



# Wheelbase

The Club News Magazine Of The Darlington & District Motor Club



Above  
Outgoing President Phil Lee handing  
over the Chain of Office to 2008  
President Tony Curran.

Below  
Tony presents Phil with his Vice  
President's Tankard.



Above is the updated  
NSSCC Logo to be used  
from now, it will soon be  
available in Badge format  
for your overalls and on  
the club shirts below.

New Club Shirts, Blue  
Pilot Shirt with 2 pockets  
and embroidered with  
the DDMC Club Badge  
Price's  
DDMC Badge only £18  
Personalised £20  
NSSCC Logo + £4  
Mail Order +£3  
To Order please complete  
the enclosed form





## Sporting Car Trial



Left to Right  
Class C Winner, Irving Armstrong. Overall Winner Mike Lawn,  
Intermediate Winner Martin Grimwood.

A sunny breezy day greeted the competitors in the annual Sporting Car trial held at Iron Banks, Richmond on 2 March. The six trial hills had been set out the previous day by Clerk of the Course Neil Metcalfe, Chief Marshal Dave Lea and Graham Sanderson. The only work necessary on the day was to put the penalty scores on the appropriate poles.

The morning passed without major problems, except on hill 2, which required competitors to negotiate a small but very muddy 'bog'. Only 2 competitors managed to clean the section, the majority getting stuck at the 8 marker and causing the section to become even more rutted. For the afternoon, the markers were moved to avoid the worst section of the test but this meant a very sharp turn at the start of the hill and a few competitors who had not mastered the fiddle brakes demolished the marker poles. However, several drivers did manage to clean the hill.

With the Club running the rallycross meeting at Croft on the same day, marshals and helpers were thin on the ground and the Secretary of the meeting was required to marshal one of the sections all day. The trial was run as a non-championship event and this reduced the number of entrants. It is hoped that the fixture will run in future years, when, if it becomes part of the Northern Phoenix championship more competitors will travel the short distance along the A66 from their Cumbria base.

	Name	Class	Points
1st Overall and winner of the Sherwood Brothers Trophy	M Lawn	A	24
	R Waterhouse	A	31
	S Kingsby	A	34
Class Winner	M Grimwood	B	41
	B Hogg	B	42
	P Yarwood	A	52
Class Winner	I Armstrong	C	81
	G Geering	B	116
	N Simpson	C	203



## Wright On

By the time you read this, the 2008 opening round of the SBD Engineering MSA British Sprint Championship will have been and gone. I have never understood the reasoning behind moving Easter around. Quite frankly, March is far too early to be standing around Croft Circuit!

However, DDMC are obviously doing something right because we have a full entry with excellent support in all 6 Championships. Given the right weather conditions, even the outright record could go although I suspect it will be too cold for decent grip. The range of powerful single seaters never fail to thrill.

It is lovely to have such a range of cars in the other Championships with the Westfields appealing to those longing for the wind in their hair, TVR and Morgan for the traditionalists, Porsche for those preferring oversteer to understeer and a good mix of allsorts to fill in the gaps.

Of course, we have already spent a day at Croft since The Jack Frost with the opening round of The Open Rallycross Championship in February. Peter Stott had gathered a good entry and we all enjoyed some excellent racing. Despite it being February, the water bouser was called in to play. It just goes to show that Croft's weather is totally unpredictable. Two hours on Motors TV is on the cards so look out for it.

The NSSCC will soon be under way with the Test Day on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Lesley tells me that registrations are coming in with a significant number of new competitors. It would seem that regulars will need to get their entries in sharpish as places may well be at a premium. The first round is at the DDMC Spring Race Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, a double header which always attracts a big entry.

The attendance was frustratingly down for the Annual Dinner Dance. Those who did attend witnessed a very on form John Cleland regaling us with some interesting TOCA facts. I'll never think of a mole (or James Thompson) in the same way again!

So bring on the new racing season. Let's hope it is dry, not too hot and as much fun as previous years.

Terry



## Annual Dinner Dance

The Annual Awards Dinner has come and gone which must signal that the start of the season is rapidly approaching.

The dinner saw a smaller than usual number attending this year, which was a pity as John Cleland had agreed to be the speaker. Undeterred, he says good things come in small packages, and his audience certainly seemed to appreciate his sentiments on the state of motor sport. John was quite vocal about the current standard of driving in many of the senior formulas in the UK. He applauded the efforts made by clubs like DDMC in encouraging a cleaner more respectful form of the sport. He agreed that it is essential for championships like NSSCC to promote a good club atmosphere and that we have to police very strongly poor driving standards. Whilst John was the first to admit that he had been not altogether and angel in all events himself, he felt that watching his son Jamie racing in the Clio had renewed his determination to clean up driving standards in all forms of motor sport that he finds himself involved in. This I think is a very creditable aim to have and we wish him success in that quest.

Paul Moss collected his award as champion for 2007 and made a short speech recognising the effort and support he received in his quest over the last few years, notably from his mum & dad and of course his wife Jo. Paul said that he had thoroughly enjoyed the season and was keen to hold onto the trophy in 2008. So the gauntlet has been thrown down, only one of you can decide if he is going to be successful. Photo's from this event are on page 12.

### **TEST DAY**

The test day looms large in the calendar, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, only just a week away. If you haven't booked but still want to do the day give me a ring asap to ensure your place. Only £155 for all day with an 'open pit' policy.

Registrations have been coming in steadily with several new competitors adding to the mix, with some former competitors returning for another go, some with new cars some with more familiar vehicles. It looks set to be a good season, with a few new ideas in the paddock and around and about. Watch this space.

David Leslie;

We would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of David Leslie, many of you will have watched him race at Croft either in the early days of his career in Formula Ford. Many club members competed against him including John Simpson, Phil Tingle, Cameron Binnie and Mick Starkey to name but a few, all have fond memories of him during those years. Many of the marshal's have seen him racing in the early days and also more recently in Touring Cars. It was a terrible accident that has cost him his life but he has left many people very pleased to have gained pleasure from knowing him and watching him race.

On a happier note I look forward to seeing you all either at the test day or at the first event.

Lesley



## Chairman's Chat

By the time you read this we will have already run another couple of events on the club calendar , first of all the Rallycross Open Championship opening round on March 2nd which was run in dry but windy conditions an entry of about 90 cars was one of the largest I have known for quite a while. The day was fairly quiet in the clerks office with only 4 drivers being sent for and not for anything too serious, which makes a change, maybe they are beginning to realise we will not accept bad driving standards. We had some excellent racing in all the classes.

We will then be back at Croft for the British Sprint Championship on Easter Monday with a maximum entry, I am sure an enjoyable day will be had and no doubt Terry will fill us in with the finer details of the day.

The AGM was held on Wednesday 26th March at Darlington Football Stadium with the now customary low turnout of attendees this year totalling 25 of which 21 were executive committee or Vice Presidents of the club and just 4 were regular members of the club, as usual we had the higher than usual amount of nominations for committee positions this year, 1 and that was only because Paul Griffin had to fill in a form to take the position of secretary on an official basis.



## D & DMC Committee Contacts

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## Marshals Regalia

Anyone requiring overalls etc see Paul Griffin at any race meeting where supplies will be available, or if you have any queries e.g. sizes, availability then I can be contacted on 07882340567 or via e-mail at [griff.paul@gmail.com](mailto:griff.paul@gmail.com)

Why not have your items personalised for a small charge you can have your name embroidered onto your overalls.

Items are also available mail order, however please note post and packing will be applied and dependant on size of order, but this will be kept as low as possible.



## DDMC Trials Championship

June 8th	Fremmington Edge 11am all classes
July 6th	Oxnop Gunnerside Reeth 11am all classes
August 3rd	Underbanks Reeth 11am all classes
September 14th	Park Gate Farm West Witton 11am all classes
October 26th	Woodyard Reeth 11am all classes

The above are the remaining dates in the D&DMC Trials championship for 2008. To qualify for championship points you must be a D&DMC member and ride in a minimum of 5 of the 8 rounds. Points will be awarded on a scale of 10 down to 1 in each class at each trial.

The updated championship points table is on the DDMC web site.



Above

Dave Boyd being presented with the small but perfectly formed Yank Harrison Trophy as DDMC Marshal of the Year.

Above Right

Dave and his trophy.

Photo's by Simon Harrison

SRH Motorsport Photography

Presentation party supplied by rent a crowd.



## Recovering Well

When I received the E Mail about making a film about Recovery at Croft I thought "Why Not" ,so when I turned up at the Circuit on the Thursday morning I was met by Paul Griffin, Craig Hope, Tony Curran, Denny and Rod, plus from Croft Eric and Margaret and then Fred Henderson who immediately introduced me to Ken the Hayfisher Director as the Chief Marshal at which point I became a Star, sorry we became "Stars??" (to late for the Red Carpet and Oscars) but there's always next year!!!. The whole Idea of the film was to show various methods of Recovering, Snatching and the Spec Lift etc; using a script some 40 pages long, for example I had to go through a scenario where they filmed me Radioing in, "Control from post 2, Car 93 in the gravel requesting snatch?" a small gap then I called for the snatch to commence, "Cut" then the Cameras moved so they could film Fred doing the snatch, "Cut" then the marshals running out to the car getting the driver out and covering the car with the fire Extinguisher (not setting it of I hasten to add), "Cut". then close up shots of the driver getting out and the strops going on and at one point Paul Griffin getting in (he was the only one that fitted, sorry Paul) for the pull out of the gravel as opposed to the lift, this all happened several times as the camera's filmed from various angles and close up's. One of the school Single Seater's and a Formula Renault and Fred's Porsche where used for the gravel trap bits while for the Circuit recoveries the Single Seater, Harry Valkhard brought his Chevrolet Lacetti along and Fred's Porsche for the lift and Spec lift scenes, there were also a couple of Karts which were manually lifted onto the back of the flatbed, Tony and I stood back for this bit and let the younger members do the lifting, (not daft me and Tony).

All of this took a day and a half and all for a 38min DVD for the Motor Sport Safety Fund which will apparently go world wide, the club will get a copy eventually and I checked that the DDMCI and Marshal's will go on to the credits, I also asked if it could be given a PG rating??.

On the Saturday it was the setting up of the Sporting Car Trial which Graham Sanderson organises, I turned up followed shortly afterwards by Alex Williams one of our new Trainee Marshal's, she is keen to get involved in all sorts of motorsport so I said turn up and I will get you a ride in Neil Metcalfe's car, Neil turned up with his son followed by Graham and another driver called Mike, after taking the car of the trailer and loading it with marker poles we walked to the wood where three of the sections would be and started pegging the first section, when this was done Neil asked for a volunteer to check the section so I sent Alex next thing we here is a cry for help as he had tried to drive through a Bog and literally sunk, you can imagine what it was like when we went into help, It was over the top of my walking boots and when Neil tried to drive it out we ended up covered in mud of the spinning wheels, at least I didn't leave my boot in the mud like Graham, we ended up tipping the car on it's side and putting wood under the wheels and pulling it of with the strops that tied it to the trailer. We set up six sections and Alex had at least one attempt if not more at all of them and the smile never left her face so I think she enjoyed herself . I suffered for the rest of the week with muscles I had forgotten I had.

The following day I had to be at Croft for the Rallycross so Tony Curran did the Trial and no doubt will be writing about it.

**Dave Lea**



## **Marshals Wanted**

Rallycross Open Championship round 2

Blyton Circuit 13th April

We need help at the above event and any offers of assistance will be greatly received, you could always make a weekend of it and do the BRSCC meeting at Cadwell on Saturday 12th, a few of already are.

If you can help out at either or both events give me a ring.

Steve Gibson 07787514650



## Marshals Upgrading

### **How do I apply to upgrade under the new scheme?**

For all upgrades at all levels, when you have obtained the necessary number of signatures for the grade you are seeking, together with the requisite training day signatures you need to ask for an assessment session with an Examining Post Chief (Ex. Observer) or MSA Trainer. They will sign your card after the session if they are satisfied you have adequately demonstrated your competence.

You must then send your completed record card in to me. I recommend that you keep a photocopy of your completed card in case of postal or other problems. When I receive your card, I will update my records and send the card on to the MSA. The MSA will update their database and return your card to you for further use together with confirmation of your new grade. I need to know if this 'returning does not occur.

You may now record attendance signatures for your new grade and for any upgrade you wish to pursue.

It is expected that the total time for any upgrade to be processed by the MSA should be less than one calendar month. If you have not had your confirmation and card back in that time please contact me so that I can sort out any problems. If you attend any meetings during that time, please obtain your signatures on a similar sized piece of paper to the record card so that they may be taken into account for your next grading application. (A photocopy of a blank page would be a good one to use).

Upgrading with an 'upgrading card' and the new book.

If you are using the small card 'upgrading card' you may continue to obtain signatures until it is full (Complete!).

Or

With some signatures on your card you may complete the required total as per the grade requirements using the booklet and then send both to me.

ANY queries, please contact me as and when

Bob Wright,



## ADD Photos



Left  
Our presidents Phil & Joy  
Lee with guest speaker  
Mr John Cleland.

Below  
John delivering his after  
dinner speech

Below  
NSSCC competitor Paul  
Moss waiting patiently for  
(right) John Cleland to  
stop talking.



Finally John stops talking and presents  
Paul with the trophy for his "2007  
NSSCC" Championship winning year.

