



WINDSCREEN

The Magazine of Swansea Motor Club



March 2011

CLUB OFFICIALS (Prior to AGM)

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| President | Jeff Clement 57, Y Berllan, Dunvant, SA2 8RD 01792 205412 |
| Chairman | Mike Jones 19, Lambourne Drive, Newton, SA3 4UW 01792 362281 |
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CHAIRMAN'S LAST CHAT

A belated Happy New Year with this, the first Windscreen of 2011. We have a new format for this year in that the social event will take place on the first Wednesday of the month. The committee thinking is that it will be easier to remember than working out which is the third Wednesday. Some of you will have already experienced the new format for the first three socials. Is it better? Let us know what you think, which way around you prefer the date format.

Talking of socials. We had the Darts Championship in January where, after a full evening's battle of heats, we saw the emergence of a new Champion. Neil Watkins beat Julie Samuel in the final to take the honours for 2011 ending Julie's run as a multiple Champion. Neil must have had a darts board for Christmas looking at the scores he amassed during the evening.

The second event was an Antiques Roadshow evening with various members bringing along numerous artifacts and memorabilia for all to see. Some very interesting articles were on display; we even had bowls of sausages and chips provided by the rugby club for free. They had a lot left over from their meeting earlier in the evening and didn't want to waste them. Our members did not disappoint them and helped out with enthusiasm, especially with the sausages!!

We then had our Annual General Meeting at the beginning of March, followed by the first committee meeting of the re-elected committee members.

At this meeting, whilst deciding who would do what for the forthcoming year, we have made some changes to the established norm.

After a very long time (too long I hear you all say) I have stood down as Chairman of the club.

I have held the position for over twelve years, and that is a situation that is not good for the club or me!

It has been a privilege to be chosen as Chairman of such a well-known and historic club and to work with such a hard working group of individuals that make up your committee. I would like to formally thank each one of the people involved for their support and time given to Swansea Motor Club over the years.

I leave the position at a time of change to the face of the committee, but leave it in the capable hands of Huw Richards who is the new Chairman of Swansea Motor Club. I am sure you will all give Huw the same support as I was fortunate to have all through my time in the position.

Thank you all for your support during my terms as Chairman.

Finally:

A tough looking biker was riding his Harley when he sees a girl about to jump off a bridge so he stops. "What are you doing?" he asks.

"I'm going to commit suicide," she says.

While he did not want to appear insensitive, he didn't want to miss an opportunity and he asked, "Well, before you jump, why don't you give me a kiss?" So, she does.

After she's finished the biker says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had! That's a real talent you are wasting! You could be famous! Why are you committing suicide?"

"My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl....."

Mike Jones

Strange Things You See on the Streets of St Albans



En route back from the Rallye Internationale du Valais last November Steve Lloyd and I had an overnight stay at Nick James' place in St Albans. Our traveling companion Allen insisted we call round to his house to see his eclectic collection of vehicles. Above left is your membership secretary looking suitably worried after a trip round town in Allen's Lomax, a kit car in the style of the Morgan 3 wheeler and powered by a Citroen 2CV engine. In the background is Allen's daily driver, a Renault Avantime. The other car is Allen's wife's runabout – a Nissan Pao, based on Micra mechanicals. The boy definitely has 'different' tastes.

Rallye Internationale du Valais

As mentioned above we paid a visit to the RIV again last October / November, enjoying 4 stages over the 3 days of the event. The first was a super Special on the first evening, round an army barracks in the town of Sion. This was excellent, with competitors making several laps of the base before heading out onto a nearby road to finish up a hill, so there was action all around us.

Unfortunately it was as far as some crews got, with an Evo sliding off into a ditch near where we were watching and a Citroen C2 blowing the engine in spectacular fashion in front of us.

Next day we ventured further afield to the Col des Planches and watched on an uphill section involving a hairpin junction followed by another open hairpin.

For the final day we drove into the Nendaz stage, which was being used twice, watching it once up on a narrow, tricky section where the recent snow was still on the ground and conditions were distinctly iffy under the trees. We then moved down the road during the break between the stages to watch on a much more open section.

As soon as the course closing car passed us we followed him out of the stage which was fine until we came to the finish control where our way was barred by the gazebo style tent that was used to shelter the marshals as they gave out times to the competitors. As we approached a marshal waved us on but I wasn't sure how we were going to get a high top Transit minibus under the tent. At this point four burly Swiss grabbed a leg each and lifted the whole tent so we could pass under !!

On the event itself, local hotshoe Gregoire Hotz always looked quick but suffered two punctures late on in the Col des Planches stage and eventually finished 4th. Winner was Luca Rossetti in his Fiat Abarth Grande Punto S2000, en route to being crowned European Champion, followed by Florian Gonon in his Subaru Impreza, with Thierry Neuville showing the potential of Citroens new DS3 with 3rd overall and first two wheel drive car.



RIV winner and European Champion Luca Rossetti.



Thierry Neuville and Citroen DS3 R3T

Front cover shows Antonin Tlustak / Jan Skaloud in their Skoda Fabia S2000 en route to 9th overall.

Annual General Meeting 2011

March saw the second Annual General Meeting held at the Dunvant Rugby Club.

As usual, being such a popular event on the calendar, it attracted a high number of members. All sixteen of us! The formalities were quickly dealt with as there were only two people proposed for the committee, with the rest of the committee as was, standing for re-election.

The only difference in the proceedings was the resignation of Jeff Clement as President of the club. A position he has held since 1994. Jeff re-established the club in about 1988 and held the position of Chairman with Ken Davies as club President. A role reversal in 1994 saw Jeff become President and Ken became Chairman. It is due to Jeff that we have a club to enjoy today, and for that we all owe him a big debt of gratitude for his efforts.

As part of Jeff's last official duties, he presented the 'Presidents Cup' to Neil Samuel in recognition of his hard work on behalf of the club over the years. Something that Jeff felt needed acknowledgement before his retirement.

We hope you enjoy your retirement Jeff, but don't forget to turn up on club night!!

Jeff had asked Ken Davies, a past President, to consider taking up the mantle for a second term, and had proposed Ken for election. Ken has been duly elected and is once more President of Swansea Motor Club. Welcome back Ken.



Jeff receives a retirement decanter.



Jeff presents the 'Presidents Cup' to Neil.

Also retiring on the night was Tony Jones. Although Tony will be staying on as a member of the committee, he has resigned as the club treasurer, a position he has held for some time and through a number of disputes with our bankers. Despite all of this, Tony has done a good job on our behalf and we thank him for his efforts with a less than helpful bank at the beginning of the job.

Neil Watkins was elected to the committee during the AGM and will take over from Tony as the club treasurer officially at the next committee meeting. A position that Neil has held successfully elsewhere before. Welcome on board Neil.

Neil was also the worthy winner of our Annual Darts Championship, beating the long standing champion Julie Samuel in a close fought, time consuming match on the board. Watch out for this year Neil. I heard rumours of radio controlled darts!

Another trophy recipient was Rob Allender. The committee felt that his long and tireless commitment to the hillclimb at Llys-y-fran and the hard work in promoting the event and chasing entries should be officially recognised by the club.

Rob was presented with the Clubman's Award for all his time and efforts on behalf of the club.



Neil 'The Arrow.' Darts Champion 2011.



Rob receives the 2011 Clubman's Award.

As a part of the evening, and reward for turning up, members were treated to sausage and chips from the Rugby Club's kitchens. Working on the numbers from the last AGM for the catering, meant that there was a lot of food to go round not a lot of members. Those that were there gave it their best shot, not many sausages survived the onslaught, none survived the night!

Another AGM has come and gone. The club can now settle down to another year of social events and the two hillclimbs at Llys-y-Fran.

Keep an eye on Windscreen and the event flyers sent out by Neil for all the forthcoming events. The more members, the merrier the event.

Classics & Brunch @ The Cothi Bridge Hotel

Swansea Motor Club member, Nomad Supersports & 911 racer, former Porsche Club GB chairman and hotelier extraordinaire Terry Davison, has regained the Cothi Bridge Hotel after its' 25 year lease-out period finally ended in the autumn of 2010.

Located midway between Carmarthen and Llandeilo on the A40 the hotel sits on the east bank of the picturesque river Cothi at Pontargothi, easily accessible from Nantgaredig. Terry has just completed phase one of his comprehensive three-phase redevelopment plan, by opening the idyllic riverside restaurant and lounge for business.

Ever the enthusiast, Terry, who has owned the hotel since 1972, now intends to start the Welsh equivalent of the popular north London meeting place for petrol-heads the Ace Cafe, with an invitation extended to all motoring enthusiasts to meet once a month on a Saturday morning for brunch and a natter.

One make clubs will be invited to take part and certain Saturdays will have a marque theme; Porsche, Ferrari, Jaguar, Mini Cooper, Lancia, Alfa Romeo et al. Terry is currently formulating a calendar before invitations and press releases are sent out, so watch this space.

In the meantime, the enthusiastic team at the Cothi Bridge Hotel is providing fine cuisine for lunches and dinners. Morning coffee is served from 10:00 am followed by traditional afternoon tea. Once again the CBH could become the mecca for Welsh motoring enthusiasts that it was 25 years ago!

Ken Davies

Diary Dates 2011

Planned events for this year are:

Apr 6th – Robolab

May 4th – Navigation Scatter

Jun 1st – Car Show

Jul 6th – BarBQ

Aug 3rd – Treasure Hunt

Sept 7th – Pub Run

Oct 5th – Wii night

Nov 2nd – Quiz

Dec 7th – Xmas party

For Sale

Marlin Roadster 2.0ltr – 1992 Chassis/Body. 1971 age related number and Historic Road Tax (Free). Very pretty motor car. New clutch, rebuilt gearbox, high capacity radiator. Must find good home, genuine reason for selling. £3595ono.

Contact: Mike Jones. Tel: 01792 362281



Odds and

I had a couple of interesting e-mails recently. If anyone wants info from Dave Kieft he can be contacted as below and, ditto, if anyone has any info for Phil Hughes then please contact him. Dave Kieft wrote:

I have two old books which were originally my dad's who passed away six years ago.

The books are called the Modern Motor Engineer and are volumes IV and V.

They contain information on a vast number of cars including data sheets and wiring diagrams from AEC Mammoth Major through the alphabet to Wolseley Six Ninety and include Jeeps and commercial vehicles.

I was just wondering if anyone needs detailed information on their vehicles then seemingly I have it. I am not interested in parting with the books but would not mind providing information if anyone

needs it. If you know of anyone who may need info on their vehicles or if the club would like a copy of the books then please let me know.

Regards

Dave Kieft

Mobile 07767 695076

e-mail davekieft@rdmelectrical.com

Phil Hughes wrote:

I wonder if you can help me or point me in the direction of anybody that could be able to. I am looking for any information on rallies from either 1972 or 1974, specifically relating to a Ford Mexico championship. My father Peter Hughes took part and as a surprise for his upcoming 70th birthday I would like to get something. I believe Stuart Gray might have a publication but anything will be most welcome.

Philip Hughes Email: hughesp@un.org

Swansea Historic Vehicle Register are looking for Ford racing and competition cars for the May Bank Holiday show as part of the Ford centenary celebration. If you can help, or know someone who can, let Mike Jones know ASAP.

Tour Britannia - 2011

Tour Britannia prides itself on always trying to satisfy the needs and desires of its competitors and having noted what a lot of crews have said over the past couple of years, as well as taking into account the crowded nature of the classic and historic event calendar, the organising team has decided to move the 2011 date from the first week of September into mid June. The dates for your diary are June 17th to 19th, 2011.

At the same time, they are taking the opportunity to explore the advantages of another change and run Tour Britannia 2011 over a long weekend. This will increase racetrack availability, as some circuits do not have planning permission to run meetings during the week and there is also the prospect of dovetailing Tour Britannia into the programme of existing race meetings.

Tour Britannia's trade mark diverse grids and close racing will be a great addition to any race meeting and the new format is sure to be popular with competitors and spectators alike.

The base for Tour Britannia 2011 will be announced soon, with the majority of the action planned for the West Country and Wales, areas rich with smooth tarmac stately home stages, hill climbs and race circuits. The Tour also plans to continue its tradition of introducing new venues to competitive motor sport.

Among the event supporters will once again be Fortis who will award watches to the first three crews home in the Regularity Category, a section of Tour Britannia that had its best entry to date in 2010 and it will be made it even more attractive for competitors in 2011 by incorporating new features. In fact the Tour organisers are delighted just how popular the Regularity Category has become and believe that it is fast becoming the standard to which similar events must be compared.

The event's commercial director Alec Poole said, "Tour Britannia's change of date to June and its new weekend format will open the event to a significant number of new participants. We believe Britain's only race tour will continue to go from strength to strength."

The 2011 Regulations and Entry Form are available on the Tour Britannia website www.tourbritannia.com

All enquiries: - info@tourbritannia.com

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