



HRCR MIDLANDS NEWSLETTER : DECEMBER 2018

FORTHCOMING HRCR MIDLANDS EVENTS



This year's Rally of the Tests visited Curborough. This ex-Works Austin Healey 3000 reg 67ARX was one of two on this event. More photos appear elsewhere.

5 December CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND QUIZ

The regular 'End-of-the-Year-Show', with a meal, a quiz, a review of Midlands activities during the year and what the Midlands Area may display at the HRCR Open Day at Gaydon in the New Year.

Where and When : The Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook. Derby DE72 3SE
tel 01332 662378 www.royalockbrook.com
Meal at 19:00hrs with the quiz starting at 20:30hrs.

24 Dec WORLD TOUR

This will be another in the long-running series of high speed, long-distance events that have some 24,000 competitive miles and will again start and finish at the North Pole.

There will be special conditions concerning protective clothing and vehicle eligibility for this unique event.

- In keeping with the tradition of encouraging entrants to wear period dress, (a practice now adopted by HERO and occasionally by HRCR), red cloaks and white beards should be worn, together with any other essential protective clothing.
- All vehicles must be capable of carrying a considerable load of parcels and packages.
- Engine output is to be declared in reindeer- rather than horse-power.
- Auxiliary lighting will be limited to bright noses rather than Cibies, Hella, PIAAs and the like.
- Rather than dreaming about whether there may be snow or even a white-out, entrants are advised to consult the Met Office beforehand concerning the likely prevailing weather conditions. The fitting of snow tyres may be advisable though other options such as skis and sleigh runners will be permitted.
- For safety reasons and so as not to wake children, horns or klaxons are to be replaced by bells.

Completed entry forms and wish lists should be sent by post or up chimneys to either St Nicholas or Santa Claus at the North Pole. So that all appropriate loading and delivery arrangements can be made, any application received after noon on 23 December will be not be accepted

Where and When : Earth, Solar System, Universe /Infinity.

Times from bedtime on 24 December to waking up on 25 December.

26 Dec **BOXING DAY STEAM CARNIVAL, OCKBROOK**

All subject to the weather, of course, those wishing to get out of the house and perhaps take their classic car out for a spin might head for this annual event. Hot pork cobs, hot dogs and chips will be available from 11:00 to 16:00hrs.

Where and When : The Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook. Derby DE72 3SE

30 Dec **CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT**

Vince Orme of Carlton and District Motor Club has extended an invitation to HRCR Members to tackle his usual seasonal Treasure Hunt, one that is in South Derbyshire this year.

This is always an enjoyable event with prizes to be won. For those who did it last year, expect more of the same, but with maybe fewer and easier questions. All questions can be answered without getting out of the car, apart from obtaining treasures.

The entry fee is £10 for each of the 12 places available. Since the first entry has already been received, you are advised not to leave making yours until the last minute.

Where and When :

Start : between 10:30 and 11:30 from an as yet unstated pub near Sudbury, one easily accessible from the A50 / A52 / A38, on O/S Map 128 and post code DE65. Full details will be given when you enter.

Duration : 2½ hours maximum.

Finish : will be in time for lunch at a good country pub with 5* food and good ales. Food will be available from 12.00 – 14.00ish but pre-booking is advised.

Further details : Contact Vince Orme via vince.cdmc@gmail.com or 077 998 02107

2019

12 January **HRCR OPEN DAY, GAYDON**

Once again, the launch and opening of the entry list for our own Derbyshire Dales Drive will take place at the HRCR Open Day, and assistance will be needed to steward the stand during the day.

Where and When : British Motor Heritage Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0BJ. Set-up likely to be from 09:00hrs with opening to the public at 10:00hrs

Jan / Feb? **MAJOR SPEAKER**

A major figure within the world of UK motor sport has been approached and is prepared to visit us in the Midlands.

Where and When : We are still waiting to learn of the very busy person's availability but. Since time has moved on, it will now probably be sometime in February or March. The intended venue will be the Coopers Arms at Weston-on-Trent, the one used for our previous major talks.

'LOCAL' AND OTHER EVENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Contributions from motor clubs within the Midlands area are always welcome.

As ever, please confirm details with the relevant event organisers.

Key to HRCR Events			
1	<i>HRCR Scenic Tour series</i>		
2	<i>HRCR Clubmans Road Rallying Championship</i>		
3	<i>HRCR Speed series</i>		
4	<i>HRCR Old Stager Historic Stage Rally Championship</i>		
5	<i>HRCR Stage Masters Historic Stage Rally Challenge</i>		
6	<i>HRCR Premier Rally Championship</i>		
HRCR	Date	Event	Contact
	1 December	Grizedale Stages : Cumbria : ANECCC SG Petch Championship : Now 8 December	tel 01946 841332

HRCR	Date	Event	Contact
		RMA Trackday : Silverstone GP Circuit	tel 01628 779000
	1 December	CCA Classic Car Sale : Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa	tel 01926 640888
6	1-2 December	Rali Mynydd Du (now NOT running in 2018)	Amman + District MC
	1-2 Dec	Rockingham Stages Rally : Rockingham Circuit (Likely to be the last one ever)	tel 01536 500500.
5	2 December	Killarney Stages : Southern Ireland	www.killarneyanddistrictmotorclub.ie
	4 December	Coys Christmas Auction : Royal Horticultural Halls, London.	tel 0207 544 8980
	4 – 9 Dec	Coppa delle Alpi by 1000 Miglia : Brescia, Italy	tel +39 02 3453 8354
	7 December	Motorsport Events Trackday : Abingdon, Oxford	tel 0844 873 6075
	8 December	Grizedale Stages : Cumbria : <i>ANECCC SG Petch Championship</i>	https://www.grizedalestages.co.uk/
6	8 - 11 Dec	LE JOG : guess where from and to.....	HERO
	10 December	RMA Trackday : Donington Park Circuit	tel 01628 779000
	26 December	Plum Pudding Races : Mallory Park Circuit	tel 01455 842931
	10-13 January	Autosport International Show : NEC Birmingham	tel 0207 287 9610
		Performance & Tuning Car Show : NEC Birmingham	tel 0844 858 6758
	16 February	Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally , Llandudno <i>Prestone British Rally Championship</i>	tel 07788 995345.

DETAILS OF 2019'S HRCR AND OTHER EVENTS ARE AWAITED

REPORTS

Reports and articles with historic motor sport interest are very much welcomed. The views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Region's Management Team or the HRCR Committee. All rights are reserved by the respective contributors and their particular permission is required for reproduction of any material in this Newsletter.

AUTUMN SUN RUN : 23 - 26 OCTOBER 2018

The Sun Run, organised by James McDonald and the Auto Club Eclance, has a unique format. It relies on descriptive symbols and road numbers to define the route given out at the start or in sealed envelopes opened only after checking out of a control, "plot & bash". Entrants then have to record code boards and answer questions as proof of following the correct route. In addition there are sections where crews are required to record start and finish mileages to determine their ability to achieve the organisers' target distance. The only timing is visiting main controls within specified time limits.

The start of the 1600km rally was at Bar sur Aube, with the 68 car field being led away by Tim and Anne Riley in their 1938 MG SA open tourer. As a gentle introduction, the route led SW to the mid-morning halt at Tonnaire with straight forward route instructions and a dozen questions. From Tonnaire, the route went west and south to the lunch halt at Sancerre. On this section, additional code boards were introduced between designated points.

The afternoon was a long 240km drive, through the Foret de Vouzeron, then to the west of Chatearoux & Le Blanc, finishing at "Futuroscope" just north of Poitier. The theme park was easily identified from a distance by brightly coloured towers.

This long (480kms) day meant late numbers arriving at the hotel at dusk and one or two stragglers in darkness. At this early stage 8 crews were penalty free.

Day Two saw competitors starting in reverse order with a shorter 335km loop of the Vienne & Indre regions and finishing back at the same hotel. The route led in the direction we had come the previous day, via Chatillon-sur-Indre to the lunch halt at Romorantin Lanthenay. The car park was near the Matra Museo and time was allowed to visit the museum. Although compact, it had sufficient interest to pass an hour or so learning about their cars and projects undertaken for other manufacturers.

The last section of the day was the first of the "plot & bash" where the route was in a sealed envelope that was only to be opened when signed out of the control. An orderly queue formed (most entrants were British) at the control on the museum forecourt, navigators hoping to get the maximum plotting time. The route led crews towards the picturesque villages of the central Loire Valley, via Montresor, crossing the river Indre at Saint Germain, and the impressive castle at Verneuill.

At the end of the second day there were just three crews left without penalty. The Dutch Porsche 944 of Pieter Lys & Yves Hulsman, Ian & Helen Almond in a Mini and Alan Turner & Tim Kelly in an Autobianchi. In joint fourth places were Tony & Dominic Barron and Adrian Ancliffe & Peter Haynes on 20 points.

Day Three started with another "plot & bash" exercise plus a mileage check, so no distances were given. To add to competitors' headaches, crews were told not to plot at the hotel car park as a secret check will be located "nearby" and close promptly after the last competitor was due. Navigators were only given the route out of the Pointier area onto the N147 heading SE in advance. The secret check was located on the slip road to Fleure some 30kms from the start which stretched the definition of "nearby".

The second section of the day found competitors searching for a minor road C2 that was well camouflaged and the secret check located on it. Many missed this, gaining a 30 point penalty. The organisers signalled that spotting code boards was getting more difficult with some of them being located up telegraph poles and behind road signs as well as the more normal grass verge sites. The route into the hotel at Clermont-Ferrand was a short distance off the A71 motorway. The organisers had sighted a secret check to make sure the road book instructions were followed, as the "sat-nav" route was slightly shorter (missing the SC) Unfortunately several crews missed this secret check.

At the end of day, all three leaders had lost their clean sheets but the Almonds' Mini was first on 11 points, the Dutch Porsche 944 second on 20 and Turner/Kelly Autobianchi third on 24.

Day Four arrived and entrants left the hotel at Clermont-Ferrand and headed for the minor roads of the Livradois forest. Drivers were now faced with murky and foggy conditions with visibility down to 50 metres at times. This put a premium on accurate navigation and code board spotting. These tricky conditions led to a reversal of fortunes for several of the leading crews. One triangle in particular near Fournols caught out all but 6 competitors. The organisers had also put out a "false" code board on the wrong route, which carried a hefty penalty, 50 points for missing the correct board plus a further 20 points for being on the wrong road! Shortly after St Romain Lachalm, the route should have led crews to turn left then immediate right down a local minor road, but the Road Barred sign with an organisers' yellow arrow on the opposite side of the road instructing to continue along that road. There were no further arrows, so competitors had to fall back on the regulations which advised "should there be road works please use your navigational skills and get back to the next location on route at the earliest opportunity". This did not stop one or two brave souls ignoring the travaux routier and venturing down the local road, and to their credit got through!

The weather had brightened up at the lunch halt at Annonay before competitors tackled the last of the plot & bash sections. This was a 116km through the Isere region, via Hauteries, Monfalcon, Varasieux and Vinay (known as the "walnut capital") and led to the final hotel at Voreppe.

Old cars have a reputation, possibly undeserved, for unreliability. However, all of the cars which started were classified as finishers, including the three pre-war entries of James Mann / Tom Moss in a Lagonda M45 (1934), Chris Paveley / Brian Mitchel Talbot 90 (1934) and Tim and Anne Riley MG SA (1938) who finished a very creditable 3rd in class. There were one or two mechanical problems but one entry's problems began before leaving England. The Alfa 1600 GT Junior of John Vincent & Bill Grainger only got as far as Toddington Services before developing charging problems. They dashed back to Leicestershire to swap cars for John's much rallied 1300cc version. This one got as far as St Quentin on Sunday night before the water pump cried enough so the pair ended up competing in a hired Peugeot.

The "Spirit of the Rally" award went to Pauline Dunmore from the Netherlands in her MGB. She had entered the event by herself, but took along her pet pooch Sjimie as "navigator". By all accounts "Le Dog" (as it was billed on the entry sheet) did a very creditable job finishing 9th in class!

The results for HRCR Midlands contingent were as follows

1 st	Adrian Ancliffe / Peter Haynes	Porsche 944S
2 nd	Tony and Dominic Barron	Porsche 911 Carrera SC
24 th	Paul and Roma Handley	Volvo 144DL
30 th	John Vincent / Bill Grainger	Peugeot 308
38 th	Robert Robinson / Peter Mellor	Audi Coupe
59 th	Billie and John Taylor	Saab 900S

Peter Haynes

Peter tells me that there was no official photographer on this event so he has no photo record of the event. If anyone has any and would be willing for them to be used in this Newsletter, please let me know.

Editor

RALLY OF THE TESTS : HARROGATE TO BRISTOL : 8 - 11 NOVEMBER

Rather than struggle with the crowds at the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show and Silverstone Auctions Classic Sale being held at the NEC Birmingham and having commitments to the end of WW1 peace celebrations and remembrance in the village at home, I chose to join some other HRCR Midlands members at Curborough at the unearthly hour during the Saturday morning for the crews' first test after overnighing at 'The Belfry in Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield'.

Extracts from HERO's report on the event are shown in italics.

All that then remained (of Day 1) was a short run to the luxurious Belfry Hotel for a welcome meal and drink or two in the bar. This had been a relatively tame first day by Rally of the Tests standards but had still been a stern enough challenge for most. Results posted on the Official Noticeboard showed that Steve Entwistle and Ali Procter are currently leading by 14 seconds.

Day Two started at 07:46 for Paul Wignall and Mark Appleton who were first car on the road. Although shorter than Day One at around 250 miles, the action would be more intense with ten Tests, seven Regularities and two Time Control Sections to be completed before arriving at the Celtic Manor Resort, near Newport.

The action started today at Curborough Sprint Course, one of the finest sprinting venues in the country. A long test here, run by Owen Motor Club, used both the circuit itself and the service roads and saw Thomas Koerner and Manuel Maeker quickest out of the blocks in their Porsche 911.



Overall rally winners #7 Paul Wignall / Mark Appleton in an Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint



#83 Clive and Anji Martin on the test that was using the main sprint track the 'wrong' way



#65 Kevin Haselden / Gary Evans in an Austin version of the Mini Cooper S finished 16th overall



#74 Keith Jenkins / Martin Pfaff head off to the sprint Start area that was included as part of the test



#17 Jonathan Hancox / Richard Lambley finished 7th overall in their Triumph TR4



Overnight leaders #27 Steve Entwistle /Ali Procter in their Morris mini Cooper S were eventually 3rd overall

JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER

All contributions for next month's newsletter are very much welcomed, for which copy should be **no later than Friday 23 December 2018** to yorkesport@btinternet.com