

Kent Driver

August 2018

Celebrating the Art, Sport and Pastime of Motoring Since 1935

- Hughes Rally
 - Mike Jordan Tour



Autotest Update



Club Survey















the name behind the names



• FORD CARS & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES • IVECO TRUCKS & VANS • FIAT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES • NEW HOLLAND/CASE IH FARM MACHINERY • JCB AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT







Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club Ltd.

Founded 1935

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Kent Driver

The Magazine of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club Ltd

Founded 1935

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Editors Ramblings/Chairman's Chat

This is proving to be an excellent year (so far) for our club motorsport and for once we are not moaning about a sodden Headcorn, or waterlogged Stoneacre, mind you I am still waiting for the first competitor to moan the ground is too hard or too

dry.

At time of writing we have just finished the Summer Slalom and the Lydden Sprint, reports of both will appear in the next edition.

The club Facebook page is buzzing with comments, photos and video of these events, as well as plenty of banter between members. We have nearly 280 followers, well ahead of TWMC and only just behind B19, Sevenoaks have just over 500, considering their membership is more than twice ours I think we are punching above our weight!

Last year we sent out a club survey to see what you the members really want from us and one event that appeared to be very popular was an Autosolo.

You would think in Kent finding a lump of concrete would be simple? but while so much of our county is being buried under development, no one appears to want to share it! Bruce Jenkins and Jim Pullar have been working with Lydden Hill and have secured the paddock for an Autosolo on the 13th October. Entries are limited so please support them and get your entry in early.

I have also included a report from the first Corbeau Seats Rally Tendring & Clacton Rally. Its interesting to see how well that was received and I know a number of members are thinking back to the 'great roads on the marsh' and what fantastic stages they would make.

While it would be a lovely idea to have an all tarmac "Rally of Kent" with a spectator stage round say ...the Ashford one way system, service in Folkestone and prize giving in Maidstone we need our club to become much more involved in rallying before we have the expertise to stage such an event.

GW



CLUB NEWS

Regulations are out for a number of events with entry forms either available for download from the club website or online entry and payment.

Wings Autotest 2nd September

This popular all day Autotest is being held on a Sunday at Headcorn Aerodrome right next to the runway (so you get a free air show). Entry and payment is available online.

Brian Lewis Trial 30th September

We will be back at Stoneacre and hopefully the weather will be kind to allow us to run at least one Trial this year.

Autosolo Lydden Hill 13th October

A completely new event held in the paddock at Lydden Hill Circuit, this event has a limited entry so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

The club survey last year saw a number of members asking if we could run an Autosolo and after much negation with Lydden we have use of the paddock. Jim Pullar will be Clerk of Course and I hope we get a full entry list.

Entry regulations and payment all online at mmkmc.co.uk.

Table Top Rally TBA

We will be running another table top rally in November, date to be confirmed. This one will have a twist to keep you all on your toes so keep an eye out for the notification.

Website/Facebook

Although the club website has entry forms, regulations and you can pay online - our Facebook page is probably now one of the busiest in the area. Both before, during and at the end of an event people can post comments, pictures and video to our Facebook page and with the new results software these are also published online.

If you are a regular autotester you can fill in one entry form online and that covers you for the whole year, no need to fill out a form every event.

And don't forget to keep you club membership up to date. If you let it lapse after 90 days we will stop sending you emails about events and the Club.

SAVE THE DATE Christmas Meal Tuesday 11th December 2018

MMKMC on Tour

Once again we had a display at the Darling Buds of May show at Pluckley. Many thanks to the members who took along cars and



HUGHES RALLY 2018.



The annual Hughes Rally organised by our neighbouring club, Blackpalfrey MC was held on Saturday 2nd June 2018 and as a qualifying round of HRCR championship, it attracted an entry of over fifty competitors from across the UK in a wide ranging selection of classic cars.

The MMKMC were running the special tests at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood and, at our autotest venue, at Headcorn Aerodrome.

Unfortunately following discussions on the day by Bruce Jenkins with the owner it was agreed that the venue was still waterlogged and unsuitable to be used.

This resulted in the MMKMC having just the one venue to run and avoided what could have been a tight time schedule for the journey from Paddock Wood to Headcorn and back for the second running of



the Hop Farm test.

The event start and finish was at the Hop Farm and the tests there were the first and last tests of the event.

As it turned out the event was blessed with superb weather [I cannot remember a wet Hughes Rally over the past twenty years I have been involved on the Hughes as a competitor or course car!]

The MMKMC marshalling members, under the supervision of Andy Jenner, congregated at 8.30am at the start of the first test and after erecting the MMKM Clubs new vertical banners prepared for the first car off at 9.01am.

The test comprised a long sprint to navigate around a pylon and return down a slalom course and back to another long straight and then off the sealed surface onto the rough with a couple of 90 degree bends and a hairpin back onto the sealed surface to sprint to the finish.

Although the whole test could be seen from the start and finish the MMKMC had to marshal at several points to ensure that roaming members of the public who were camping, visiting the boot fair and/or the Hop Farm were not allowed near to the test area.

The morning test went smoothly and it was interesting to see the different styles of driving and co drivers instructions to the drivers as they negotiated the route at varying speeds and confidence of being

on the correct route.

Being the first test it was all over within an hour of starting which left those marshalling, the choice of sitting in the sun for the next six hours [as Headcorn was cancelled] or leaving the Hop Farm and reconvene at 4.00pm for the return of the competitors.

The final test was a reverse run of the first test which on the face of it should have been fairly simple, but several competitors incurred penalties for wrong route or striking pylons.

Unfortunately, for the finish marshals [Bruce, Andy and Lyle] the wind had increased and changed direction during the day and as the final manoeuvre of the test was a very dusty 360 around a pylon just before the finish line which resulted in the finish team being covered in dust ... and for some drivers they were unable to find the finish cones in the dust! [The start marshals [Ray and Ken] in the morning had suffered in a similar manner but not to the same extent as the afternoon due to the wind change!].

What was very apparent to those marshalling was the varying standard of driving by the competitors. The expert minority attacked the tests with confidence and accurate car positioning for each manoeuvre but the majority showed little expertise in anticipating and executing 180's and 360's with very little car control and the incorrect use of the 'loud' pedal.

Perhaps before next years event, these competitors should come along for some practice at the MMKMC evening autotests and learn how to "drive"!

Thanks for marshaling to Andy Jenner, Bruce Jenkins, Ray Lane, Ken Kimber, Dennis Usmar and friends, Royston Carey, and Helen & Des Crocker.

LC 06/2018

Club Visit to Fairbourne Carriages



A bright sunny Saturday morning in April saw 22 Club Members and friends make a return visit to Fairbourne Carriages at Harrietsham.

Since our last visit in September 2009 Nick Wood has sadly and prematurely passed away but we saw that the business that he cofounded with wife Jane is now safely in the hands of their two sons, Duncan and Francis. Nick had always had an interest in Morgan three wheelers and raced them in his time.

Some members may remember when we ran the sprint at Lydden in the early noughties having the life scared out of them by Duncan driving a 1300cc race prepared three-wheel Morgan running on methanol.

All businesses must keep abreast of their markets and Fairbourne Carriages have managed to combine their interest in veteran and vintage cars with their extensive range of traditional skills and hardwon reputation in restoring horse drawn carriages.

Our Members were therefore able to see a broad cross section of horse drawn vehicles and veteran cars in various states of restoration.



Our party was split in to three groups for the tour of the workshops and expertly guided around the many different disciplines that are required to achieve the incredibly high standard of completed vehicle by Jane, Duncan Francis and apprentice Thomas.

As well as the Morgan's that were being completely rebuilt we were privileged to see the work being undertaken to restore the much-neglected Lord Mayor of London's Coach. The Queen in a recent TV interview described how uncomfortable her ride had been in the Coronation Coach due to the only suspension being leather straps. We were able to see exactly what she meant as we saw the size of the leather suspension straps necessary to take the weight of the body on the Lord Mayor's Coach.

The challenge they faced with the restoration was keeping some of the more ornate original decoration.

Ground up restoration was also seen on what is believed to be the sixth oldest car to have ever graced the English roads.

Even on vehicles of this age some modern upgrades are necessary to make them run so apparently the naked flame ignition system is to be replaced by something called a parking plug!



Also, under going restoration was a Cooper JAP 500 single seater which has been completed since our visit. This original car is owned by an elderly gentleman who has I understand given permission for it to be raced at our Sprint in July, so those attending the Sprint may see the finished article in action.

With so much to see and wonder at we were treated to tea and biscuits while we discussed what we had seen. Thanks' must go once again to the Wood Family for their hospitality and patience in answering all of our questions.



As a thank you for the time and effort put in by the Woods and their staff, Members raised £145 for "Orbis" the sight charity that Fairbourne have chosen to support.

BAJ June 18

Mike Jordan Memorial Tour 2018



For this year we started the tour at Headcorn Airfield, where bacon rolls and a hot drink were served (vegetarian options also available) to the entrants. The first part of the tour followed the same route as the April Fools Tour earlier in the year, taking you round the back of Marden, Hunton and Yalding pausing at the picturesque St Michaels church East Peckham.

Passing through Hadlow and Golden Green and on to the edge of Pembury brought everyone via Matfield and Castle Hill to the Woolpack Inn at Benover for the midday halt.

The first Sunday of every month they have a classic car meet of around 70 – 100 vehicles. We had our own area of the field at the back of the pub to park up and look at the vehicle displays. The restart sent cars back through East Peckham passing what was William Arnold & Sons an agricultural engineering company founded in about 1844.

In 1895 they acquired a licence to build Benz cars. As the Arnold Motor Carriage Co. from 1896to 1898 the firm built twelve cars patterned after the Benz but fitted with their own engines. Two



Arnolds were exhibited at Crystal Palace in 1896.

One Arnold from 1896 was fitted with the world's first self-starter, by electrical engineer H. J. Dowsing. This was a dynamotor coupled to the flywheel, designed to assist the car on hills and well as starting the engine. Two Arnold cars survive.

On 28 January 1896 Walter Arnold was fined for speeding at 8 mph, exceeding the speed limit

for towns of 2 mph. He was fined 1 shilling plus costs, becoming the first person to be convicted of speeding in the UK.

Arnold had been caught by a policeman who had given chase on a bicycle.

On to Plaxtol and then passing obscure sights as Old Soar Manor near Platt before briefly crossing the A20 and onto Trottiscliffe. Climbing Vigo Hill, which in 1903 was used for an illegal Hillclimb.

Unfortunately the police got wind of it and many competitors were pulled over for speeding. In the end however 11 succeeded in climbing the hill, and H.O. Hall in a 24hp Darracq got BTD with 1min 11 sec (25.3 mph).

Meopham next before dropping down toward the exotically named Snodland where just before the town was another check point out side the ancient church of St Benedict stands which





stands on the course of the Pilgrim's Way and was probably used by many thousands of medieval pilgrims on their way to Canterbury.

Then over the new bridge across the Medway at St Peter's and on via Boxley to the Harrow Inn at Stockbury for a BBQ. The pub is a community owned free house saved by locals though a share issue and they provided an excellent spread for us (once again vegetarian options available).

Mr Jensen was keeping a number of us enthralled in the bar with some excellent stories, sadly none of which can be repeated, but improving with each glass of wine!

Also a well done to Helen Crocker, 100 miles in a Westfield is perhaps not the most comfortable way to spend a Sunday, I fear Des may well be on washing up duties for a month as a penance.

Once again thank you to the marshals and Andy Jenner for running ahead of the field to deal with any problems, and for once the weather was very kind to us, particularly for those in open topped cars.

GW

Autotests



After having lost the first one or two Autotests of the season the last few years your wise old committee decided to start later this year with the first Autotest scheduled for May.

Of course the original April date was bright and sunny and one again out first test was cancelled due to the weather, you would think someone has it in for us.

Another change was the decision that if we lost a test we would not try to squeeze another one in later in the year. The reason for this was last year it got a bit ridiculous in that on two occasions you could have done a Autotest every day of the week due to rescheduling of events, and even Brian Sharpe isn't that keen!

Other changes have been the results system carefully crafted by Helen Crocker, that now allows us to publish to the website and Facebook within minutes of the finish.

To save workload on the secretary we no longer print or email results, instead letting competitors download a copy online.



One evening we even had a visiting Chinook helicopter trying to get FTD, fortunately we had just all packed up and the watches put away otherwise he would have been serious competition.

Entries this year have been up on noaks members obviously wanting to

2017 with a small influx of Sevenoaks members obviously wanting to try out reversing.

Those of us who poo poo'd Robert Sharpe's idea for a passenger class are now sitting down to humble pie as this is proving popular with up to 5 entries in the class some evenings. Of course Robert we knew it was going to work all along!

Richard Olsen's Training Day was as usual popular with some new members trying out Autotesting and becoming regular competitors, we had over 20 people come along on the day and get tip tricks and instruction from our resident experts.

Here's hoping the weather will remain kind to us the rest of the year.



Club Survey 2017

At the end of last year the club initiated a survey to see what members wanted. In all 29 members out of 120 completed the survey and the statistics are below.

Q1 What is the main reason you be-					
long to the Club. Tick all that are rele-	Com-	Organ-			General
vant.	pete	ise	Marshal	Social	Int
	83%	21%	28%	21%	69%
Q2 How long have you belonged to	Less	2-5			
the Club	than 2	Years	5 Plus		
	14%	21%	66%		
Q3 As a club Member do you	Com-			Attend	
	pete	Marshal	Organise	Social	
	83%	48%	31%	24%	
Q4 Is the Price of the Annual Mem-	Too	Too	About		
bership Fee	High	Low	Right		
	3%	3%	93%		
Q5 Do you use		Face-			
	Email	book	Twitter	Other	None
	97%	66%	24%	17%	0%
Q6 Do you consider you get accepta-					
ble communications from the Club.	Yes	No			
	90%	7%			

Q8 Do you hold an MSA Li-						Mar-		
cence?	Club	Nat A	Nat B	Int	Off	shal	Other	None
	14%	14%	24%	0%	7%	21%	0%	41%
Q9 What type of event inter-								
ests you? Please tick all that	Au-	Auto-			Sprint		Hill-	
are applicable.	totest	solo	Trials	Rallys	S	Race	climb	Social
	66%	55%	41%	62%	31%	31%	38%	34%

Q9 55% wanting an AutoSolo was the reason for the committee looking for a venue and finally getting agreement from Lydden

Q10 Does the Club organise events that you wish to en-		
ter / be involved with?	Yes	No
	83%	17%
Q11 Does the Club Organise the type of event that inter-		
ests you?	Yes	No
	86%	14%
Q13 Do you or have you attended the Monthly Social Club meeting held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month?		
	Yes	No
	14%	86%
Q14 Would you like to become more involved with the		
running of the Club and/or events?	Yes	No
	24%	72%

Q15 Are the number of events currently organised by the Club.		Auto- tests	Autoso- los	Trials	Sprints	Social
	Too	10%	55%	14%	41%	14%
	About Right	83%	45%	86%	59%	86%
	Too	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Q16 Are the venues used by the club of an acceptable standard?	Yes	No	Need Improving
	93%	0%	7%
Q17 Is the current organisation of events to an acceptable standard?	Yes	No	Need Improving
	83%	0%	17%
Q18 Would you like to see more social events.	Yes	No	
	41%	55%	

Q20 What type of social event would you attend		Fac- tory	Race		Show s	Talks	Meal s	Quiz- zes	BBQ
	Week days	31%	3%	10%	7%	21%	21%	14%	3%
	Week ends	52%	62%	55%	45%	48%	28%	24%	34%

Q21 Would you like social events be open to family and		
friends?	Yes	No
	90%	3%
Q22 Should some social events be funded from Club Membership fees?		
Wellbership rees:	Yes	No
	59%	41%
Q23 Kent Driver would you be happy to receive it elec-		
tronically instead?	Yes	No
	79%	21%
Q24 Would you like to see the Kent Driver contain non		
motoring related articles	Yes	No
	59%	38%
Q 25 Do you have any experience of organising motoring		
events of any type?	Yes	No
	52%	48%

Thank you to those who took time to complete the survey, the committee will be acting on the comments made where possible

GW

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION UNITED KINGDOM



THOUSANDS EXPERIENCE MOTOR SPORT FOR THE FIRST TIME



The recent closed-road Corbeau Seats Rally Tendring & Clacton was a real eve opener. writes Andrew Bisping. South RDO who was one of over 500 volunteers on the event. One of the key messages of

RallyFuture has been that organisers should work to the principle that they are staging a public event first and a competiton second.

This was appreciated by Chelmsford Motor Club who organised the event with vital support from Tendring District Council. Planning for the event started many years before the closedroad legislation was enacted and the organisers recognised the importance of working with Parish Councils and residents along the route and its surrounding roads.

Resident Liason Officers had key roles and Resident Handbooks brought together key information so it was always to hand for people. This included direct telephone numbers so event personnel were always accessible in case of questions or concerns. There was a wonderful atmosphere on Clacton seafront where the service area was located.

The day before the event crews, their support teams and residents chatted about what was to come. This sense of anticipation built up and come the sunshine of the event day itself there was a fantastic buzz around the service area.

Every crew I spoke to was amazed and appreciative of the public support. Families were out with their deckchairs and picnics smiling and waving at the passing cars and that was just on the road sections

The largest spectator area alongside a stage filled almost to capacity. I was looking after social media during the event weekend which was useful for reiterating safety messages and sharing results updates and news stories with people, many of whom were completely new to rallying.

It was also interesting to see this method of communication used by people to raise questions about things like road access to attend a hospital appointment.

Answers could be given with support from the Resident Liaison Officers and I was struck by how accepting people were of changes to daily routine, provided we communicated promptly and clearly.

Resident and visitors comments on social media praised the organisation of the event and the friendly helpful marshals. Many were offered drinks and even barbeque food in one instance.

The overwhelming response was that local people had thoroughly enjoyed the rally, were delighted it had come to the Clacton and Tendring area and they'd love to see it back next year. The organisers hope so too. Colleague John Conboy, East RDO was out at the spectator stages promoting getting involved.

With some social media posts reaching over 8,000 people it was clear the event had reached far outside the motor sport community and even appeared on BBC TV for two days.

With many of our venues 'off limits' to spectators there is a real opportunity here for closed road events to promote competing and volunteering to a new audience.

Moving from trying to bring newcomers to the sport, to taking the sport to newcomers is a fantastic opportunity, reiterated with news of the town centre finish to Wales Rally GB.

Please talk to your RDO and we'll share as much learning as we can!

Fixture List 2018

```
8 Aug 2018
      18:30 - 20:30
             Evening Autotest No 8
             Headcorn Aerodrome
21 Aug 2018
      20:00 - 22:00
             Social Evening
             The Bull Inn
22 Aug 2018
      18:30 - 20:30
             Evening Autotest No 9
             Headcorn Aerodrome
2 Sep 2018
      All day
             Wings Autotest
18 Sep 2018
      20:00 - 22:00
             Social Evening
             The Bull Inn
30 Sep 2018
      All day
             Brian Lewis Trial
             Maidstone Mid-Kent, Accepted
16 Oct 2018
      20:00 - 22:00
             Social Evening
             The Bull Inn
20 Nov 2018
      20:00 - 22:00
             Social Evening
             The Bull Inn
11 Dec 2018
      19:30 - 22:00
             Christmas Dinner
                    Weald of Kent Golf Club
```

Regulations for all events will be available on the Club Website throughout the year.

www.mmkmc.co.uk

Don't forget to enter the ASEMC Trials, Autotest and Speed Championships.

www.ASEMC.co.uk



Class of Membership

Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club Membership Application Form 2018

Full [1] [Family [2] [

I am/wish to become a Full/Family member of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club and undertake to abide by the Rule of the Club, which are available on request

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITAL below or join and pay/renew online at **www.membermojo.co.uk/mmkmc**

Full Name [1]	
Full Names (additional family members) [2]	
Address and Postcode [1]	
Occupation	
Age (if under 18)	
Home No	
Mobile	
Email	
Vehicles Owned	



If you would like to help organise or assist with the following - indicate Organise, Assist, Compete, Spectate, as applicable.

Autotests	
Production Car Trials	
Sporting Trials	
Speed Events	
Road Rallies/Scatters	

Stage Rallies	
Club Magazine	
Club Records/Archives	
Club Equipment	
Social Activities	

Sig	ined

[1	[2]	
L · .	 	

l enclose Full Membership £17.00 (annual) Family Membership £25.00 (annual)

- for Spouse, Partner, Sons, Daughters resident at full members address only. All mailing and the Kent Driver, etc , to Full Membership address only.

Annual Junior Membership £7.00 (annual)

(does not qualify for Family Membership)

If you wish to pay by bank transfer: please mark your payment as "Subscription"

Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club Ltd. Sort Code 60-60-08 Account No 00045349

Or

By Paypal, Debit/Credit Card or Bank Transfer Online at www.membermojo.co.uk/mmkmc

Or send a cheque with this form to

Membership Secretary 43 Stanhope Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4TT



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February

3rd - Sideways Saturday

10th - RX Test Day

17th - Car Track Day

March

3rd - Sideways Saturday

31st - Car/RX Track Day

April

2nd - MSA British Rallycross

7th - LHMC Race Day

14th - No Limits Track Day

May

5th - No Limits Track Day

7th - BHP Show

19th - Car Track Day

26/27 - Norasport British Supermoto

June

2nd - No Limits Track Day

16th - Car Track Day

23rd/24th - VMCC Vintage Bikes

July

7th/8th - Classic Festival ft, CCTRC

14th - B19 Sprint

21st - Café Racer Cup

22nd - Legends of Lydden

29th - No Limits Track Day

August

11th - No Limits Track Day

18/19th - BTRC Lydden Truck Festival ft. BARC

25th - Car Track Day

27th - MSA British Rallycross

September

8th - BTRDA Rallycross

15th - Car Track Day

22nd - No Limits Track Day

October

6th - LHMC Race Day

13th - Multidiscipline Track Day

20th - Lord of Lydden

November

3rd - MotorMania Fireworks

10th - Track Day

December

1st - Car Track Day

www.lyddenhill.co.uk









