



January 2010

20:00 on Tuesday 19 January

***Thame Motorsport Club
Annual General Meeting***

The Lion's Den at Red Lion PH, Haddenham opposite the church



Instead of the usual buffet, curry will be served
****Please advise your attendance for the catering****
tonya@a-pc.net / 07850 808709



Renew your membership at the meeting or via post

COMING SOON:

Club Night / Committee Meeting

20:00 on Tuesday 2 February
Red Lion PH, Haddenham

10 pin bowling in Aylesbury (to be arranged)

As we don't have a regular newsletter (unless you would like to volunteer as editor!), we tend to organise events via email, text and the website. If you have an email address please add it to your renewal form to keep up to date with social and other events. See over page for some ideas Nigel sent to the Yahoo Group which could be discussed at the AGM. To receive club news via email, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TMSC> and click "Join this group" or send an email to TMSC-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk.

To join the Committee for 2010 contact:

Secretary: Tonya Heap tonya@a-pc.net 07850 808709



Chairman's Report

Well the season is over yet again, and we can look forward to a new season for 2010. Particularly pleasing was Button becoming World Champion, which makes it 2 Brits in a row, and depending on whether that pesky German makes a reappearance, it could well be a third. Although it appears that rallying has yet another championship for that man Loeb. Although watching him drive on the TV, I can't say I am surprised. 6 championships on the trot is some achievement in any sport.

Now club stuff. It appears that most if not all people made it through the year with no major dramas, and hopefully most will be out again next year.

Apologies for not making it to Rockingham, as I was otherwise detained by an unplanned 90 left into Stoke Mandeville A&E.

The main thing is that the rally appears to have gone well, and the possible financial hit to the clubs wasn't as bad as first thought. A big thank you to all those volunteers who sacrificed time and effort in making the event happen at all.

Also a big thank you to all those people who volunteered to get events to happen for the club, and especially to Andy C for the gliding which is still talked about at my place of work, by some of the guys who went.

As ever, ideas as to what the club can get involved in for 2010 are most welcome, and even more welcome are the volunteers who make it happen. Remember the club can subsidise these to some degree so the cost may not be as high as first thought.

Also apologies for not making it to the Christmas meal which I was looking forward to, related to the above mentioned detour to A&E.

All being well I should be with you for the AGM, and hope to catch up with you all then, and then I can finally sell (give away?) the left over TMC clothing, which has been sat in my spare room for 12 months....

Nigel Hoyle

Email from Nigel Hoyle to the Club Yahoo Group (04.11.09)

Hello All,

There has been some discussion about what we would like to do next year with TMC. Here is a list I quickly put together last night, which should hopefully give you some sort of idea. I have no idea what the budgets are for some of these, but it gives us a start.

Non motor sport stuff

- Gliding – much the same as before if Andy C would do the honours on the organising this would be much appreciated. This was popular within the club and even more so with my friends from work!
- Balloon flights – As I see these overhead almost every single weekend, I thought this could be an addition to our more normal activities.
- Xscape airkix – this is basically freefall parachuting on the ground. It is a huge recalculating air chamber with massive fans. I had a go at this for someone's stag do at work, and would love another go. It isn't cheap, and it doesn't last long, but it is really good fun. Xscape is in MK.
- Xscape snowboarding and skiing – as above in MK, but an opportunity to learn the basics of skiing or snowboarding.
- Lunch at Waddesdon manor – As last year's Sunday lunch on the river was thought a great success, we could do something similar here, it isn't the cheapest gaff in town though.
- Chocolate tasting day at Roald Dahl's museum, Great Missenden. This event is hardly publicized at all, but if you like chocolate, it is an opportunity to taste many different sorts.
- Comedy nights – these are on in High Wycombe and are usually good to watch. Although I did see a comedienne "die" on stage 2 years ago here, which I thought was very funny all by itself...
- Bletchley Park – the wartime code breaking unit. This could be tied in with a visit to Xscape, and/or a visit to a local-ish Formula 1 team.
- Factory visits – due to the economy and our general location, visits of any real merit are thin on the ground. We know the Mini factory is VERY popular, and there is a substantial "waiting list". If you have any ideas as to anything local, and more importantly a contact within the place to get access for interested, this would be welcomed.

Motor sport stuff

- Drag racing. Your life as a petrol head is incomplete without seeing a Top Fuel dragster run at Santa Pod.
- Sprints/hill climbs – although Prescott and Shelsley Walsh are some distance away, there are sprints within the vicinity (Abingdon for one).
- Inter car club quiz night games night. We have contacts within Oxford and Middlesex. Sutton and Cheam motor club informed us that they had spaces for their Mini factory visit, so local car clubs talking to one another could lead onto better things.
- Scalextric night – I am not sure on the logistics of this, but where there's a will there's a way.
- Autosport show NEC – this isn't far off, so if anyone expresses an interest, I am sure we can do something.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and if anyone has more or better ideas, then feel free to add something to the list. Please pass this onto other TMC members who aren't on the Yahoo list.

Party!

Kathy and Dick Mauger organised an excellent Xmas bash at a local pub for us in December so thank you for the considerable effort made. A great time was had by all!





Rockingham Stages 2009

So here we are at the 6th running of our joint promotion with Middlesex CAC, again retaining the popular 2 day format:

Saturday:

am – noise, scrutineering, sign on
13:00 start and 2 stages in daylight
16:00 two long stages in the dark and cold!

Sunday:

10:00 restart and a further 6 stages with a finish aimed at 4:00
Then pack up, results, awards, and home!

Concern this year was what effect the recession would have on this more expensive SV, especially as we have seen 5 SV cancelled due to lack of entries, and even the MCAC Bomb-along running with 47 entries against a max of 75.

In the last 4 years we have attracted some 125+ entries, which after withdrawals has resulted in 95-99 starters – perfect.

Rockingham venue is expensive, but they provide a lot of help with tyre walls etc. Unlike an old airfield, the hire cost is £12k instead of £2k, so the ability to run a cut price event with low entries is limited.

However, we made the decision early on that as we had made good profits in previous years we would run if we attracted some 70+ entries.

As it turned out we attracted 87 entries and 80 starters.

Set up on Friday and we arrived at the Rock about 10. The set-up crew from our side was Tonya and Zenya, Neal Cuss, Gary Johnson, Duncan Edwards, self, Nick Vine, Andy Corner, Big Ed, Andy Cadle and a couple of others. Andy again brought a serious flatbed trailer which took 13 of the large white bails at a time, saving hours of work – many thanks!

Thankfully the weather stayed dry, but temperatures dropped fast when the sun went down. We were still driving round at 5:30 fine-tuning the layouts.

We tried a new restaurant near the Travelodge – the Fox, another winner with real fires, good beers, and great food.

We get multiple messages from Simon Clark at 9:00pm that his co-driver has pulled at the last minute. Luckily Zenya has brought her licence and suit with her, so she gets promoted from Marshalling to co-driver!

Saturday was as predicted by the weather man: rained Friday night and early Saturday, but cleared up as we came to start time. One disaster was that the new £300 marquee bought by MCAC for Scrutineering proved too feeble

and was last seen heading for Corby, so soon binned!

We started only a couple of minutes late, but the changeover between 2 and 3 was a little long. SS3 started just after 4pm in the dark and the temperature immediately dropped and the rain started. All ok on SS3, but SS4 was getting slippery. Car 3 went straight on between the pits and three cars later car 8 clips the back and the stage is closed.

There is a rapid meeting in the Welcome Centre about the change-rounds and all resolve to be back on stage at 8 to reset for Sunday.

The Thame contingent return to the Cock Inn and enjoy another really good meal and beers – nothing like working together in the cold to really appreciate food and drink.

Sunday morning and I go into stage early just to catch an early heavy shower – nice!

We restart at 10 with Simpson now establishing a commanding lead, Indri's challenge in the Metro had faltered on SS3 with gear selection problems, but cancellation of SS4 meant he stayed in for the Sunday. Dave West's 306 Maxi sounded glorious and he drove really well to finish 2nd for the second year.

The weather improved all morning and we were treated to bright sunshine in the afternoon – what a pleasure!

The top three hold station for the rest of the day to finish Simpson, West, and Indri.



Simon and Zenya finished an excellent 24th overall and top Thame crew, weakened this year with all three Mauger teams off in sunny Canaries as Simon was on a paid drive there, and the two Corners still resolving matters with the MSA.

We had it all packed up by 6:30 and another successful event put to bed.

Many thanks to Neal Cuss for running car zero and the previously mentioned Thame members for another Herculean effort in the cold and wet, plus the Oxford and MCAC members for their hard work.

*Pete Wood
Rally Manager*



The Longmoor Loco

**Monday 28
December 2009**

The entry for this popular event run around Longmoor Camp in Hampshire filled in a record 2.5 days leaving many disappointed punters without a run. Fortunately, Thame Motorsport Club members managed to secure 5 of the 60 available slots.

I've wanted to do the event for a few years and was pleased to get seated with a pal, Paul Woodhams at Oxford MC. As is usual, it was a very cold start and in spite of the ice rink and other slippery areas of the course we had a great start on stage 1 running 10th =. Then the pretty, newly built 205 ate a pallet on stage 2 (spitting it out the back a while later losing about 60s) and then the engine blew up on stage 3. So it was a disappointing day for us, however, there was plenty of excitement to be had elsewhere apart from the multiple attempts to destroy a very sturdy post next to the ice rink hairpin.

Gary Johnson got a ride in Ian Hucklebridge's yellow Mk3 in which he complained of dizzy spells as he's used to going forward rather than sideways! In spite of the sideways fun, they gained a credible result: 13th O/A; 2nd in class.

Top runners Richard Edwards/Paul Brown and Dave West/Keith Hounslow both took a wrong split on SS5 which caught out a surprising number of competitors and propelled Simon Mauger / Steve McNulty to P1 (and an apologetic winner's speech at the end).

Fantastic results from the Corners:

Andy Corner / Ade Camp (5th O/A; 1st in class)

Dan Corner / Mark Regan (8th O/A; 2nd in class)

Tonya Heap

Photo of Simon Mauger and Steve McNulty
by Mark Sims (www.rallygallery.com)