



Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club Newsletter



February & March 2022



Editors Ramblings.

What with organising three club events in March and with February being a lean month for club events, there were no reports forthcoming from members. This unfortunately led to no February newsletter, and this means that to catch up I have combined the two months into one.

The beginning of March saw the Annual Awards Evening where members were able to receive their trophies and socialise for the first time in a couple of years. March has also seen the start of the club calendar with an Autosolo back again thanks to Ben and Emma Dawson. The Tyrwhitt Drake Car Trial is also back in its usual spring slot. Hopefully we will have some reports from competitors for the April newsletter.

2022 is the hundredth anniversary of the Austin 7 and is being celebrated by the Austin 7 Club later this year. This small family car, many of which are still going strong, brought motoring to the masses and was probably also responsible for starting grass roots motorsport. One of its lasting legacies is that its engine size gave its name to the 750 Motor Club, which still thrives today. MMKMC also pioneered a sport in the 1930's, then known as Bug Racing. This was probably the fore runner of today's Autocross, a discipline which unfortunately is absent in the southeast at present. Included in this edition are articles from the club's 1930's archives. Also included is a recent article from the Austin 7 Magazine, reprinted with their kind permission. The article features an interview with David Baldock the son of one of our founder members, JE (John) Baldock. We cannot claim to have started it all, but we were there at the beginning!

Bruce

Up and Down the A20

- Sadly, we have to report the recent passing of two stalwarts of the motorsport world, Chris Daisy and Vic Elford.
- Its back again, Operation Stack. They are getting plenty of use out of the cones, but the moveable barrier isn't? No wonder there is a £13billion back log of road repairs in the UK: it has all been spent on the M20?
- With fuel prices still on the increase, our grass root events have got to be the most affordable form of motorsport.
- As everything is going electric and e scooters are illegal on the public highway, should we introduce an e scooter class in our events as an affordable and sustainable form of motorsport? With over 800 accidents already reported this year, could be a good way of getting them off the streets?
- It was good to see our Web Master extending his skills to other disciplines at the recent Tyrwhitt Drake Trial. Didn't he do well! Watch out Dennis!

Club Annual Awards and Award Evening

2022 saw the Club able to hold an Awards Evening again where we were able to present the Annual Championship winners of the different categories their awards face to face. With social venues starting to open up again the newly refurbished Ridge Golf Club was chosen as a suitable and convenient venue.

More than 20 members turned up to receive their awards from Club President Lyle Cathcart. and congratulate those who had won the different categories.



ANNUAL AWARDS for 2021 events

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Young Club Driver of the Year | | |
| | 1st | Under 21 Trophy | RYAN HOWATSON |
| | 2nd | Sports Car Challenge Cup | DREW KELLOW |
| 2 | Senior Club Driver of the Year | | |
| | 1st | David Haynes Rally Trophy | DENNIS USMAR |
| 3 | Most Improved Competitor of the Year | | |
| | 1st | The Mike Jordan Trophy | LLOYD COVEY |
| 4 | Marshal of the Year | | |
| | 1st | Don Baker Trophy | NIGEL WATSON |
| 5 | Car Trials Club Driver Championship | | |
| | 1st | Waugh Two in Crew Trophy | DENNIS USMAR |
| | 2nd | M R Cannon Trophy | DAVID FLECK |
| 6 | Grass Autotesting Club Driver | | |
| | 1st | Castrol Shield | BRIAN SHARPE |
| | 2nd | Roy Carey Trophy | JOSH SMITH |
| 7 | Tarmac Autotesting & Autosolo Club Driver | | |
| | 1st | Ken Jordan Bent Con Rod Trophy | RICHARD OLSEN |
| | 2nd | Ken Jordan Memorial Trophy | IAN MEPHAM |
| 9 | Targa Rally Driver & Navigator | | |
| | Dvr | Peter Singleton Memorial Trophy | RICHARD OLSEN |
| | Nav | Graham Castle / Alan Turner Memorial Trophy | EMMA OLSEN |
| 10 | Road Rally Club Navigator of the Year | | |
| | 1st | Lee Davey Navigators Trophy | SI KELLOW |
| 11 | Road Rally Club Driver of the Year | | |
| | 1st | Kathleen Jupp Trophy | ANDREA STERRY |
| 13 | Overall Club Driver of the Year | | |
| | 1st | Hayward Trophy | BRIAN SHARPE |
| | 2nd | Coronation Trophy | LLOYD COVEY |
| | 3rd | P A Barden Trophy | RICHARD OLSEN |
| 14 | Event Official | | |
| | 1st | Sir Gwaine Baillie Trophy | LIZ JORDAN & BRUCE JENKINS |
| 15 | Club Person of the Year | | |
| | | Ford Rose Bowl | BRUCE JENKINS |
| 16 | Organiser of the Year | | |
| | | John La Trobe Trophy | ANDY JENNER |





For members interest we are publishing below a list of the Club's Annual Awards to be competed for in accordance with the Championship Regulations for 2022

MAIDSTONE & MID KENT MOTOR CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2022

Young Competitor of the Year - for the best performance during the year by drivers under the age of 21 years.

1st - UNDER 21 TROPHY [2001] this award purchased by the Club to encourage young drivers entering the Clubs events.

2nd - SPORTS CAR CHALLENGE CUP [1974] origin not recorded.

Senior Driver of the Year - best overall performance in all types of events during the year by drivers over the age of 60 years. This new category award was introduced 2009.

1st - DAVID HAYNES RALLY TROPHY [1968] Presented to the Club by David Haynes of Haynes Brothers Ltd Maidstone and initially an award on the Grasshopper Rally from 1968 to 1978.

Marshal of the Year - awarded to the Club members marshaling on the most Club events during the year. None of the Club's events could be run without the help of marshals who perform their duties in all weathers to allow competitors to enjoy the sport.

1st - DON BAKER TROPHY [1965] Presented to the Club by Don Baker who joined the Club in 1954 and started as an assistant scrutineer and officiated at all of the Club's race meetings and then at Brands Hatch as a senior marshal with the BRSCC .

2nd – THE KLEEBER TROPHY [1973] Presented to the Club by Kleeber Tyres Limited.

Most Improved Club Competitor Award - [2021] Presented to the Club by Liz Jordan

Car Trials Driver Championship - This is the current name for Production Car Trials as known in the past. Production cars have to attempt a number of observed sections using varying gradients set out on private land.

1st - WAUGH CREW IN TWO TROPHY [1953] Presented to the Club by Mrs. Jane Waugh who was a prominent member from the 1950s and also the first lady chairman in 1965. Her interest in motor racing was typified when one of her cars [AC Bristol 2 litre] that she raced in this country was entered and won its class in the 1959 Le Mans 24 hour race. This Trophy was originally awarded to the best two in crew in road rallies including the Grasshoppers.

2nd - M R CANNON TROPHY [1953] Presented to the Club by member, Mike Cannon, who was a very successful sporting trials car driver, designer and builder of the cars bearing his name and also a winning entrant in the national championships. From 1953 this award was presented at the sporting trials organized by the MMKMC up to the late 1980s. This trophy has now been allocated to the Car Trials Championship.

Grass Autotesting Driver - The Club organizes these events between April and September each year which currently take place at Otham and Headcorn Aerodrome. Competitors use standard road cars and in recent years several 14 year olds have been entering with a parent alongside them. These events are designed to improve and test the driver's skills at positioning the vehicle and are suitable for novice and expert drivers alike.

1st - CASTROL SHIELD [1984] Presented to the Club by Castrol Oils Ltd.

2nd - ROY CAREY TROPHY [1969] - This unusual trophy - a mounted camshaft - was presented to the Club by Roy Carey a local businessman regular entrant in all types of club motor sport. Originally this award was presented on the Grasshopper Rally

Tarmac Autotest & Autosolo Championship Driver - Similar to Grass Autotesting but the tests are laid out on a sealed surface.

1st - KEN JORDAN BENT CON ROD TROPHY [1966] Another unusual trophy - a mounted bent con rod - presented by Ken Jordan who as an extremely hard working member from 1959 and could always be found preparing venues for the Club's events. He was also a long time director of the Club a role followed by his son Michael who was also Past President of the Club. This trophy was originally awarded on the Club's Autocross events up to 1981.

2nd - KEN JORDAN MEMORIAL TROPHY [1990] Presented to the Club by the family in memory of Ken and his 31 years with the Club. This award has always been presented for tarmac autotests

Race / Sprint / Hill Climb Driver - Awarded to the most successful driver in Speed events.

1st - JUBLIEE TROPHY [1977] Presented to the Club by Bernard Birch who started competing in club events in the 1950s and then became Club Secretary from 1955 to 1976. This trophy was initially presented at the Farthingloe Hill Climb organized during the 1970s and has now been reallocated to Speed events in general.

Club Rally Driver - awarded to the most successful driver competing in Road, Targa and Special Stage events during the year.

1st Driver - CHARING ROSE BOWL [1949] Presented to the Club by Leslie Riley a local businessman and competitor in club events and also Chairman and then President from 1951 to 1964. This trophy was given to the overall winner of the Grasshopper Rallies and then to Speed events before its current use.

2nd Driver - WILFRED POCOCK RALLY TROPHY [1956] Presented to the Club by Wilfred Pocock a local businessman. His son, John, competed regularly in club and international rallies winning many awards and then becoming Chairman during the 1960s.

3rd Driver - DOUG HARRIS MID KENT TROPHY [1962] Presented to the Club by Doug Harris a local businessman and competitor in club and international rallies including the World Cup Rally winning many awards

Club Co-driver/Navigator - awarded to the most successful rally co-driver/navigator competing in Road, Targa, and Special Stage events during the year..

1st - LEE DAVEY NAVIGATORS TROPHY [1962] Presented to the Club by Lee Davey a member from the 1940s who regularly competed in and organized all types of events before coming Chairman in 1962 and then President from 1968 to 1992. He was one of the first editors of the Kent Driver magazine. His local caravan business launched many club members into caravan rallying and racing.

2nd - KATHLEEN JUPP TROPHY [1939] Presented to the Club by Kathleen Jupp who was the wife of the Club's first Company Secretary in 1938.

3rd - JOHN LIDDELL & CO TROPHY [1969] Presented to the Club by motor assessor company, John Liddell & Co Ltd, owned by John Liddell who has a long association with the Club from 1954. John was editor of the Kent Driver from 1958 to 1961 as well as helping with the organizing of events.

Overall Driver of the Year - Awarded to the most successful driver in all categories of competitive motor sporting events.

1st - HAYWARD TROPHY [1970] Presented to the Club by Gordon and Charles Hayward motor dealers from Ashford who took a great interest in local motor sport and clubs.

2nd - CORONATION TROPHY [1953] This award purchased by the Club for the Annual Award Championship

3rd - P A BARDEN TROPHY [1953] Presented to the club by P A Barden another local businessman who competed in Sporting Car Trials and rallies winning many awards.

Event Official – awarded to the Club Member who has accumulated the most points during the year acting as a named official on Club events.

Sir GWAINÉ BAILLIE TROPHY [1974-] Presented to the Club by Sir Gwainé for use on the Grasshopper Rally. Past President John Jensen, organizer of the Grasshopper approached the Leeds Castle Estate in an attempt to run a special stage in the grounds but was turned down. Shortly afterwards Sir Gwainé presented the Club with this trophy.

Organizer of the Year - Presented to the Club Member who in the opinion of the President and Chairman has organized the most successful event[s] during the year.

JOHN LA TROBE TROPHY [1971] Presented to the Club by John La Trobe who is still a very supportive past chairman. John was an extremely successful international and club racing and rally driver during the 1950s and 60s competing in events across the globe including the Monte Carlo Rallies and the 1968 London to Sydney Rally in a Volvo Amazon.

Club Person of the Year - This trophy is awarded to the Club Member that in the opinion of the President and Chairman has made the greatest contribution to the club for the year[s].

FORD ROSE BOWL [1974] Presented to the Club by the Ford Motor Company.



BUG DICING

What happy memories the above title must bring to the older club members, but to the many new members it is just a name, perhaps only conjuring up an event in the "bed chamber". For their benefit I'll try to explain.

Firstly the club had to find a friendly farmer who would allow one of his fields to be ruined ; this field was then marked out into a track about 600 yards long, roughly oval in shape, with a small paddock at one end, in which the bugs were assembled. A bug had to comply with the following regulations, which were strictly adhered to (providing you were being watched).

RULES FOR BUG DICING

1. Cars must be Austin 7, pre 1932.
2. Cars when purchased must not cost more than £5.
3. Cars must be fitted with 3 speed gearbox.
4. *One* carburetter only per car.
5. All wheels must be 19in. diameter.
6. All cars must pass scrutineer.
7. Bodies *may* be fitted.

Races were of six to ten laps, or longer, if the starter was enjoying it, there were no flag or crowd marshals, just a start and finish bod. The racing was really exciting and it was a wondtrful day out for the whole family.

My memory unfortunately does not allow me to remember all the names, but a few that spring to mind are Mich Hukins, who raced and supplied the field at Biddenden, Alf Jarvis, Arthur Turnnill, Reg Sinclair, Harold Barwick, George Wickens, Stan Baker, Stan Epps, and many more.

The machines were very stark, just a chassis, one seat, a wheel at each corner and an engine that had had more man hours spent on it than the B.R.M. The noise was terrific, and the only headwear most of the drivers wore was a cap, usually turned backwards, giving the appearance as they were racing, of a lot of Bleriotics flying the channel.

All this by the way took place in 1938 and 1939, and how things have changed since, for instance the committee at that time granted 30 shillings to be spent on the track. Entrance fee was 2s. per car. Mr. Goldsmith made teas for us, and Reg Sinclair provided a commentary over a loud speaker unit, crystal powered.

Happy days indeed, couldn't we start up again? I'm looking for an Austin 7 for £4 19s., one owner and never raced.

V. G. M. BUTLER.

COMING EVENTS

" B U G " MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Hukins Farm, Biddenden on 27th August (leave Biddenden by Tenterden road and watch out for Red "trials" card indicating Right Turn)

We must also point out that this is for CLUB MEMBERS only and the general public will not be admitted.

We must also point out that in future only DRIVERS and ONE MECHANIC will be allowed in the Bug Park in addition to the Starter and timekeepers, and any contravention of this rule will result in the stopping of the meeting until the park has been cleared. We feel sure that all who were present at the last event realised what a difficult task Mr. Mobbs had and we appeal to all members to make things easier for him by abiding by the rules.

The Meeting on August 28th starts at 2.30 p.m. and practice will be allowed from 10 a.m. As before picnic meals should be taken.

CORRESPONDENCE
Dear Mr. Editor,

After the fins show put up last Sunday by the owners of the "Bugs" and finding out from our worthy Secretary that no entry fees were payable (the Club funds therefore having to stand the expense of these events) I would like, if I may, to make a suggestion which I hope will be taken by other members in the spirit in which it is given. My suggestion Mr. Editor is this: that you should open in your Magazine a Subscription List to defray these expenses.

I feel sure that the drivers enjoyed themselves, that is if the expression on their faces is anything to go by and I also feel sure that the spectators enjoyed watching them do their stuff. Now I have heard a whisper that the Club would like to be the owners of a Microphone for their events in order to make things more interesting from the spectators point of view - hence my suggestion.

For the first four members who give 2/6d. I will do likewise for, in my opinion, the Committee and the organisers of

Talking Austin 7s with David Baldock

Some months ago, Jon Edgar had an interesting (isolated) meeting in David Baldock's large garage whilst picking up some tyres for his ex-race Speedex which had been removed from one of David's Coopers. They chatted about Sevens and several interesting threads ensued.

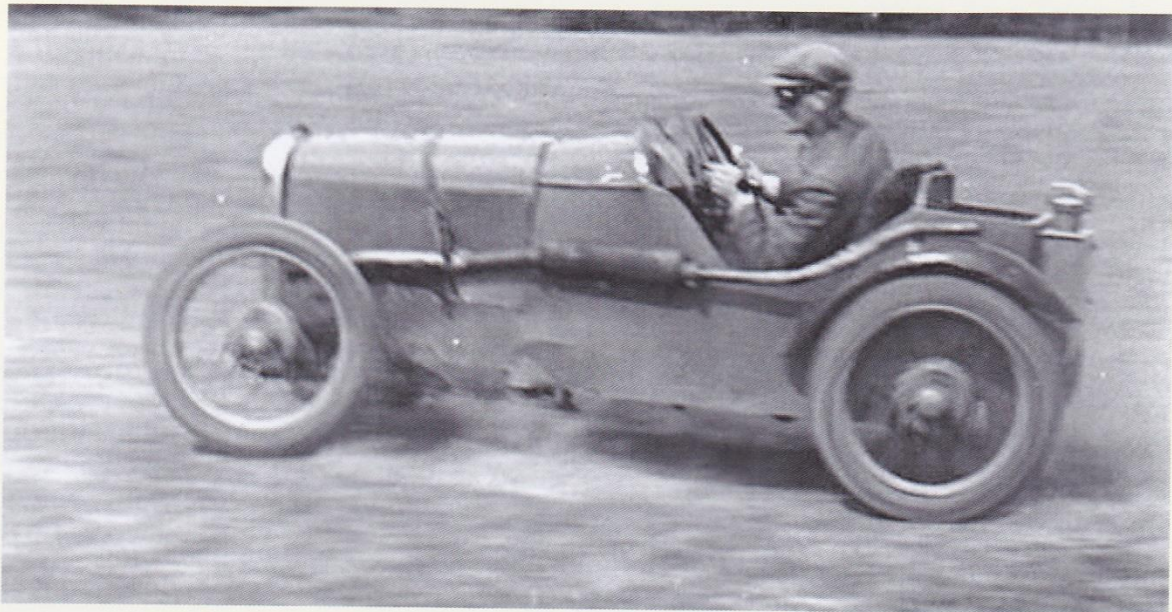
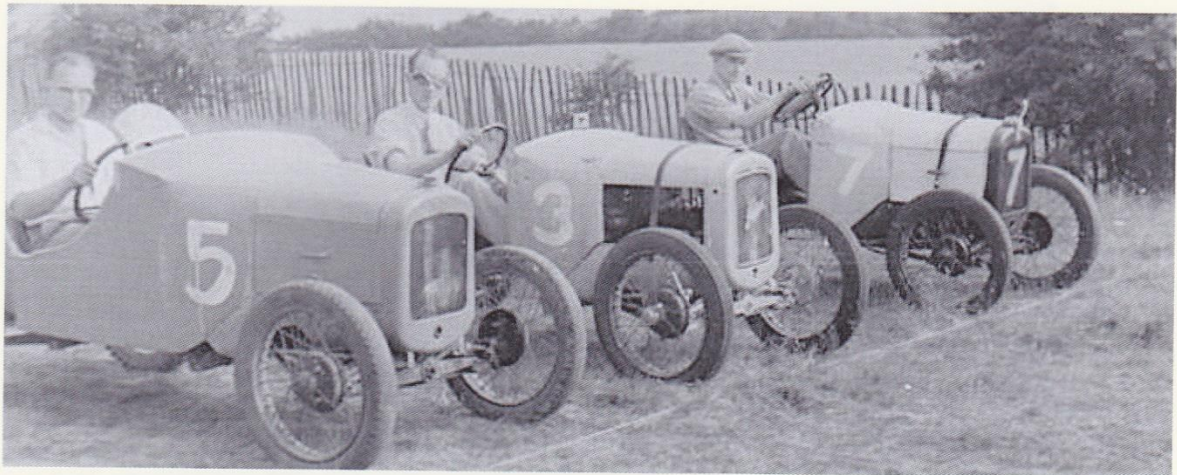
David ran the well-known supercharged EA Sports VE 4492 (featured in 2021C) for a good while. He bought it from Michael Bills, son of Ken Bills who won a post war Clubman's TT on a Norton. He subsequently sold it to Danny Margulies.

His second 'Ulster' was AGH 709, an unblown car bought for £125 from 'Fleming,

a VSCC-type in Sevenoaks' and towed home in about 1965. He sold it to someone in Southend for £165 (and I think towed it there behind an MGB...) He would like to be in touch with the present owner, if it is still around?

These pictures were taken by David's father, J.E. (John) Baldock, in 1938 and 1939. 'Bug Dicing' was carried out by Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club which was formed in 1935. The only car allowed was an Austin 7 that had cost less than £5 to buy. His father's

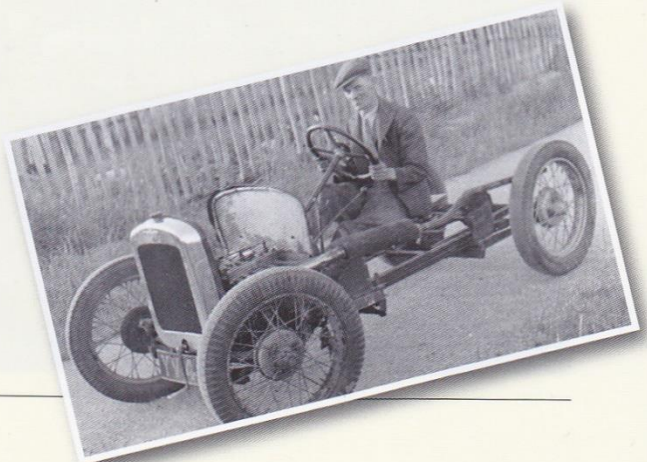




car was bought from the Bolsters for £1.10 shillings and had a Laystall crankshaft.

I have been unable to find much information on Bug Dicing; Maidstone's first event was held at Hukins Farm, Biddenden on 28th August 1938, but that's as far as I have managed. Does anyone know more? Was it a Maidstone & Mid Kent initiative, or was it more widely spread? £5 in the late 1930s would buy a (just) roadworthy Seven, but one wonders what restrictions there were to

spending more to make a car competitive! Further information would be appreciated.



S T O P P R E S S

IMPORTANT LATE NEWS

An invitation has been received from the Kentish Border Car Club for members of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent to take part in a Gymkhana which is to be held at Brand's Hatch Speedway, Kingsdown, on 18th September.

There will be a Fair and all the usual sideshows, and the fun will start at 2 p.m. - lasting until 8 p.m. (approx.) For each car competing a fee of 5/- will be charged and this will cover all events and also the Driver's entry to the ground. Passengers and the General Public will be charged 1/- admission.

It has also been suggested that Maidstone and Mid-Kent Bug owners should take their Bugs along to provide a little amusement for the Great British Public.

It is requested that as many Members as possible will turn out for this Gymkhana which is in aid of the Hospitals Welfare Society. Will all those who wish to take part PLEASE let Mr. Jupp know on or before 23rd August and will Bugowners please state whether or not they are taking their bugs along.

B U G D I C I N G - 28th AUGUST.

Will entrants please state on the back of the entry form whether they wish to make an attempt on the lap record.

---101---

B.D. Engineering

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2022 CLUB 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
Autosolo	Ben Dawson	Andy Jenner	19 th March
Tyrwhitt Drake Trial	Tom Thompson	Bruce Jenkins	27 th March
Annual General Meeting via Zoom	Lyle Cathcart	Liz Jordan	3 rd May
Autotest Taster Day - Otham	Richard Olsen	Bruce Jenkins	8 th May
Evening Autotest - Headcorn	TBA	Andy Jenner	18 th May
Evening Autotest - Otham	TBA	Andy Jenner	1 st June
Evening Autotest - Headcorn	TBA	Andy Jenner	15 th June
Evening Autotest - Otham	TBA	Andy Jenner	29 th June
Mike Jordan Celebration Tour	Liz Jordan		2 nd July
Evening Autotest - Headcorn	TBA	Andy Jenner	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	Andy Jenner	10 th August
John Ashwell All Day Autotest - Headcorn	TBA	Andy Jenner	21 st August
Kent Forestry Targa Rally	Dave Clark	Toby Groves	10 th September
Brian Lewis Trial	Andy Jenner		30 th October

Club Officers

<i>President</i>	Lyle Cathcart
<i>Chairman</i>	Liz Jordan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Jenner
<i>Secretary</i>	Bruce Jenkins
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Tom Thompson
<i>Chief Marshal</i>	Dennis Usmar
<i>Club Championship Coordinators</i>	Des & Helen Crocker
<i>Website</i>	Des Crocker
<i>Social Media</i>	Lloyd Covey
<i>Sustainability Officer</i>	Emma Olsen
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	Janet Barlow
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Bruce Jenkins