

Wheelbase

The Club News Magazine Of The Darlington & District Motor Club



February 2015



**Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation
Hallgarth Hotel 7th March**

Last Chance Book by 26th February

See Page 2 for menu and enclosed flyer to book



**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 25th March**

See enclosed AGM information booklet





2015 ADD

Hall Garth Hotel & Country Club. 7th March 2015

Starters

Home Cured Gravlox with crème fraiche and caper salad
Duo of Galia and Cantaloupe Melon with tarragon syrup
Tomato and Roast Pepper Soup

Main Course

Breast of Chicken Marinated in lemon and thyme, dauphinoise potato
Roast Loin of Pork with apple sauce, roast potatoes
Fresh Salmon with hollandaise sauce

Desserts

Vanilla Cheesecake with blackcurrant compote
Summer Pudding with clotted cream
Banoffee Pie with caramel sauce

Cheese and Biscuits

Tea and Coffee

Should you have any particular dietary requirements then please let us know so this can be accommodated? Cost per head for this event is £35-00.



2015 and beyond

So the year got off to a fairly good start with the Jack frost stages rally, I say fairly because there was good and not so good points in it good in that the event ran a full entry which was the first time for a few years and bad because of some time restraints that we had to factor in at the last minute and of course the weather, first it was dry and bright then we had about an inch of snow fall that played havoc with the timings, but in D&DMC style we weathered the storm ran the event and I hope everyone enjoyed it, so thank you to everyone involved from marshal to competitor we hope to see you in 2016.

We are currently trying to finalise the NSSCC regulations for 2015 which is taking a lot of doing the dates for 2015 are on the web site the reg's should be there this coming week and will be posted out to all 2014 drivers and the new/returnee's that have expressed an interest in competing this year we look forward to some healthy competition.

The Easter Sprint is looking healthy with 50 plus entries as we speak and more arriving daily we look forward to another healthy event.

Work is also progressing on the Battle of Britain Race Meeting in September with races for 2,3 & 4wheels on the programme and we hope to bring back the Party in the Paddock which will bring a fitting end to our racing year, not forgetting the November Rally Cross which will be the final round of the BTRDA Clubman's Rally Cross Championship.

Regards Steve Gibson



Jack Frost Stages Rally 2015

SG PETCH



ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH EAST & CUMBRIA
CAR CLUBS



When dawn broke on a very cold Sunday the 19th January at Croft Racing Circuit it was a bright sunny morning. This was the morning of The AutoGas Jack Frost Stages Rally however no one realised that this would be the last anyone would see of the sun for the rest of the day. Sunday will live in the memory of a number of competitors for a number of different reasons.

Not long after the first cars were arriving back to the service area following the opening stage it started to snow. All manner of emotions were experienced when some realised they didn't have suitable tyres. Panic and chaos are two words which never appear very much in a rally service area. Everyone just hurriedly went about obtaining tyres from whatever source they could. Thank-fully the on-site tyre supplier had sufficient stock to meet most demands.

This was also the day of the 'Prize Drives' for the 2014 SG Petch ANECCC Stage Rally Championship. The winning driver, Barry Lindsay, who lives near Carlisle airport, was driving one of Steve Petch's Mitsubishi EVO9's for the day. The winning co-driver, Barry's father and neighbour, Michael, had won the co-drivers title and his reward was the privilege of co-driving for non other than British Rally legend Steve Bannister..

Barry's day began with a terrific first stage time and by the end of stage 3 he was leading the rally... Perhaps he'd been more awake early on but as the day progressed he dropped a few seconds each stage to the more experienced 4x4 drivers.

Taking nothing away from Barry, his performance on Sunday in his first ever event driving a 4x4 rally car, will be an experience he'll remember for the rest of his life. 5th Overall is fitting reward for such a fine performance. Well Done Barry..!



Jack Frost Stages Rally 2015



Michael's day will also be something to remember. Most rally enthusiasts will have heard of Steve Bannister. Most rally enthusiasts will have dreamt of sitting alongside Steve on a rally. Michael has lived that dream, and credited himself as being a very worthy co-driver.

None of this would have taken place had it not been for the generosity of Steve Petch and Steve Bannister. I'd like to believe these prizes are unique and that no other 'regional' championship in the UK offers anything like this. That is down to Steve Petch and Steve Bannister.

Steve Petch's support and enthusiasm for motorsport in general is over-whelming. I'm sure we're all grateful for his input into the sport. Ian and I are certainly grateful for his continued support. Thanks Steve...

Steve Bannister is one the UK's rallying legends and I hope we shall still see him continuing to entertain spectators with his very spectacular sideways driving style.

We must also say a big 'Thank You' to Terry Wright and the organising team of The Jack Frost Stages with their support for the championship by providing the venue for the 'Prize Drives'. A great day's entertainment for all of us.

A very special thanks also to Richie Windress and the SGP Motorsport team of Robert Wilkinson and Ian Cartwright. We must also pay tribute to Steve Bannister's service team who worked all day out in the open..! Working in those conditions can't have much fun...

Other big "Thank You's" go to Jon Wright and Dave Smith at SG Petch Ltd. at Darlington. Jon is one of Steve Petch's promotional team and is also the person who maintains the championship website, whilst Dave acquires all of my promotional equipment. Thanks Jon and Dave...



Jack Frost Stages Rally (my first rally)

17-year-old Georgina Smith from Northallerton is currently at Northallerton College studying for physical education and photography A-levels. She works part time at the Village Inn in Brompton as a waitress. She is a Sergeant in the Air Cadets and is RAF Leeming's station commander cadet.

After competing in a number of Malton Motor Club 12 car events, where she won best newcomer, she took the next big step of co driving for her dad Andrew in their Ford Escort Mk2. Here is her account of her first such experience:

"I first arrived at Croft at about 5:30 on the morning of the rally to get set up and my nerves were fairly normal. My dad and I then took the car to scrutineering where the car got checked out to make sure that it was safe, I went with him to see how it all worked, not so long after we went to sign on which is where we got the routes of the circuit.

I then sat down with Graeme Bell and his co driver Russ Radford along with my dad to mark the map with what information I needed. They helped me with the first two maps then I was able to do the others on my own. We were due to start our first stage at 9:08 but at 9.00 we were still rushing around getting ready and that's when I started to get nervous.

The first stage was all about me getting used to reading the circuit map and how it all worked. It was fairly easy considering I thought it was going to be hard. We set off and the circuit was quite slippery, but we made it round without any problems. Once I had got round the first lap my nerves had gone and I wasn't scared.

The second stage was the worst stage because it had started snowing and I was very nervous because it would have been very easy to just spin off. When it was our turn to start, we seemed to go nowhere as all the car would do was wheel spin! This was mainly because we had the wrong tyres on as, despite dad thinking we should have the snow tyres on, he'd been persuaded by the service crew to put the historic tarmac tyres on and it turned out to be the wrong decision because we were sliding about everywhere.

We set off slowly because we didn't have much grip and there was one corner that we completely lost grip and we slid off. My dad and I were just sat there laughing while we tried getting going again. We just kept sliding off but we finished although it took us a long time. In the end, the organisers gave all cars a stage maximum so it was fair.

On SS3, we put the snow tyres back on as we had on the first stage and found that we had better grip now. There was a bit of a delay at the start meaning it had stopped snowing and as we edged towards the start, we noticed a clear line started to appear. The conditions weren't ideal for the tyres and once again, we started to slide about on them but I wasn't nervous at all. After this stage, it was decided because of the delays and the noise restrictions, SS4 had to be cancelled meaning a long delay whilst they changed the stages round.

We kept the snow tyres on for stage five and seemed to have a good run, but the other cars had tarmac tyres on and were going a lot quicker than us. As the stages went on I got more confident about going out, this was one of the best stages to start off because it was all cleared.



On stage six we decided to try the tarmac tyres out and found that we couldn't get them warm enough to work and because of that we were 22 seconds slower than stage five. As the stages went on we started to get quicker as we knew what tyres to put on, also I wasn't nervous and a lot more confident because all the snow and ice had gone off the track.

By SS7 we were back on snow tyres and found it a lot better and got a faster time. Onto stage eight and by now it was getting dark. All the other cars seemed to have their spot lights on but my dad wasn't bothered because he likes driving in the dark better!

We reached the finish in 38th place overall and fourth in class, just missing out on the third place trophy.

Overall the day was more enjoyable than I thought and as the day went on I gradually got more confident going out because I knew what to expect. It was a very cold day but the gas ring in the trailer warmed us all up by cuddling round it!

I would like to thank David Tinn for letting me borrow his daughter's helmet and race suit and also Graeme and Russ for helping me with the stage maps up which made it



© AAE Photography

easier to understand and read. Also thanks to Larry Carter for giving me guidance and support before and after the event.

Finally, I would like to thank my dad for letting me sit with him and encouraging me through the day. I'm looking forward to the next one at Blyton Park for The Jack Neal Memorial Rally.

By then, maybe I can have my own rally suit instead of wearing a Proton suit while sat in a Ford Escort!"

Georgina Smith



Photo By Marcus Andrews

Jack Frost Thanks

I forgot to say last night, congratulations to DDMC for hosting another great event and please pass on a huge thank you to all the team, organisers, medics, marshals who volunteer their time in the freezing cold so we can go round in circles playing all day! See you next year

Kindest regards
Darryl Pointer Car 49



Chair Chat

With the Annual Awards Dinner rapidly approaching, we are busy getting pictures and results sorted, not to mention the trophies. The event is going to be a lot easier for me this year with Paul having the job of sorting out the event. Paul is in for quite a bit of hard work and I wish him the best of luck with it. I hope that a lot of you will be coming along to the event to celebrate with Mike Cutt and also show your appreciation of the DDMC committee for the support they give to the championship.

The next big date for all club members will be the Annual General Meeting; . (The details of the AGM will be included in the newsletter). The positions on the committee are open to all members to apply for, you just need nomination papers. The club is in a good financial position; this is down to the efforts of the organising teams and Phil's accountancy. A great vote of thanks to all who run our many events for the efforts they put in on the clubs behalf.

It has been a privilege for me to be Chairwomen of the club and also a great honour to be asked to stay on as coordinator of the DDMC run NSSCC for another year. 2015 has already started well for the club, with a successful running of the Jack Frost Rally; sadly we did not manage to get along to the event both managing to get the flu the same week. The organising team and marshals had to deal with horrid conditions, and as a club, we are very lucky to have this level of dedication to motor sport.

The dates for NSSCC should be published very soon, possibly by the time you are reading this. It is difficult for DDMC to get dates and regulations out as early as other clubs, mainly due to the fact that other clubs are buying whole events from circuits, where we are only purchasing the Croft event and so are reliant on fitting in to other people's programmes. Chris, Craig and Peter have been busy communicating with the MSA to get everything sorted, and after much hard work on their side, we will soon have the final information. I hope that whatever part you take in motorsport in 2015 that it is a brilliant year for you and I look forward to catching up with you.

Kindest regards

Lesley Starkey



Inter Club Quiz

Whitby DMC are hosting the next round of the quiz on March 6th, Friday. At Stockton Bowls club.

Could you let Dave Scrimgour have numbers before Tuesday 3rd March please. You can contact Dave via e-mail at scrimgour@ntlworld.com

Usually A Good Night Out



Wright On

With the millions of pounds spent on technology one would think that the Met Office could get the weather forecast slightly accurate.

All the forecasts pointed toward the day of the Autogas2000 Jack Frost Stages being dry. I was stood in the pit lane looking at the current forecast on my phone. It was saying it was dry yet, above me, the snowflakes were the size of saucers!

A maximum entry of 90 cars were always going to mean time was tight due to the requirement of having the one hour break finished by 2pm. With Richmondshire Planning Office looking closely over the Circuit Management's shoulder there was absolutely no room for slippage. The anticipated stage times were in the region of 7 minutes so a maximum of 10 minutes was set. As we started stage 2 it was obvious that even the quickest cars would not get round in that time. In fact Michael Boak was quickest, seeded in the 80s, in a time of 11 mins 40 secs. However, a quick change over for stage 3 and an increase in the stage maximum – just in case – and we clawed back the time.

As expected it was a very competitive event with class battles throughout. I think most eyes were on our Sponsors Chris Wise & Tracey Taylor West in the MG Metro 6R4 and their battle with TEG Sport's Aaron Newby and John Cope in the Subaru. The lead seemed to move backwards and forwards all day with a monumental effort by Newby giving him the win.

As we have done for many years, the Club supported the S G Petch ANECCC Rally Championship with entries for the prize drive, this year won by Barry & Michael Lindsay. Barry was in the S G Petch Subaru and performed very well in the trying conditions despite having never competed in 4WD before. His 5th place was a testament to his smooth style. Meanwhile father Michael had the ride of his life alongside Steve Bannister in his historic Escort.

Our co-sponsor Larry Carter of Cartersport produced an excellent report for the Darlington & Stockton Times, worth looking up via the internet.

The next event will be the MSA British Sprint on Easter Monday which will be my last as event secretary. Entries are coming in daily so, hopefully, we will be up to our usual quality entry.

The AGM will soon be upon us and I for one would love to see an influx of nominations for the various positions. Apart from two positions on the Car Committee and two on the Marshals Committee all the positions are up for election. All you need is a desire to move the Club forward, two members to nominate and second you and attendance at the AGM. It is by no means a closed shop or an exclusive club. In fact, in my view, we urgently need some fresh blood to reinvigorate the whole club.

So basically don't just sit there complaining that the Club isn't doing this or that. Put your money where your mouth is and get your nomination in.

Terry



Marshalling Matters

A huge thank you from me to all the people that attended the set up of the Jack Frost Rally. The rally could not go ahead with your help. At least this year we had no snow to contend with but on the Saturday before the event a cycle race on the circuit. As always the volunteers took themselves away from everyday life to get dirty, break a nail or two, and even roll around on hay bails, and somehow there even was a banana involved, yes it's hard work but we do try to have a bit of fun in there also.

Some of the crew worked until 21.30 on the Saturday night due to the cycle race a special thanks to Keith Liddle and Jim little for this as if not for them I would probably have still been out there at midnight. An early start for us 06:30 to fix all the boards in place and arrows. Then it's a check by the MSA representative that we have done it correct two changes to make which took us all of 10mins so coffee and breakfast time.

First car entered stage and its a matter of watching the finish to see it come through, it made it with all smiles, They didn't get lost.

Changes after each double stages where made in a quick time from the team and the big turn around at lunch time all went well.

After a good day the last car entered the last stage and the team got ready for the strip down. All boards, arrows, stakes and road cones collected in and delivered to the container ready to be de stapled at another time as now its fast approaching 19.30. A long cold hard day for the team.

Thanks again Keith, Jim, Cally & Claire for the set up and stage changes and James Harrap Rod Harrap, Steve Gibson, John Trapper and Terry Wright for the set up. I do hope you will all be back to do it in 2016.

Craig

Regards

Craig Hope



NEMCRC Event

The NEMCRC will be working with us at our September event where they will be running the Motorcycle Racing part of the Battle of Britain Race Meeting, they also have an event in March and details as follows.

28/29th March.

Solo's and sidecars both days.

Sign on in usual place Sat 7:30 till 8:45 Sun 10:00 till 11:15

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Lunch voucher Saturday.

Snack bag Sunday

Marshals draw both days (everyone wins)

For more details e mail Stu Davison

frostbight4@hotmail.co.uk



Marshals Training Day

The 2015 training day was attended by more than 80 people and from the feedback so far the majority of attendees thought it was a well presented day and our thanks go to the trainers for their hard work. Here are a few pictures from the day, thanks to Norman Kirby for them.



Twitter

The club now has a twitter page, [DDMC@DDMC99](https://twitter.com/DDMC@DDMC99) where you will find any relevant tweets from the club that need transmission quickly to keep club members informed of what is happening within the club. So Join in and follow us for information.



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Marshals Regalia

Should any marshal require Proban overalls, High Viz coats, waterproof leggings, gauntlets and the like then see Paul Griffin at any race meeting where supplies will be available, or should anyone have any queries e.g. sizes, 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. You can also have your overalls personalised for a small cost

I can always be contacted via telephone on 07882340657 or via e-mail at griff.paul@gmail.com



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM

MSA

Colnbrook, Thursday 19 February 2015

An open letter from the MSA Chief Executive regarding spectator safety on UK stage rallies

This weekend marks the second anniversary of the tragic death of a spectator on the Snowman Rally, and of course on the Jim Clark Rally in 2014 three more spectators lost their lives in equally tragic circumstances.

As a result the Scottish Government, following an emergency debate in the Scottish Parliament, commissioned a major review of safety on stage rallies. This Scottish Government Motorsport Event Safety Review published its final report in January, and the MSA has since gone on record confirming its commitment to the implementation of the report's recommendations, not only in Scotland but throughout the UK.

Clearly, there is going to be a period of transition while everyone concerned works as hard as possible to introduce the recommended changes. In the interim, I need to remind all spectators of the fact that they are ultimately responsible for their own personal safety.

I say this because despite these well-publicised tragedies, and despite the sport being well aware of the changes being brought about by the Scottish Review, I am astonished and dismayed that an irresponsible minority – and I stress minority – of spectators continue to display a wanton disregard for their own personal well-being.

This was brought home to me when viewing YouTube clips of last weekend's Wyedean Forest Rally, and also from the truly shocking photograph from the same rally in yesterday's *Motorsport News* (18 February, page 34) of a 'spectator' lying flat on the ground on the edge of the forest track, apparently taking a photograph extremely close to a competing vehicle.

This behaviour not only shows a complete disregard for personal safety but in addition places other spectators, officials and competing crews in danger. It also undermines the considerable efforts of the dedicated rally organisers, officials and marshals, who do all they can to ensure that events run as safely as possible.

The MSA is currently working on a daily basis with all other stakeholders in rallying, particularly the Forestry Commission, and I can confirm from discussions within the last few days that unless these few idiotic spectators concerned change their attitude immediately and behave responsibly, there will be no future for stage rallying in the UK. I am not talking about next year, or the year after; I am talking about right now. Even in the meantime, this sort of behaviour will mean that stages are cancelled and rallies disrupted or even stopped.

Please, for the sake of rallying in the UK, can all spectators take full responsibility not only for ensuring their own personal safety but also the future of the sport we all love.

Yours in motor sport,

Rob Jones
CHIEF EXECUTIVE