

Wheelbase

The Club News Magazine Of The Darlington & District Motor Club



In both road and rail vehicles, the wheelbase is the distance between the centers of the front and rear wheels. In automobiles, the wheelbase is the horizontal distance between the center of the front wheel, and the center of the rear wheel.







Chairman's Chat

Firstly a message of thanks for all the effort put in to the Race Meeting.

Hi Steve

On behalf of all the Ma5da Racing Committee and the Ma5da drivers I would like to thank you and your team for an excellent and well organised event at the weekend.

It was a pleasure to work with everyone involved and that includes the staff working the Party in the Paddock on Saturday night.

We all know that any race meeting cannot go ahead without the hard work we all put in to make it happen and when it all comes together as it did last weekend it's all worth it.

On a personal note many thanks for your help on the many changes we made to the number of tickets we required in the last 24 hours before the Party in the Paddock took place.

Please pass on our thanks to all concerned.

Kind regards

Bob Marsh

Ma5da Administration

It's always nice to know we are appreciated, I have also received thanks in person from Vic Covey for the Scottish Mini's and Saloons, Paul Goodman from Cockshoot Cup, Simon Davey from Monoposto and numerous other thank you's from many competitors at the event it seems they all had a good time. And a special thanks as always to the Marshals without who we could not do what we do.

One of the main points of thanks other than for the well run racing was for a superb "Party in the Paddock" a somewhat change of format to previous years, instead of the traditional BBQ we had a Hog Roast and a live band, the food presented was of high quality and the band were fantastic, everyone seemed to enjoy the proceedings with about 150 people still rocking at the front of the marquee towards the end of the evening with another 100 or so still at tables enjoying the evening. Shall we do it again next year "I think we might"



A snap of the erstwhile Safety Car Crew "Fred & Barney" from "Team Flintstones" during a well earned rest from sitting down in a car for most of the day.

Regards
Steve Gibson



NSSCC

We have arrived at the end of another season, a great season of enjoyable and very competitive racing, with (on the whole) full grids.

The last two rounds were of an excellent quality with only small glitches (first race red flagged when David Swales destroyed the Chicane, fortunately only car and pride received damage, David was as usual still smiling) The entry was so large that we were able to have two championship races with an almost full grid of championship registered competitors; the remaining drivers joined the SMRC race, again with almost a full grid. Thank you to the marshals and officials who made the meeting a great success.

I would like to congratulate Paul Moss on becoming NSSCC champion for the second time. This is quite an achievement in such a competitive championship. Well done Paul are you going for the third? Huge congratulations to all of the class winners and thank you all for making the championship so successful, which in the current economic climate is very encouraging.

Thank you to the drivers, teams and officials who attended the drivers meeting at Croft. I think it was successful with a healthy exchange of views. The points raised will be discussed at the next car committee meeting and the results announced in due course.

The preparation for the weekend, for me, started a good fortnight earlier getting the food etc purchased for the hospitality. I could only get 3 days holiday from work this year which put the pressure on just a bit. The planning is a bit of an event with baking cakes, making pasta salad etc.

This would not be possible without the help of a small army of ladies who help out, some kindly make things and bring them along on the day, others come along on the day and make sandwiches, salad and generally make sure that you have everything you need during the weekend. They are too numerous to mention by name, but you all know who you are, thank you so very much for all of your effort, you make it a fantastic event which the club is very proud of. I hope that you enjoyed the party in the paddock this year; we had a bit of a change this year joining forces with Mazda and arranging the Hog Roast and a band.

I think everyone who came along enjoyed the event and it may be repeated again another time. Thanks to everyone who helped out getting the food ready and serving you all. Thanks also go to the guys who organised the bar; they worked very hard all evening.

I have just started organising the annual awards dinner, which will be on the last Saturday in February 2011 at the Scotch Corner Hotel. Put the date in your diary and the details will follow soon.

Kindest Regards

Lesley Starkey



HELP WANTED

DO YOU KNOW WHO TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS AT CATTERICK HILLCLIMB IN 1957?

I would be grateful if you could have a look at the request below from Tony Bancroft, if anyone can help him, please contact him directly. Thanks for your help.

I have a 1956 AC Ace Bristol reg no 5 BPG which has competed very successfully in over 100 events with many in the north east. I am trying to gather as many photos as I can and find that I have hardly any of Catterick and Thornaby etc and so just wondered if you could please help me with a list of photographers from the late 1950's or their families who may be able to help me. I realise that period photographs are now big business.

I list the dates that I am particularly interested in ; -

21 April	1957	Catterick Hillclimb	1st class	Ian Smith
9 June	"	"	FTD	" "
6 April	1958	"	1st "	" "
12 "	1959	"	6th "	Edgar Wadsworth
7 June	"	"		Barry Harpin
13 Sept	"	Race	2x 1st's	Peter Bolton
11 "	1960	Thornaby Race	2x 1s't	" "

Other north east events that I would also like were at ; -

Full Sutton, Rufforth, Linton on Ouse and Charterhall etc. Hoping that you may be able to help me, I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

with best regards

Tony

Tony Bancroft

Sandy Beck Farm,

Grassington Road

Skipton

North Yorkshire BD23 3LD tel 01756 791523

Dear all,

Thank you to DDMC for organising a superb Race meeting and to everyone who came into contact with Gateshead College Motor sport students, we had 25 students at the event and it will be many weeks before I can get them back down to earth again, Special thanks go to the officials and competitors who took time to explain things to students on what was a very busy weekend and off course Lesley and the ladies in the hospitality tent.

This is the start of our academic year and we have many events planed so it was great to show new students to motor sport how things should be run from the offset.

Gateshead College Motor sport Team are currently running a Van Diemen F/Ford 1.8 Zetec and are actively looking for another two cars of the same mark so if there is anyone out there who known of any of these cars for sale please get in touch contact me on 07981938585.

Big Thanks again

Dave Bone (Lecturer) Gateshead College Motor Sport



Darlington Rescue 2010

As it seems to be ages since I wrote anything for the newsletter with regards to Darlington Rescue I thought it about time to update all club members as to what we have been getting up to this year.

Way back in January the majority of the crew spent a weekend in Lancaster and Morecambe for a training and assessment weekend. These weekends consist of lectures and demonstrations of new equipment and procedures on the Saturday. The following day is a hands on day with scenarios of incidents being dealt with by the crews including licence assessments which all crew must complete every three years.

In February we put on our own Training session in conjunction with the BARC marshals training day at Croft. This was curtailed considerably by the white stuff falling just when we did not want it to do so. The training was still invaluable with instruction on medical procedures by Steve Miles and Andy Hutton. Hopefully in 2011 with the date set for the 27th February we will be graced with better weather.

2010 started with a late Specsavers Christmas Stages Rally at Croft held on the 2nd January.

During the year we have been present on some 60+ days of events including Rallies, Rally test days, Time Trials, Sprints, Hillclimbs, Autocross, Rallycross and race meetings at Croft, Cadwell, Kames, Elvington, Oliver's Mount, Curborough, Otterburn, Mull and various forests in North Yorkshire, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland and Ayrshire. With only about 10 events to go in 2010 we have not been called to anything really serious this year.

In June we replaced our oldest unit with a brand new Mercedes Sprinter (picture attached). We now have an active crew list of approximately fifteen members ranging from being able to only cover the odd event to being out nearly every weekend. If you are interested in finding out more about being part of the crew please contact me at: rescue@darlington-motor-club.org.uk, where a taster day at an event can be arranged and to meet other members of the crew. The only requirements for being granted a Trainee Rescue Unit Crew licence is that you have some experience of marshalling duties and a first aid certificate and you are available at weekends with only a very small likelihood of covering events such as rally testing mid week. All relevant training to gaining a full rescue licence is given at training days and on the unit at events.

If you are interested in viewing the vehicles and seeing what is carried on our vehicles which are a cross between a fire engine and an ambulance and have to meet a minimum specification laid down by the governing body for motorsport in the UK, The Motor Sports Association Ltd, which both of our units exceed with additions of personally requested rescue equipment and creature comfort items such as television, cooker and the like which are not specified, please contact either myself or one of the crew.

Bookings are already being taken for 2011 and again we look forward to enjoyable year covering events throughout the UK.

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Chris Gibson



Marshalling Matters

We have now finished club events for 2010 so thank you for all the help during 2010 and look forward to seeing you all back again in 2011, please remember to set the alarm.
Dates so far Jack Frost Stages Sunday 16th January
Croft Marshals training day Sunday 21st February
Our race meeting dates are nearly set so we will publish them in the next edition.

For those of you wanting to apply for the British Grand Prix there is a form enclosed, fill it in and return it to Bob Wright who will then process it.

RBS special tour of Williams F1 to watch the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (14 November)
Anyone interested see the enclosed flyer.

If you have had a good time at DDMC events this year tell everyone about it, if you have not then tell us and we will see what we can do to make it better why not put it in writing and we will publish your letters in the Christmas edition email news@darlington-motor-club.org.uk



Wright On

Who missed the Nostalgia Weekend at Croft at the beginning of August then? Boy did you miss out!

The idea had been to create a mini Goodwood Revival and the event certainly hit the spot. Firstly we had the HSCC championships with some excellent racing bringing back the days of the old Croft Autodrome. To see Austin A40s, Anglias, Mustang and Minis doing battle and the giant killing acts was superb and to have 4 of my most favourite car, the Chevron B8, on the grid, well that just made my weekend as far as on track was concerned.

Off track, Maurice Jennings and his crew had pulled in about 180 classic cars, 200 military vehicles, classic buses, aircraft, trade stands and model aircraft. There were numerous people in period costume, a forties fashion show and cookery demonstrations.

DDMC had our gazebo with David Cox's Sunbeam Tiger, Ron Harper's Triumph Spitfire, David Headon's classic bike and Graham Sanderson's classic trials bike. Saturday particularly saw us meet many old friends, people not seen at Croft for 35 years but Sunday really put the icing on the cake as Yvonne & I hosted a gathering of real 'golden oldies'. Croft had invited a number of the competitors from the seventies including Brian Morris, John Simpson, Mick Starkey, Andy Barton, Alex Clacher, John Macdonald, Keith Bowmaker, Ken Walker, Tony Sugden, Joe Lanny, Jeff Wilson, Ron Harper, Jim Adamson, John Blades, John Absalom, Geoff Temple, Dave Manners, Ronnie Whitaker and Ted Payne.

A classic coach had been organised by Peter Elliott and off they went for a tour of the circuit. On their return it was as though the intervening 35 years had just not happened. Conversation among them all flowed so easily. Following lunch, the HSCC asked if some of them would present the awards to the race winners, something they all agreed to quite willingly.



The NSSCC visited Cadwell Park courtesy of MSVR for a very interesting race weekend. I hadn't raced there for sometime so thought we would give it a go. Although we were not racing until Sunday Yvonne & I towed down on Saturday and managed to sign on and get scrutineered. We then went off to watch some racing, in particular the Golfs, hammer through Hall Bends. Wacky races or what! For race 2 we went up to Park straight and witnessed a horrific accident when two cars locked together and plunged in to the barrier between Park Straight and Mansfield. One car ended up on its side with the other, on fire, sat on top. The marshals were quickly on the scene with fire extinguishers but we were astonished not to see red flags or the rescue unit, parked at Gooseneck and overlooking the accident. Instead the Safety Car was scrambled for two laps and it was a full 5 minutes from the accident to a rescue unit arriving! During that time there was no medical attention for either drivers although I am sure the marshals had an eye on them. I'm sorry but that is just not good enough.

The Sunday provided two very good NSSCC races. As I was tootling around at the back I was perfectly placed to witness the dicing between the front runners and very close it was too. A very sociable weekend, I'm looking forward to September already.



Wright On (par deux)

So that's an end to another busy motorsport season. The DDMC September Meeting always attracts a lot of interest and this year was no exception. In fact so many competitors wanted to join us there was no room on the NSSCC grid for non registered and so they combined with the Scottish Sports & Saloons to create an almost full grid there.

With around 60 saloons & sports, 35 Monoposto, 14 Mini Coopers, 88 Ma5da & 12 Cockshoot it was a very busy Paddock. As expected the Ma5da Championship provided loads of entertainment and action along with quite a bit of clearing up!!

The usual September Barbeque joined forces with the Ma5da paddock party with caterers and a band being brought in to provide the evening for around 500 people. The whole weekend had a tremendous atmosphere.

At long last slight body modifications meant I could get Toyos on the little Metro. This change meant I had consistency in the handling and a slightly raised gearing (which was to prove an asset later in the weekend). I still hadn't got the speed however and I was very disappointed with my qualifying time although the car itself felt quick.

Race 1, on Saturday, found me making a lightening start from the back of the grid, making up quite a few places, until we arrived at the Clervaux / Hawthorn traffic jam. As the race settled I dropped in to a great battle with a number of cars until Alex Rae arrived at the Chicane with two other cars alongside.

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Unfortunately he had nowhere to go and hit the marker tyres launching him across my bows. A trip across the Rallycross track ensued with John Hewitson surging past and away. Next lap David Swales arrived at the Chicane and did a proper job on the tyres spreading debris all across the exit – and guess who was next on the road! Anyway, we got away with that and then the Red Flag came out. The restart caught me out and it was a fairly uneventful run to the flag.

And so I'm now looking forward to Sunday. On the Green Flag lap I heard a rattle in the gearbox. The sort of sound that makes you think 'This is either diff or that bloody Quaife 5th gear has fallen off again!'

So, lights on and off and a cracking start again (so not the dif). Pushed on to the grass by Les Cowburn's Porsche but I'm still coming through. Out of the Chicane and up to Tower, in to 5th – nothing! So 4 gears to play with. Now Tony Stolarski who built the engine had said just that morning that it was built to scream, and so it did! Another interesting battle for 7 laps and then it let go, big style. At least it is the end of the season.



Now where did I leave that cigarette!

Now I'm going to have a little moan. With the NSSCC fielding almost capacity grids, you can imagine there is quite a difference in ability and speed through out the grid. Newcomers particularly need to be aware of faster cars

lapping and keep a good eye on both the flags and their mirrors, even whilst in their own little scrap. It has always been my contention that the NSSCC provides some of the cleanest racing in the GB. Please always remember to leave racing room.

So that's the racing season finished. I now have to compile a guide for my volunteer (fool) successor as Car Sports Secretary. Tony Curran has offered to take on the role and I offer him all the best. I won't interfere but I'll be around if needed.

Terry



Helmet standard labels

All British Standard labels are uniquely numbered, yet the MSA Technical Department has been made aware of six helmets that have been presented at scrutineering bearing the same serial number. Competitors are advised to check BS stickers carefully when purchasing helmets to avoid forgeries.



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Club Charity Fund

After 10 years of supporting the Katie Trust the club has embarked on a new charity initiative.

From the beginning of this year the club will set aside 10% of the profits made at events along with any funds raised from raffles and such like, these funds will be used to support local charities and good causes.

We need the help of the membership to find causes to support.

So if you have any ideas please get in touch and we will consider all nominations please remember that donations will only be small amounts.



Trials News

Club Trial Round 7	31st Oct	Woodyard
Club Trial Round 8	21st Nov	Fremington Edge

Championship Round entry fee is £12.00 for members, and £15.00 for non-members, to qualify for points you must be a member on or before the date of an individual round you cannot score points in rounds ridden before joining.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP 5 OUT OF 8 ROUNDS MUST BE RIDDEN.

PLEASE NOTE THE KEITH BURNICLE MEMORIAL TRIAL ON THE 12th SEPTEMBER IS NOT A CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND.



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, or availability then I can be contacted on 07882340567 or via e-mail

secretary@darlington-motor-club.org.uk

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



Club Nights

DDMC club nights are held on the second Friday of every month at the Copper Beech Nesham Road in Darlington why not come along and join us