**DURHAM AUTOMOBILE CLUB**

**NEWS SHEET – December 2023**

**Welcome to Durham Automobile Club**

A reminder that the club is open every Wednesday night at the Honest Lawyer from approximately 8.00pm where there is always someone there for a natter it is encouraging that more people are joining these evenings but it would be great to see more people there, if there is some type of activity that we could run that would encourage more people to attend please let the committee know.

Although club membership isn’t due until the end of January 2024 if you join, or renew your club membership from the 1st November your membership will run until the end of January 2025.

I produce this News Sheet from information I am aware off but there are many events that I have no information on, so if there are any information/reports of events past or in the future that you would like to share will our club members please forward them to me and I will include them in future editions of this News Sheet.

On behalf of the committee of Durham AC we wish all of our members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2024.

**Past Durham Automobile Club Events**

**Wednesday 15th September – Photo Scatter**

4 cars turned out for the latest evening navigation event, it took the form of a Scatter starting near Wolsingham. Competitors were given a list of villages to visit within the time limit, and to prove they visited the village they had to take a photo of the village sign. Competitors had two options head south to the villages at the bottom of map 92, or loop up Weardale and down Teesdale, to finish back at the Cross Keys in Hamsterley where we were again made very welcome. Three crews headed south with one completing the Dales loop, which proved the best option as they ended up winning. A special mention to Vicky and Sami who although finishing 4th did extremely well for their first event.

1st Andy Brown – Lindsay Burnip – 15 points

2nd Peter Masters – all alone – 14 points

3rd – Mick Stead – Val Nicols – 13 points

4th – Vicky Meachin – Sami Robinson – 11 points

**Sunday 19th November** **– Wackerfield Production Car Autotest**

After a two year break Durham returned to Wackerfield for a Production Car Autotest, the venue is limited with competitors driving along to the end of the lane, turning and returning to the start. A number chicanes and forward/reverse manoeuvres slow the competitors down, with changes in the turn manoeuvre giving variation to the test. Eleven competitors started the event on what turned out to be a very slippy lane, with the ground at the turn cutting up making lack of traction an issue, this resulted in a mass assault on cones as many cone strikes occurred. After 9 tests Lee Valentine was a clear winner but competition among the rest was very close.

Thanks to Peter for getting the venue and setting up the tests, Drew and Dave for manning the clocks all day, Mick for repeatedly setting up cones and to Andy for shovelling muck.

Final Results are:-

1st Lee Valentine – Vauxhall Nova – 716 secs

2nd Nick Brown – Nissan Micra – 788 secs – 1st class A

3rd Robin Hunter – Nissan Micra – 795 secs

4th Richard Young – MG Metro – 798 secs

5th Peter Masters – Suzuki Alto – 824 secs - 1st class C

6th Matty Critchlow – Vauxhall Nova – 827 secs

7th Mark Rayment – Mazda MX5 – 835 secs – 1st class B

8th Kevin Elliott – TR& V8 – 837 secs

9th Martin Cockerill – Mazda MX5 – 845 secs

10th Kim Gardiner – Citroen Saxo – 855 secs

DNF Richard Bland – Peugeot 106 – Engine problems

**Up Coming Durham Automobile Club Events**

No sporting events are currently planned but if anyone is aware of any suitable sites for an Autotest please let the committee know and we will see what can be organised. Or if anyone would like to organise a navigational type of event on a Wednesday night again please let the committee know and we will assist you.

**Wednesday 24th January** **– Annual General Meeting**

This will be a 8.00 pm at the Honest Lawyer more details will be circulated later, but if there is anyone who would like to take on an official role or be part of the committee please contact the committee.

**Classics at the Castle 2024 – at Raby Castle**

Following the success of the 2023 Classics at the Castle at Raby Castle the date for the 2024 show has been confirmed as Sunday 30th June. If you are an exhibitor or willing to assist on the day please put this date in your diary.

**Wearside Classic Targa Rally 2024 – at Nissan Sunderland**

After an absence of 2 years the Wearside Classic returns on Sunday 1st September, this event needs a lot of marshals so please put this date in your diary. Further details will be circulated later.

**Other Durham Auto Club Members Results**

**Stage Rallies**

Kinloss Winter Stages

Simon Jennings – Greg Bates – 37th overall (despite losing 7 minutes with electrical issue)

Grizedaie Stages

Stephen Petch – Michael Wilkinson – 5th overall

**Autotest**

Tranwell Production Car Autotest

Simon Jennings – Colin Fish – 2nd overall

Kim Gardner – Peter Gardener – 10th overall

**Targa Rallies**

William Paterson Memorial

Philip Hodgson – Lewis Hodgson – 3rd overall

Knutsford Targa Rally

Kevin Stones – Chris Holden – 5th overall

**Other events that Durham Auto Club have requested to assist at**

No requests for assistance have been raised for January or February.

**Other events in the coming months**

January

6th - Hartlepool Autotest

24th – New date for the Team Valley & MOT Service Centre Lambton Targa Rally being organised by Whickham and District motor Club

February

3rd - Hartlepool Autotest

10th – John Robson/Hexham Historic Navigational Rally, the only navigational rally run in the North East, organised by Hexham Motor Club, starting at the Hexham Auction Mart and covering 150 miles of Northumberland roads.

11th – Riponian Rally - A round of the ANECCC Stage Rally Championship run in the North Yorkshire Forest by Ripon MSC.

18th – Grant Construction Stages – Single venue rally run at Knockhill which is a round of the Scottish Tarmac and AS Performance Tarmacadam Championships

24th - Dishforth Targa a NESCRO event being organised by Clitheroe and District Motor Club

25th – East Riding Stages – A round of the AS Performance Tarmacadam Championship, a closed road rally in the East Yorkshire run by Beverley Motor Club

If there are any other forth coming events that members want the details shared with other club members, or any results or items that may interest club members, please let Gordon Dundee know and they will be included in the next News Sheet.