



WHEELBASE

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE DARLINGTON & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB



DECEMBER 2016



Many thanks to Dave Lea for all his years of hard work,
from all at DDMC

Editor's Corner

Season's Greetings to all members!

Welcome to your (albeit slightly delayed) festive issue of the newsletter.

I hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas, and haven't been missing your racing too much.

The Christmas Stages at Croft did something to ease the withdrawal symptoms, and with the Jack Frost Rally just two weeks away and the DDM Awards Dinner not too long after that, it won't be long before we're back in full swing again.

If anyone isn't marshalling, officiating, or competing in the Jack Frost, it would be lovely to see some of your faces up in the grandstand or up on the Clervaux banking. It's not that cold I promise!

As ever, if anyone has any submissions please send them to news@darlington-motor-club.org.uk.

Carolyn

Wales Rally GB
wasn't at all cold
and wet





A Fond Farewell (or, See You Soon)

Dave Lea

It was good to read Tim Marsden's article about how he started marshaling and how he is enjoying himself. There are a lot more marshals out there who travel around to different circuits and even abroad, so come on guys let Carolyn and the rest of us know by doing an article for the newsletter. As to Lesley not knowing how long Harry and I had been involved in the sport, in my case it was so long ago that I can't recall exactly, I do know that Harry was already well established before I started.

My first recollection of Croft although not the first time I had been there was when a minutes silence was called for Jim Clark who had been killed the previous weekend (April 1968), someone started an engine during the minute but was soon told to switch off.

I think it was later that year that a small piece appeared in the Darlington & Stockton Times saying that a training day for marshals was going to take place at Croft. Wes Miners and I duly set off and found everyone in the field opposite what is now the main entrance on the other side of the road from Oxo corner. The day was run by Geoff Mathews then Chief Marshal, Ray Wright and Les Raynor. I don't remember much of the day other than they set fire to a car and it took at least 6 or 7 extinguishers before we found one that worked.

A couple of weeks later we turned up at Croft and signed on in some old RAF buildings just past the chicane and my first "Post" was the gate across the Circuit which is opposite what is now Post 7. My job was to let the bigger transporters and spectators (the transporters not the spectators though!!) across the circuit as they wouldn't go through the tunnel which was near Post 4 and into the infield, (we sold the tunnel to an Irish circuit).

The pits in those days were just after the Chicane and the Paddock was where the current pits are.

Marshaling in those days was totally different not least of which was the dress code. No orange then all you had for protection was a piece of card fastened round your arm with a piece of string (it didn't last long in the wet).

There was no such thing as Personal Record Cards or Assessments then, if your Observer or Chief Marshal thought you were good enough you were promoted sometimes even when you didn't want to be (I know I had a habit of doing that to you until recently).

There are many stories that I could tell from those days like the MGB that rolled at OXO and the next time we saw him he was No 69 and had "this way up" and an arrow written on both sills, the Jenson Healey that hit the post at Sunny Out which collapsed I took a step forward but it still flattened my Sandwiches or the infamous BBC (Bell, Barton and Clacher) and the high speed run through the pits.

Most meetings then were usually Sunday only (Motorcycle meetings on Saturday) still starting at Noon, practice and racing and still finishing in time to go into the ARC Clubhouse before heading off to the Beeswing for opening time.

Most weekends normally meant Rufforth and Croft, Bank Holidays maybe Cadwell or Mallory not always in that order, as well as motorcycles on spare weekends, it seemed more affordable in those days!

We didn't have radios then we used ex MOD Tele "F"s in a wooden box which you had to wind a Magneto to make a call, it was whilst on Tower Out (then on the infield) that Richie Southcombe rang me and asked if I would like to do the 1973 GP and that was the first of many. Marshaling has since seen me get around a bit, Zandvoort, Zolder, Crois en Ternois and latterly the UAE on a few occasions as well as a lot of British Circuits.

As you all know Racing ceased and Rallycross took over before the Circuit reopened as a new layout, and when Ken Gibson the then Chief Marshal took ill I stepped in for him a few times until he retired. I then inherited his job and also took over from Steve Gibson who did the same for the DDMC. I then



became Chief Marshal for Croft looking after all the clubs that used the circuit, which brings me up to date as for medical reasons I have now handed over the reins to Dave Busby.

I would like to thank all the marshals for bearing with me when I have had to make last minute changes etc, and also the DDMC for the superb timepiece presented to me at the Rallycross meeting.

Here's to you all having many more years marshaling come rain or shine both at Croft and elsewhere.

Dave Lea ex Chief Marshal.

Ps: you ain't seen the last of me though.



Dave Lea and Harry Tinkler being presented with tokens of thanks from all at DDMC for their many years of service to the club, at the Rallycross meeting in November.



TROPHIES

A polite reminder that all club trophies need to be returned to me as soon as possible after Christmas.

Please send them to

Mrs L Starkey,

77 Elizabeth Way,

Seaton Carew,

Hartlepool

TS25 2AY

Terry Wright

It is at this time of year when our membership is at its maximum and it crossed my mind that we do a lot of talking about our Race competitors' news and exploits but virtually nothing about our members who compete in other disciplines.

A good example would be Larry Carter. Not only does he compete in Rallies but he also Rallycrosses, both with reasonable results in his little Peugeot. Having started out as a Motorcycle Racer he put his journalistic talents to the test by setting up his own Media & PR company. Larry is also the voice of British Superbikes at their events. Busy little bee isn't he?

We have quite a few Rally members including Jon & Allison Trenholme, the Thirsk farmers who took the ANCC title last year, Peter Stephenson of ABLE UK who regularly competes on major British events and Chris Wise / Tracey Taylor-West who not only sponsored the Jack Frost but won it a few times in the fabulous MG Metro 6R4. Tracey is also a top class peddler in her own right having taken the Harewood Hillclimb Championship in her Lotus.

In addition there are Martin Peters, Darren Grimston and Michael Boak who combine outings in rallies with competitive Rallycross Championship assaults. Michael's daughter Laura is the latest recruit, coming from Junior Autocross in to the world of Rallycross.

I know I will have missed a few but thats the danger of mentioning names so its now down to you to keep Carolyn up to date with your exploits so they can be blazoned across the newsletter.

DDMC's strength is its depth of involvement in all forms of motorsport whether that be on 2 wheels or 4 (I don't think we have any sidecar guys!). There can't be many, if any, other Clubs that organise, marshal or compete in as many forms of motorsport as us - Motorcycle Trials, Sporting Car Trial, Rally, Rallycross, Hillclimb, Sprint, Circuit Racing, Autotest and Autocross (the latter with the possibility of an event this year).

Roll on 2017.

Terry



Marshals Matters

Online rally marshals' training and accreditation - Go to msauk.org, click Marshals, click Training at the bottom of the page.

For rally marshals, there is a new online training and accreditation scheme to ensure that everyone has a common understanding of their roles and responsibilities, the management of spectators and how to handle an incident. This should take less than an hour to complete.

To undertake the online training, either login if you are an existing MSA member, or register if you are new. Once logged in follow the links for 'Online Training'.

Why do this? Simple Motorsport needs you and Rallying has had a bit of a torrid time of late so please take a few minutes to do this and then you will be able to continue marshalling at rallies without having a minder to look after you.

MARSHALS AVAILABILITY 2017 form will be on the Website by the time you read this and I have made it up for Dave in an editable PDF Format so fill it in and send it back. Jack Frost marshalling details will be on the web site soon so check it out.

Just so you don't think I forgot you Christmas Cards are a thing of the past instead £50 donation to charity

Merry Christmas to one and all

Steve Gibson

DDMC Awards Dinner Dance Booking Form

Starter	Guest 1	Guest 2	Guest 3	Guest 4	Guest 5	Guests 6
Tomato & Roast Pepper Soup						
Duo of Galia & Cantelope Melon with Tarragon syrup						
Mozzarella & plum tomato, red onion salad with pesto & Aioli						
Main Course						
Roast breast of chicken, thyme stuffing, chipolata & bacon roll, roast potatoes						
Roast loin of pork with apple sauce, roast potatoes						
Vegetable Moussaka						
Desserts						
Cream filled profiteroles with chocolate sauce						
Vanilla Cheesecake with blackcurrant compote						
Banoffee pie with caramel sauce						

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Please make cheques payable to DDMC LTD tickets are £35 a person

Please send applications to **Lesley Starkey, 77 Elizabeth Way, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool**



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See you
next
season!

