



WINDSCREEN

The Magazine of Swansea Motor Club



January 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT.

Welcome to 2009. On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very happy and a prosperous new year for the twelve months ahead.

Hopefully none of us will fall foul of the poor economic conditions prevailing at the moment, and motorsports in all forms will survive. Motorsport and car use is deemed to be becoming more and more anti-social. Maybe the idiots in charge will ignore our hobby for the moment and concentrate on getting the commercial world back to a stable condition. At least with fuel prices coming back down slowly, we can have some fun in the car again.

Like a number of club members. I fell foul of the flu bug which was doing the rounds before Christmas, and was unable to make it to the Christmas party. Sally went and reported that all those present enjoyed the evening. However, the numbers were not high, and Chris Gibbon's efforts in providing a superb meal were not rewarded by a shortage of leftovers. Thanks go to Chris for all the time and effort she put in to making the evening a success, and well done to everyone who supported the evening and those who brought along goodies for Santa's Sack. Perhaps we will all have a better time next Christmas. I missed the fun of pulling goodies out of the bag. Must be a little boy still lurking in me, who wants to grow up and stop having fun? Not me.

The final round of the Inter-Club Quiz will take place at the Murton Rovers on Monday the 19th of January, on the Swansea Historic Vehicle Register's club night. Although we have not won the first two rounds, we could still pull off a surprise result with enough support on the night. So make a note in your diaries and try to be there.

At this moment in time, there doesn't appear to be any further action with the fate of the Murton Rovers development. With a bit of luck, the downturn in property prices and poor market conditions will keep the developers at bay for a good while yet.

Did you hear the one about Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi?

They went into a Chinese restaurant for a night out. During the meal, Luke was having terrible trouble with his chopsticks. Food was going all over the place. Obi-Wan was getting more and more annoyed with his companions antics. In the end, he shouted 'use the forks Luke, use the forks'

Don't forget to keep Neil up-to-date with your plans for the coming season. He can use it in Windscreen and share them with the members.

Mike Jones.

Santa Jog

Hi all, I did the British Heart Foundation 2k Santa Jog on Sunday 14th December along with Marion, and very cold it was too!

Thank you for all who supported me, when all the pledges are in, we will have raised £130.

However if there is anyone who would still wishes to show their support you can donate on line on my Santa run donation page <http://www.justgiving.com/robertallender>

Just to note every £50 raised would fund the use of an echocardiogram machine which can detect heart problems in an unborn baby, £120 would pay for 4 Heartstart training packs- to help schools teach pupils life saving skills and £500 would pay for a BHF nurse to monitor 20 heart patients in their own homes.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Robert & Marion Allender

Well done Rob, that rebuild on the ticker still providing plenty of power – perhaps the guy could do an engine for me !! Photo shows Rob and Marion in appropriate garb at the start of the run.



Trident Engineering Welsh Sprint and Hillclimb Championship

I have had a look at the final Welsh results and Swansea MC has again done very well.

Overall

2nd – Neil Watkins

3rd – Martyn Ferris

4th – Andrew Meek and 1st in class 1c

5th - Andy Dunbar – and 1st in class 2b

Class Winners

Alisa Ferris – 3a (not sure if she gets ladies award as it may be coming in for 09?)

Pete Salter – 3c

Owain Turner – 1a

Other Swansea MC competitors – me 1c, Dave Thomas 2b, Huw Turner 1a, Anthony Bailey 1b, David Kirk 3c and Debbie Dunbar 2b

An interesting point is that apart from all the wins, the club has the highest number of entrants in the championship at 13 drivers out of a total of 40. The club also seems to be dominating class 1 too.

Gwendraeth are the next with 6

Leighton Hughes (Chavectra)

Pretty impressive stuff – 4 out of the top 5. Well done to all our competitors who kept flying the flag this past year.

Every silver lining has a cloud.

You may recall the Dunbar household Westfield being written off early season at Curborough, but then the phoenix from the ashes..... a newer, better version. Unfortunately the season ended very much as it had begun, this time it was Dad and not Daughter who had the smash, at Prescott in September. I'm not so sure that Debbie was as sympathetic to me as I was to her earlier in the year, but maybe that was my pride hurting. I'm just sorry I missed the last few events in the 'Welsh', I was looking forward to them. Anyway; car has been stripped to the bone and Westfield have fitted a new front end, the whole lot then powder-coated. New wishbones fitted, altered spring ratings (which was meant to be the only winter project), Nitrons refurbished, new front anti-roll bar and new body-work. Simpsons are making a new manifold and system which gets fitted early January. Dash 2 system and datalogger are being installed from the old car. Oh and new seats...why not. (I have written to both the UK and USA governments for financial support but they seem to be too busy shedding out boatloads of money to the banks to reply to my memo!) Still deciding on what tyres to run next year. The 1a, 1b debate is difficult to follow.....or maybe it's just me. Anyway I'm looking forward big-time to next season but like plenty will probably have to be quite choosy on my events, those long hauls in the Midlands events will suffer I am sure. The proposed Welsh calendar looks good though. Debbie's off to Uni now but I'm sure we will see her at a few of the sprint events. Best wishes to all at Christmas. (Santa got my letter a long time ago!)

Andy Dunbar

Many thanks, Andy, for the update. If any more of our competitors would like to let me know what they did last year or will be doing in the year to come don't hesitate to drop me a few lines.
Front cover shows an alternative view of Andy in action at Shelsley.

Diary Dates 2009

Our next Social is the third round of the expanded Inter Club Quiz versus the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club and the Swansea Historic Vehicle Register. It will be SHVR's 'home' round so will take place at Murton Rovers on **Monday** 19th January from 8.00pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

We will also have a darts night at the club on our normal **Wednesday** night 21st January.

Other planned events are:

February - Wii night

March - AGM and Antiques Roadshow

April - Tabletop Rally

May - Navigational Scatter

June - Pub Run

July - BarBQ

Odds and

Anthony Bailey handed me the latest issue of Swansea Life at the Club last week with a road test of the Aston Martin DBS carried out by their 'legendary test driver', our own Ken Davies. I suspect a story for Windscreen, Ken. *Hint, hint.*

Huw Richards would like to thank all those who provided assistance at the shake-down stage of the Wales Rally GB at Penllergaer on the 3rd and 4th December.

Don't forget our hillclimbs at Llys y Fran will be on May 10th and July 19th 2009.

..... Ends