tradition marshalling the paddock. Unfortunately, very few of the clubs provided marshals and a distinct lack of marshals was noticeable on the circuit.



A sideways moment that was soon to become expensive for car number 62.



MMKMC members Stuart and Peter Ashwell and Paul Bernal Ryan competing in this year's Lydden Sprint.



Summer Slalom 30th July



Andre Martin and Mike Oliver in their MGF at Cowplain Farm, before their disagreement with a tree at Pluckley.

Comments from Facebook

Anthony Newton

Well what a day Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club Summer Slalom, excellent run event , very close competition with great friends this car just puts a smile on my face, Thank you Lloyd Covey for videos.

Ian Mepham

It's done for another year, the epic Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club summer slalom. 2o/a was good, spending the day with my friends just having the most fun was better.

Well done to Brian Sharpe on FTD

And thank you to Lloyd Covey for the videos and his lad for that little snippet which made me smile even more.

Richard Cash

My first time at this unique and special event and it was an absolute blast, had an amazing time. Thanks so so, much to the organisers and marshals. Particularly enjoyed watching the BMW gang in the farmyards. Looking forward to next year.

Andrew Jenner

My first visit to this event, absolutely loved it. Thank you to all the organisers and marshals. See you next year

Brian Sharpe

Great event again this year. Good mix of tests surfaces and weather conditions. At least half a dozen people in with a shot at FTD. Thanks to all the organisers and marshals.

Grahame Standen

Great event as always, weather didn't do me any favours, but that's the way it goes, looking forward to next year already.



Evening Autotest 9th August

Not taking any chances, Clerk of Course Liam had started setting up very early in the day so was ready for a big entry. Maybe it was the start of the holiday season, but it certainly was not Liam Carfrae's tests' but a fine and dry evening at Otham saw only 15 competitors compete for honours.

The results were:-

Class A – Lloyd Covey - Mini

Class B - Brian Sharpe – Nissan Micra

Class C - Peter Willing - Vauxhall Astra

Class E - Ben Sinclair - Reliant Ti

Class J PCA - Travis Mingay-Graham – Mini 100

FTD - Chris Smith - Mini Cooper





John Ashwell All Day Autotest 20th August.



After here success as Clerk of Course for the first John Ashwell All Day Autotest in event in 2022 Emma Olsen again Clerked this year's event. Despite distractions from helicopters refuelling all day and one of Headcorn's impromptu car shows taking place in the next field 21 competitors enjoyed what started of as a bright sunny and warm days autotesting. Unfortunately, the weather deteriorated towards the end of the event producing much slower times and providing some of the less experienced competitors experience of what slippery conditions are really like.

Results:-

- Class A - Leigh Armstrong - Peugeot 106
- Class B - Dave Cook - Nissan Micra
- Class E Alan Steadman - Suzuki Cappuccino
- Class F - Steve Stringer - Silva Striker
- Class P - Alexandru Rosianu – Mazda MX5
- Class J PCA - Travis Mingay Graham – BMW
- Best Novice - Mathew Soanes - Silva Striker
- FTD - Toby Cook - Nissan Micra

**Don't Forget the Autumn Tarmac Autotest
Saturday 18th November 2023 at Ashford
Market.**

Club Officers

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2023 CLUB FIXTURE LIST

Event	Location	Date
12 Car Rally	Dog & Bear, Lenham	27 th January
Annual Awards Evening	Ridge Golf Club	21 st February
Tarmac Spring Autotest	Ashford Market	4 th March
Ashford Market Autosolo	Ashford Market	18 th March
Tyrwhitt Drake Trial	Otham	2 nd April
Autotest Taster Day	Otham	7 th May
Evening Autotest	Headcorn Aerodrome	17 th May
Lydden Co Pro Sprint	Lydden Circuit	20 th May
Annual General Meeting	Ridge Golf Club	23 rd May
Evening Autotest	Otham	31 st May
Evening Autotest	Headcorn Aerodrome	14 th June
Mike Jordan Tour	Pepperbox Ulcombe	24 th June
Evening Autotest	Otham	28 th June
Evening Autotest	Headcorn Aerodrome	12 th July
Lydden Co-pro Sprint	Lydden Circuit	15 th July
Summer Slalom	Headcorn	30 th July
Evening Autotest	Otham	9 th August
John Ashwell All Day Autotest	Headcorn	20 th August
Autumn Autosolo	Ashford Market	21 st October
Tyrwhitt Darke Trial	Otham	29 th October
Autumn Tarmac Autotest	Ashford Market	18 th November

