

Civil Service Motoring Association

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newsletter

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Civil Service Motoring Association



NEWSLETTER



CSMA

THE BIG END



The Big End



CSMA CLUB



Civil Service Motoring Association North West London Group

BIG END



CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION



89-97

Edition

97-99

CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION

NORTH WEST LONDON GROUP



June 2016

North West London Group





NWL Group Officers & Committee 2016/17



Secretary

Alan Thurbon
9 Gilded Acre
Dunstable, Beds LU6 3TB
Home: 01582 602916
Mobile: 07904 958895

alanthurbon@yahoo.com

Chairman

Mike Harrison
17 Brentford Close, Yeading
Hayes, Middlesex UB4 9QG
Home: 0208 841 1657
Work: 0208 878 4667
Mobile: 07974 268560

mlh.bhm@btconnect.com

Treasurer

Anne Graves
20 Albert Road North
Watford, Herts WD17 1QF
Home: 01923 819735
Mobile: 07811 905360

anne.e.graves@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

Mike Biss
19 Dunstable Close
Flitwick, Beds MK45 1JN
Home: 01525 720299
Mobile: 07753 137415

editor@csmanwl.com

Competition Secretary

Post Vacant

Pete Gregory

27 Lea Road, Amptill
Beds MK45 2PT
Home: 01525 403405
Work: 01525 861673
Mobile: 07709 221115

pete.gregory@csmaclub.org

Shirley Baldwin

35 Five Oaks, Caddington
Beds LU1 4JD
Home: 01582 729922
Mobile: 07773 301786

shirley.baldwin@aol.co.uk

Antony Cox

43 Hambledon Close,
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3UD
Home: 0208 841 2966
Mobile: 07961 073 024

antcrew@hotmail.co.uk

Doug Harrison

Applestore, Cheddington Road
Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9AE
Home: 01296 660660
Mobile: 07917 021312

douglas.h@btinternet.com

Clubnight Walking Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 7th June

At our new clubnight venue
The Red Lion PH
Starts 7:30pm

THE BIRTHDAY BOX !

Quite a collection of birthdays to celebrate at the end of June - with **Mike Biss** on the 25th, and both **Cath Woodman** and **Mick Bean** on the 30th.



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Visit **The Big End** on the Internet - www.csmanwl.com



Editorial

If you like quirky videos, then have a look at this one <https://youtu.be/daVDrGsaDME> (2m:20s). The bloke dismantled a Triumph Spitfire engine and then rebuilt it taking pictures all the way through to make sure he knew how each part should go back together again. 3000 pictures later (yes, that is correct), he has made them into a stop motion animation film. It is very good and amusing at the same time.

Kris Meeke made a return to the WRC in Portugal and this time didn't have a suspension breakage and went on to win the event. Although he had a good road position on the first two days, he made good use of it and then managed the gap on the last day. There was some good live coverage on BT Sport, including the power stage which had the famous Fafe jump right at the end. As drivers approach it, they have no reference points in sight, so pick something in the distance a couple of kilometres away to line up their launch point!



Last year at Monaco, Lewis Hamilton was happy on Saturday after qualifying on pole and glum on Sunday after the race, when the team called him in for new tyres but didn't have the time to get him back out in the lead, gifting the win to Nico Rosberg and relegating him to third. What a change a year makes! Hamilton glum on Saturday after another problem with his car in qualifying sees him only able to do one stint in Q3 and finish third. A fantastic quali lap by Ricciardo saw Rosberg down in second. Come the race and the wet weather, Rosberg struggles, has to let Hamilton through, then Red Bull completely muck up their pit stop for Ricciardo (he arrives in the pit box and no tyres are out!) which then gifts the win to Hamilton. Happy bunny on the top step!

If you are available to marshal on any of the grass autotests coming up, then can you please let the organisers know, as they are short of numbers at the moment. No knowledge required, any guidance needed can be given on the day.

I was out in the Corsa on the recent Bedford CC gravel autotest and the car behaved itself nicely. It was quite dusty during the day and it was definitely a keep the windows closed event. I was trying out a new in-car video camera, which seemed to not want to keep working using the phone app, and I had to resort to manual operation. It also appears the rollcage mounting is not steady enough and needs a little bracing piece to keep the picture from shaking. You can see the result on one of the tests at <https://youtu.be/Lz89iwoScuw>.



The following week I was back out in the Mini and again it is reluctant to start first thing. With the battery going down, I connect the power pack and it fires up quickly. Never a problem again once started. Looks like I will need to connect it every time now. Starting first car on all of the three tests, the first one goes ok, finding all the gravel and dirt bits, but the second test is a nightmare as I have complete brain fade and stop part way through with no idea where to go next! I get the diagram and work out where I am, then carry on to the finish. Ended up with a maximum, which at the end of the day stopped me from getting second in class after a fight back against the 1380cc Mini in front.



Mike B.

NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter is Thursday 23rd June



Chairman's notebook

A big thanks you to both Alan and Lee for providing the pub games at last month's clubnight, at which we all had a great night playing one another at long forgotten games!

Doug and I had a great weekend up in Wales on the Dixies Stage Rally which was run on the Sunday over the Epynt Stages. Given it was only Doug's second stage rally, first time on pace notes and first time in the wet he did remarkably well to bring the car home in one piece and not last. Also it's been ten years since I last read pace notes! Great stages and I can see how it's got its reputation. See Doug's full report elsewhere in the newsletter for more information.

I know it hasn't happened very often but the CSMA trackday at Castle Combe last month was a complete wash out, not only did I miss the first two sessions because of the accident on the M4 which closed the motorway, but the rain throughout the day prevented all but the brave or stupid from venturing out on the circuit, needless to say I left early having tip toed round the track on only two sessions.

Of course it was nobody's fault, that just the way it goes sometimes and it's also called our great British weather, so perhaps better luck next time! At least the tyre wear was non-existent and I still had spare fuel to take home!

Just to say the following day I attended a clay shoot in Cambridge and came home with sun burn!

In between the Dixies stage rally and the trackday, I enjoyed a wonderful day out at Lydd airport in Kent, when I realised my 60th Birthday present from Ann and the kids and family, which was a Spitfire experience. This entailed me going up in a chase aircraft to take pictures of the Spitfire whilst it flew alongside us and then once we had landed a walk around it and then a sit in the cockpit. For those who are technically minded it was a MKIV Spitfire, which has the longer nose to accommodate the second supercharger and is in my opinion one of the most beautiful aircraft ever made.

Needless to say the grin didn't leave my face all day as you can see from the photographs! This was a fantastic experience and I would recommend it to anyone. Although perhaps not quite as good as actually flying in one, it certainly is a lot cheaper! To round off the day, as it was close by, we also went on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch steam railway which I can also highly recommend; well granddaughter Sofia certainly enjoyed it!

Our season of grass autotests is very nearly upon us, so please make a note of the Greenacres on the 5th June, at which I am still looking for entries and marshals etc. Currently I have only one or two marshals so offers of help would be appreciated and we have only 6 confirmed entries and the same number promised, so again a few more entries would also be appreciated (*ED: since Mike wrote this a lot more entries have been committed, but may still be low on marshals*).

Not to forget we have North East London are organising the Grasshopper Autotest on the 3rd July, with more to follow in August and September, not forgetting our taster autotest on the 16th July and we have the Uxbridge car show on the 17th July.

I didn't make noggin last month as I was still on a BA flight back from a conference in Edinburgh, but perhaps I will see you on the 16th June at the Red Lion.

Mike H.





Secretary's spot

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Last month's Clubnight proved quite popular and most enjoyable with a number of 'interesting' pub games laid out for our amusement. Special mention must be made of John Clavey who managed to complete the whole course on the labyrinth avoiding all 37 holes along the way. My previous best amounted to about eight so it was really great to see that the task was possible.

Sadly my proposal last month to offer a visit to Pendley Manor Shakespeare Festival attracted very little support so it will not run as a Group visit but if anyone wishes to go along in their own right I believe tickets are still available direct from Pendley Manor.

The streets of Monte Carlo provided some great F1 action and good to see Lewis getting back on to the top step of the podium. It certainly looks as if we could have a great remainder of the year in F1 with some of the other teams finding speed and reliability to give Mercedes a run for their money.

It was also great to see Kris Meeke take another WRC victory last month in Portugal and with a bit more consistency we may yet have another British world rally champion to look up to.

If all goes to plan we intend to run a 'Taster Autotest' on the afternoon of Saturday 16th July at our usual autotest site at Studd Farm. The idea is to circulate details of the event to many members within the locality with an invitation to come and have a go in a 'provided' vehicle firstly as passenger next to an experienced autotester, and then have a drive themselves. The event will be free and possibly a barbecue will be provided to increase the social element of the afternoon. Obviously as much assistance as possible will be required so please keep the date free and come along and help out if you can.

Unfortunately I will not be able to support the Greenacres Autotest or our next Clubnight as I will be away in Scotland attending the Group Networking meeting. It would be good to see both of these events attract maximum support so please get along if you can.

For the immediate future we have the following;

Sunday 5th June – NWL Greenacres Autotest - the first of the summer series of grass autotests, in the capable hands of our Chairman. Usual venue at Studd Farm between Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard and any support to compete or marshal will be gratefully received as always.

Tuesday 7th June – NWL Clubnight will take the form of a walking treasure hunt in the capable hands of Shirley Baldwin. The walk will be based from our Clubnight venue at The Red Lion where the action will commence from 7.30pm. Let's hope for a nice evening weather wise and a pleasant time is had by all.

Thursday 16th June – NWL Noggin and Natter as normal at The Red Lion.

Tuesday 5th July – NWL Clubnight – the annual running of the Two Brewers Scatter event. Always an enjoyable evening, starting from the car park opposite the Two Brewers pub on Chipperfield common, with results being announced at The Red Lion, later in the evening. It is always advisable to get a prompt start so action will commence at 7.30pm.

Thursday 21st July – NWL Noggin and Natter as usual at The Red Lion

That's about it for now – hope to see you at some of the events.

Alan T

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
Jun	Sat 4	* Carnival Autosolo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Dolphin MC	
	Sun 5	* Greenacres Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
Jul	Sun 3	* Grasshopper Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NEL	Region
	Sat 16	Autotest Taster Event ()	Grass	CSMA NWL	
Aug	Sun 14	Chiltern Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
Sep	Sun 4	Autumn Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
	Sun 25	Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	
Oct	Sun 9	Haymaker Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA WMx	Region
	Sun 23	Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	

Licence required: (I/Nat A/Nat B/Cm) = MSA Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, * = Regs available

Past Events

Future Events

Greenacres Autotest The event will be on the 5th June this year and will run at the usual Dunstable venue. This will be a passenger carrying event and is held on a smooth grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and is suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £20 (juniors £10) and regs are now available. Mike Harrison is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

Grasshopper Autotest The second of the summer grass autotests will be running on Sunday 3rd July at the usual grass field. This will be a passenger carrying event and is held on a smooth grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and is suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £20 (juniors £10) and regs are available. Bernard Ward is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

Autotest Taster Event NWL are organizing a free introduction to the fun of grass autotesting for new members on Saturday afternoon 16th July at the usual venue at Studd Farm, near Dunstable, LU7 9JH. There will be cars to use (limited availability), passenger rides and expert guidance provided to show you what is involved and how much fun you can have. This will be followed by a BBQ in the field, to chat about the afternoons events.

Uxbridge Car Show The Motorsports Group have taken a stand at the Uxbridge Car Show again on Sunday 17th July to raise awareness of our activities at this prestigious large event. The event takes place at the Middlesex Showground, Park Road, Uxbridge, UB8 1ES. We will be hoping to catch some new members and raise awareness of the wide range of activities available to them.

Concorde Autosolo There were no dates available in July in the end, so will now be looking at the back end of October/early November to run it now. Hope to announce a date by the end of June.

Juniper Autotest Again I am waiting on the venue, back to the MK Dons Stadium in Milton Keynes hopefully, for a run later in the year around end of August/early September, which is the only period that will fit in the championship. Just waiting on the release of the 2016/2017 fixtures mid June to find out if they are being asked to play on a Sunday. Hopefully one date will be free and suitable and then we can have some more open tests again.

Grass Autotest Season If you look at the calendar above you will see all our other planned dates for the summer season of grass autotests, which also includes a new event. Hopefully you can all support these events either competing or marshalling.

Other Invites Please see the calendar above for other events we have an invite to. I can get regs for any of these, just contact me if interested.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 01525 720299

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com

NWL Clubnight - Tuesday 7th June

Walking Treasure Hunt

Starts 7:30pm at our clubnight venue, The Red Lion PH
Nice walk around the canal area of Nash Mills

Dixies Historic Challenge

Sunday the 1st May saw the 2nd round of the Old Stager Historic Stage Rally Championship take place on the Eypnt military ranges in the Brecon Beacons, just outside Sennybridge. The event was 40 plus stage miles with 12 stages taken two at a time, with a quick service in between.

The weekend had started well with Mike and I leaving Pitstone late morning on the Saturday with our trusty service crew Alex and Steven again. It's surprising after all these years, but I still know the back way to Mid Wales without a map, via Bicester, Stow in the Wold, Tewkesbury and Ledbury, as it's the route we use to use every year to get to the CSMA's (now discontinued) premier Road Rally, the Curtis Bennett. I even remembered the little road that by-passes Ledbury High St, but decided it wasn't suitable for Mike following, towing the Lancia on the trailer, as the exit back onto the main road is little more than an alleyway! We had lunch in the Morrisons cafe in Tewkesbury, as the Little Chef, just after the M5 junction is sadly no more and by this time it was pouring with rain! Once we reached Hereford, we headed for the Brecons and the drive was stunning, with the Black Mountains in the distance and all in glorious sunshine. Unfortunately we had been told we could safely park the car at the range, but with no other competitors in sight, we decided to take it to the Hotel in Llandrindod Wells, which resulted in adding 2hrs to the journey! We were staying at the Commodore due to its relatively large car park and eventually arrived at 7.45pm and proceeded to interrupt the start of a Masked Ball in order to gain access to our rooms! I had already decided that we would not eat at the hotel and had phoned ahead and booked a table for dinner at our old haunt, the Llanerch Inn, within walking distance, just down the road, which provided an excellent meal, just like the old days!

We got up at 5am due to being nearly an hour away from the venue (next time we will book a hotel nearer the entrance to Eypnt ranges), and scrutineering starting at 6am. But the hotel did very kindly leave out packed lunches for us. The car sailed through scrutineering with no questions this time and we set up the service area just off the tarmac area (god knows what time, other competitors had got there to bag all the prime spots!) and got signed on just before the rain/drizzle started which continued for the whole event.



Although I had a full set of wets with us, I decided to stick to the dry set up, as we were running as car 75, at the back of the field which meant that the cars ahead would hopefully dry the road for us, which proved the right decision.

The first car was not due to start until 10.30am, but there was a recce convoy at 9.00am, in a non competing car, for those who wanted a run over the stages at a gentle pace. We took full advantage of this and it was certainly useful to get our bearings on the start and finish points for each stage on the map and a first real sight of the stages.

This was only my second real stage event and the first using pace notes! Looking at them before hand made little sense to me, but after the first stage, it became clearer given that it seemed like every second instruction was "Crest"!!!!

The stages were run in pairs with a service interval in between (sometimes only 10mins, but enough for a pee break and drink). The service area was very crowded, which resulted in cars parked on the access road and to get pass, at times, one had to go off tarmac. Due to the drop from the tarmac to the grass verge, this resulted in loud graunch noises from beneath the car as the sump guard did

its job! Unfortunately this also prevented Steven and Alex from seeing any action, but at least they could shelter out of the rain in the Golf listening to the football or sleeping!

The car once again ran well and even the gearbox behaved itself. We even started to better some of the Mini times, as the stages seemed to suit the Lancia more than at Weston Park and certainly the chicanes were less severe (just big rocks on entry and/or exit!). However I can now fully appreciate why Eypnt has a reputation, as the tarmac is very narrow, the side of the road is littered with big rocks (don't cut, don't cut!!), or ditches, which meant if you went off tarmac, it was likely to end your rally and quite a few crews went out this way. On stage 7 the one "Big Jump" was followed by "Crest" and "Square Right" which due to the rears locking up after the crest, we took a diversion straight on. Luckily this was probably the only junction which had a grass run-off area with no rocks or ditches and I managed to keep the car going and got back onto the tarmac, to many cheers from the spectators. We found out later that we weren't the only crew to duplicate this manoeuvre and there was a suspicion that a previous car had dropped oil on the road! When we repeated that same junction, Mike ensured that I slowed down (by inserting "Slow Down, Slow Down" into the pace notes), and we stayed on the tarmac. Stage 10, had a very challenging downhill section over blind crests and a series of medium left and rights, and it was very sobering to see a Mini on its roof, having left the tarmac and gone end over end (the crew were out and uninjured) and I did take my foot off the gas for the last two stages, as having survived 10 stages, I desperately wanted to ensure we finished and we did!



The sun eventually appeared again for us to pack up and for the drive home. We even found a great pub for dinner on the route home, just outside Hereford. It was however a very long day, as Mike and Steven got home around 11.30pm, having been up since 5am, so thank goodness it was a Bank Holiday on the Monday. We finished what was a fantastic day for me, driving on challenging tarmac roads in Wales and to pace notes. So a big thank you must go to Steven and Alex for servicing in the rain, but also to Mike for sitting in the co-driver seat and somehow reading pace notes and not seemingly looking up, with me driving!

Out of 76 entrants we finished 55th O/A out of 56 finishers and 4th in Class C2. There were 15 retirements in all and 4 non-starters.

In the Old Stager Historic Championship, after 2 events we find ourselves 3rd in Class C.

Sadly we will miss the next event in the Championship, The Red Dragon IT stages on the 28th May, due to other commitments, but we have an entry in for the Garth Tyre and Auto Services Midsummer Stages on the 12th June at Caerwent, Monmouthshire (just over the Seven Bridge), which provides 6 stages over approx 65 miles of tarmac on MOD land. Thankfully they have the option of scrutineering on the Sat afternoon, so we shouldn't have to get up so early on the Sunday and the event is only 2.5hrs drive away.

Here are links to two "in car" video clips on YouTube, of Stage 9 https://youtu.be/6X_VFv9jls (4m 47s) and Stage 10 <https://youtu.be/aUL6kMhIb0U> (6m 44s), if you are interested.

Cheers for now Doug

NWL Greenacres Autotest - Sunday 5th June

Usual venue at Studd Farm, near Dunstable LU7 9JH

Mike Harrison organising - Entry Fee £20

All forwards tests on smooth grass, passengers required

Great fun day out driving - Marshals required

Regs available from website, Mike H or Mike B

NEL Grasshopper Autotest - Sunday 3rd July

Usual venue at Studd Farm, near Dunstable LU7 9JH

Bernard Ward organising - Entry Fee £20

All forwards tests on smooth grass, passengers required

Great fun day out driving - Marshals required

Regs available from website or Mike B

NWL Autotest Taster Event - Saturday 16th July

Usual venue at Studd Farm, near Dunstable LU7 9JH

A free introduction to the fun of grass autotesting for new members

Cars (limited availability) and expert guidance provided

Followed by a BBQ

TRING Brewery Visit

Thursday 27th October



It offers a relaxed but informative evening that includes a tour covering the history of the brewery, our beers and how they make them. There's fish and chips (other options available) halfway through the evening and beer flowing from the pumps all evening long!

Time 7:15 to 10:15pm

Price £19.50 per person

Minimum of 20 and maximum of 50 (friends welcome)

Contact Doug Harrison to book your place.

51st Club Council Meeting

The Club Council met for their 51st Meeting on Thursday 26th May at New Prospect House, London.

One of the key items on the agenda addressed the governance updates and the necessary revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Local Groups. These ToRs will be circulated to Local Group Secretaries in due course along with information concerning the election of the Local Groups Representatives on the Club Council who will be re-elected in September of this year. The Club Council also reviewed the final election processes for all Club Council and Group's Officer and committee positions.

The 3 Interest Group Leaders for Social, C&C and the Motoring Groups updated the Council on a positive start to the year with many activities seeing a good attendance from Members and a number of exciting events planned for 2016.

The Club Treasurer, Madeleine Grubb was able to report a very healthy position regarding the Member Communities finances. Madeleine was also able to update the Council with regard to the progress being made in updating the Finance Guidelines

for the Club Handbook and the forthcoming budgeting process for Groups planned to commence, as in previous years, at the beginning of July.

The Club Leader, Heather Glanville was able to give an update on the work the Club Management Group have been undertaking and in particular the preparation for the Groups Networking Meetings in Edinburgh (7th June) and Peterborough (11th June), plus details of an Induction Day for all new, and not-so-new, volunteers (*more details below*). Heather was also able to provide the Club Council with an update on the exciting progress the re-branding is making. Watch this space, more details very soon!

Volunteers Induction Day

On **Friday 15th July**, the Club Leadership will be hosting an Induction Day for any CSMA Volunteers who would like to be updated on the current practices and initiatives within the Member Communities.

This is an opportunity for any Group Officer or Committee member, whether new to the role or not, to visit CSMA Head Office in Brighton and meet with the Club Leadership to learn more about the enjoyment of

being a volunteer with CSMA and the vital role they play in our organisation.

The day will run from 10.00am - 2.30pm and include an opportunity to meet with the Member Communities team and other key staff in Britannia House. All travel and subsistence expenses will be covered plus any overnight accommodation if appropriate.

If you would like more details or would like to attend this session, please contact Nick Hoath nicholas.hoath@csmclub.co.uk or telephone 01273 744695



CSMA Head Office, Brighton

Volunteer of the Year

Will Members please note the deadline for all nominations for the 2016 Volunteer of the Year is Monday 13th June. Please email your nomination(s) using the appropriate form (found on the Extranet) to the Member Communities Team.

Independent Council Members

The deadline for nominations for the Independent Club Council Members (ICMs) roles is the 30th June. These positions are elected at the Association AGM in October.

Please forward any ICM nominations directly to the Association Company Secretary, CSMA Club, Britannia House, 21 Station Street, Brighton, BN1 4DE

Club Award

Following the sad loss of Collette Bolton, her Club Award was presented posthumously to her son, Ed. by Local Groups Representative Mike Millward. Ed was delighted to receive the award and said how thrilled his mother would have been to receive it herself knowing how much she had been involved with CSMA over many years.



Mike Millward presenting Collette Bolton's Club Award to her son Ed.

National Quiz

This year's National Quiz will be held on Monday 26th September, commencing at 8.00pm.



With even better prizes this year from Intercontinental Hotels Group and Barrhead Travel this hotly contested annual event, now in its 4th year, promises to be even more exciting than ever. To ensure your Group are involved, please contact the Member Communities Team and register your interest.

Peterborough Networking Meeting

It's not too late for members to attend this meeting being held on Saturday 11th June.

Please contact the Member Communities team if you would like to attend.

Feedback

We hope you find the Communique useful, however we are always keen to improve our communications, so if you have any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

Email:

member.communities@csmaclub.co.uk

or call: 01273 744695



Diary NWL 2016



CLUBNIGHT Venue
The Red Lion,
London Road,
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 9TD

NOGGIN Venue
The Red Lion,
London Road,
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 9TD

June

- Sun 5th** **NWL Greenacres Autotest**
- Tue 7th** **NWL Clubnight - Walking treasure hunt - 7:30pm at The Red Lion**
- 10th-12th WRC - Italy
- Sun 12th F1 - Canada
- Thu 16th** **NWL Noggin & Natter - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
- Sun 19th F1 - Europe

July

- 2nd-3rd WRC - Poland
- Sun 3rd NEL Grasshopper Autotest
- Sun 3rd F1 - Austria
- Tue 5th** **NWL Clubnight - Two Brewers Scatter**
- Sun 10th F1 - Silverstone
- Sat 16th** **NWL Autotest taster event followed by a Barbeque**
- Sun 17th Motorsports Group/NWL - Uxbridge Car Show
- Thu 21st** **NWL Noggin & Natter - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
- Sun 24th F1 - Hungary
- 29th-31st WRC - Finland
- Sun 31st F1 - Germany

August

- Tue 2nd** **NWL Clubnight - Playing Boule at The Five Bells, Stanbridge**
- Sun 14th** **NWL Chiltern Autotest**
- Thu 18th** **NWL Noggin & Natter - The Red Lion, Hemel Hempstead**
- 19th-21st WRC - Germany
- Sun 28th F1 - Belgium

Dates to reserve:

NWL Tring brewery visit - Thursday 27th October