

Torque Talk



The magazine of Durham Automobile Club

March 2016

Important Information!

Durham Automobile Club New Venue launch Club Night, 30th March 2016

Details Overleaf



Marty Hall – Cadwell Park 2012 upper picture, Milburngate Car Park 1976 lower picture

Durham Automobile Club

New Club Venue Launch Night

30th March 2016

The Honest Lawyer, Croxdale Bridge

Durham DH1 3SP

8pm onwards

Following the trials and tribulations of the last few months, Durham Automobile Club is launching its new club night venue on the 30th March at the Honest Lawyer. This is a great time to renew friendships and hopefully meet up with members past and present.

There will be a free buffet generously supplied by Fred Henderson and catered for by The Honest Lawyer

We hope that you will come along and if possible bring along ex members and anyone who has an interest in joining the club or taking up motorsport as a hobby.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thanks go to the Management and Staff of The Honest Lawyer for their help and support in providing the facilities for our new club night venue

Editorial

Hi everyone, and welcome to the new look magazine. You may have noticed that it has been renamed in an effort to ring the changes and provide a fresh new look and feel, however those crinklies amongst us will recognise the name from the dim and distant past!

First of all, congratulations to all the new Officers and Committee members, and good luck to all those competing during the 2016 season, irrespective of what you are competing on and in.

I'm sure quite a few of you are wondering just who on earth is Marty Hall. Well years ago, when eight track cartridge players were still a must have in a car I was magazine Editor for a few years. I'm not going to wallow in the past and call them "the golden years" as in the future I hope that people will look back and say that 2016 and years to come were the golden years. But I did have a terrific time! So here I am again, some forty years later!!!

I have always been a motorsport enthusiast, and have competed in autotests, stage rallies, autocross, a hill climb or two and circuit racing. In fact John Nicholson was the unfortunate navigator when I destroyed my 2.3 litre Opel Kadett in Lambton Lion Park on the Ouston Gold Cup (thought I had killed him – he was sitting against the tree we had hit gasping for breath looking decidedly purple!) I had a great time servicing for Fred Henderson and the CCC Chevette, as well as competing when I could. We also built an Autocross car (the Simplex, made from two mini sub frames with the engine in the back) and assisted with some of the articles for CCC.

Motorsport took a back seat when I got married and had a couple of kids, but the interest was still there. I did an autotest at Brasside just for the hell of it a few years ago – just to see if I could still do it, and in actual fact I really enjoyed it. That reignited the flame and I'm not certain how it all happened, but when my road car – a Porsche 924 failed its MOT, I decided to turn it into a race car.

I had five good years in the Porsche 924 championship, with a home built car racing at venues such as Brands Hatch, Silverstone, Oulton Park, Cadwell Park – in fact just about all the major circuits in the UK and Croix in France. In my final full year I finished fifth in the Championship (yes there were a lot more than five competitors) in the final race of the season, gained my only podium finish at Anglesey. All this with a home built, run on shoestring effort with enormous help from my Son James.

I am now semi-retired having worked in the NHS for sixteen years (if you are registered with a GP in the North East you were on a server I was responsible for) but I still am an avid motorsport fan and will be attending the WEC at Silverstone and local events whenever I can.

However, as in the past, I will for the most part have to rely on those who attend or do the events to provide details of the event. This doesn't have to be an onerous task as I can take some scribbles and turn them into a report or have a chat with you. Without this sort of input, the magazine will be a bit thin even if it is electronic!

I think it is fair to say that we all have a bit of a task ahead of us to rebuild the club to its former glory, and I and I'm sure the rest of the committee are up for the challenge! But we need your help. I'm not going to say the usual guff and say "it's your club" etc. etc. because it's not, it's OUR club – we are all members, and we need it to flourish again. I hope we can rely on each other to make sure that it happens.

I had hoped to keep the Editorial to one page, however as time has progressed I have received further information and updates so the self imposed one page limit has been well and truly broken!

Many thanks to **Direct Car Parts** who have very generously supplied prizes for our Autotest series at Croft. Their support of these events is greatly appreciated. Thanks also go to the Management and staff of The Honest Lawyer – our new home – for their generosity in supplying the rooms for our meetings and committee meetings, and while I am going down the thank you route, many thanks to all those who have supplied articles, photos and suggestions for the Magazine/newsletter. This has enabled me to put together what I feel is a good first mag on my return as

Magazine Editor, a mere forty years since I last did it! (I know, I'm wearing quite well aren't I !!!!) Could I ask that where possible you support our commercial sponsors and colleagues whenever possible and hopefully we can grow the relationship between them and ourselves in the future.

One of the things that has brought in a bit of revenue to the club in the past has been advertising within the Magazine/newsletter. If you know of any business that would be interested in an advert within the mag, then please let me have their details and I will contact them personally. This can of course be extended to the website, more of which in the paragraph below.

The Committee has decided to go with a different developer for the website, and we hope to have an update as soon as possible once we have had an initial meeting with the new developers. You will no doubt be pleased to know that this new website will be mobile device friendly, and it will also be more in tune with searches from Google and other search engines. I'll keep you posted on progress!

Do you have any suggestions for club nights or an event that we could hold on a club night? If so could you let me or a member of the committee know.

Don't forget that Durham Automobile Club also has a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Durham-Auto-Club-290235977789949/?ref=bookmarks>

As well as the website, the Facebook page is an ideal place to find out what is going on as well as being a forum for comments etc. However, could you please ensure that you follow the house rules with regard to Facebook, and therefore don't post anything that contains bad language, personal attacks or is generally of an unsavoury nature.

I don't know how many of you go on the Ebay site, but just the other month there was a Clan Crusader up for sale in Stockton. An Ex rally car, and very much a project, it would be nice if the new owner restored it to its former glory. Mrs Hall wouldn't let me even think about buying it (the Crusader was the first car I really wanted at the tender age of 14!) and she was probably right on that one. There is no chance of that happening to any of my old competition cars! As mentioned earlier I destroyed my first rally car at Lambton Lion Park, and the second 2.3 Kadett was end over ended by its new owner. More upsetting was that my 924 race car was comprehensively destroyed at Brands Hatch by its new owner. Whilst the driver was initially concust, I was pleased that the floor (a noted weak point on a 924) hadn't let go and the cage etc. had done its job. Bit of a sad end to a really good race car.

The 2016 motorsport season is just about coming to life, so could I wish all competitors, organisers, officials, Marshalls and spectators a safe, happy and successful season.

See you on the 30th

All the best

Marty

P.S. There is one thing that hasn't changed over forty years – a MK2 Escort is still the car to beat in club rallying!

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the NEW edition of the club magazine called Torque Talk created by Martin Hall our new Magazine Editor for 2016. Martin and I will work together to keep you informed of Club events and Club members motorsport activities. So which ever communication medium you use (emails / Facebook / website), we hope to keep you informed.

The first two months of the year have been very busy with Durham members taking part in Auto tests, Rallies (Stage and Navigation). Our last Autotest took place at the very end of 2015 at Cummins and several Durham members have also competed at Hartlepool events.

Our next Club Autotest takes place on 16 April, which kicks of a series of four Auto tests at Croft Circuit. We have a different location at Croft this year and I am told the surface is better and the area is bigger which should lead to more varied tests. Auto tests are an ideal starter to motorsport because you can use your day to day car. All you have to do is make sure your car would pass an MOT and the noise level is below 100dB (there is a strict noise level in force at Croft). We need a lot of entries for the Croft Auto tests so please get your entry in before the closing date.

We have had many crews taking part in Stage and Navigation rallies. First rally was the Jack Frost stages at Croft, followed by the Hexham MC January Jaunt and February fling 12 cars events. Followed by the North West stages and the Riponian.

If you have any results please ensure you pass them onto our Competition Secretary Steven Perry (steve.perry1979@hotmail.co.uk).

Any other reports or information you would like to be added to the Magazine / Facebook / Website please forward to durhamautomobileclub@gmail.com.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 10 February 2016 at the Lambton Hounds Inn. The committee is full (List of Committee members can be found at the end of this magazine) and we have a list of people in reserve just in case people's personal circumstances change. We have also identified that some officer roles need support. If you would like to be considered as a support role, please let a member of the committee know. You will support the officer and stand in when they are unable to attend a committee meeting. This will benefit you, the committee and the club because the Auto club is run by the members for the members.

The Club has moved its meeting venue to the Honest Lawyer Hotel at Croxdale Bridge, Croxdale. This venue has excellent facilities which meet the requirements of a Club such as Durham Automobile Club.

Thanks

Andy Brown

Chairman of Durham Automobile Club

Malcolm Wilson Rally 2016

Seeded at car 93 for our second year of doing the event was probably the result of a poor finish last year due to having only 3 gears!

With a town centre start from Cockermouth by the Mayor we were soon on our way to the woods!

First stage was straight into Comb which we sort of knew as it was used last year as the second stage. No incidents to report and a clean run to start the day.

Second stage was Wythop. The stage hadn't been used for a couple of years so it was new to us. Little bit of a moment where a few had already gone off and we managed just to miss knocking a nice looking escort over the edge of a ravine! Steady away from that point on just to get the stage out of the way! Luckily it was only used that once throughout the event.

Third stage was the first run through Greystoke. It was at this point last year where we lost 1st and 2nd gear so to have a good run through here would be a first for us. We managed to have a clean run through and get a chance to see how many species had made the trip to the event.

After service in Penrith it was out to the fourth stage which can only be described as a mile of cobbly moorland! Just over a minute to complete which is barely enough time to get the brakes warm! Still an incident free run meant we were on our way to Grizedale North.

Many road miles later due to diversions because of the recent flooding meant by the time we got to Grizedale North for the fifth stage and we were both due for a nap. We had a steady run through Grizedale North which led straight into the sixth stage of Grizedale South.

Once out of Grizedale it was a long haul on the road back for the second run through Thorngill which made up the seventh stage. Again done in just over a minute due to how short it was we were thankful not to have to see it again till next year maybe.

Back to service for a quick splash and dash and out to Greystoke for stage eight and the final stage of the day. A good steady run through saw us to the finish and to 61st overall and 7th in class.





Proud Sponsors of the Durham Automobile Club Croft Autotest Series

Tel: 0191 3847803 or 0191 3849913 (During opening hours)

Direct Car Parts
Front Street
Framwellgate Moor
Durham
DH1 5AU

Email: sales@directcarparts.co.uk

<http://www.directcarparts.co.uk/>

John Nicholson's Jack Frost Rally

Following a major mistake on tyre choice for the first stage (snow tyres) which resulting in huge spin and 3.5 minutes on the grass before being pushed back on we set our sights on chasing the class lead. We eventually finished 2nd in class 10 secs behind winner. It was interesting taking time out of him throughout the event, but unfortunately we ran out of stages. However it was quite satisfying to get within 10 seconds.

Next event will be the Hexham Historic with Andy Magee. Hopefully I can make the right tyre choice!

John Nicholson



Durham Crew Photos from the Jack Frost Rally



Shaun Wilson & Rachel Heel - Riponian

Not a great rally!

A misfire started from stage two and stayed with us for the rest of the day. Because of the misfire, we couldn't get above 60 mph on some of the long straights, where we should have been at twice that speed. As soon as the engine hit 3000 rpm, the car just bounced and bounced. This also affected the ECU and differentials and as a result, the car kept trying to throw us off the stage!

We had one off on a straight section, the car lurched to the right and we went off. Luckily we recovered the car and didn't lose much time.

Shaun was really annoyed because this problem has been there for 5 rallies and they've had the car to bits and spent a fortune on it to try and find the problem. It has been on a rolling road but they couldn't find anything. Shaun thought it had been sorted with new head gasket and Pistons etc . but sadly the fault was still there - It was even a struggle to get up Sutton bank - so we were very surprised with 30th.

Rachel Heel

Stephen Petch finished 3rd O/A
Steve Petch finished 7th O/A
Rachel Heel finished 30th O/A
Steve Perry Finished 36th O/A

We Need More Members!

If you know of anyone who is interested in Motorsport, please offer them membership of Durham Automobile Club. The membership form is attached below and is very easy to complete.

We are planning to have some excellent club nights as well as competitions and events so please bring them along, bring their Wife, Husband or Girlfriend along, bring someone else's Wife or Girlfriend or Husband for that matter along – the more the merrier!

Forthcoming Events

Durham Auto Club will now meet every Wednesday at 8:00pm at the Honest Lawyer Hotel (see address and web link below).

Honest Lawyer Hotel, Croxdale Bridge, Croxdale, Durham, DH1 3SP.

<http://www.strhotels.co.uk/honest-lawyer-hotel/>

Durham Auto club Website

www.durhamautomobileclub.org.uk

Please come along and join us.

We will be announcing some club events for your diary soon, so please watch out for updates.

Rallies

			Marshals	Radio
Saturday 19 th March	Brick & Steel Border Counties Rally	Jedburgh	Guy Wickham guy.wickham@btinternet.com	Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com
Saturday 2 nd April	DCC Stages	Ingliston	Keith Cowan keith.cowan1968@btinternet.com ONLINE REEGISTRATION	Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com ONLINE REGISTRATION
Saturday 23 rd April	McDonald and Munro Speyside Stages	Elgin	Colin Christie colin.christie63cc@tiscali.co.uk	
Saturday 30 th April Sunday 1 st May	Pirelli Carlisle Rally	Carlisle	Online registration form	
Saturday 30th April Sunday 1st May	Berwick Classic		Please contact David Alexander david.alexander2012@btinternet.com	
Sunday 5 th June	Jim Clark Reivers Forest Rally	Kelso	Lindsay Burnip marshals@jimclarkrally.org www.jimclarkrally.org	Norman Halcrow n.halcrow@bcs.org.uk

Saturday 25 th June	RSAC Scottish Rally	Dumfries	Laurence Ferguson laiferguson@btinternet.com	Norman Halcrow n.halcrow@bcs.org.uk
Saturday 2 nd July	Mach 1 Stages	Campbelltown	Keith Cowan Keith.cowan1968@btinternet.com	Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com
Sunday 3 rd August	Tyneside Stages	Otterburn		Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com
Saturday 13 th August	Grampian Stages Rally	Aberdeen	www.grampianstages.co.uk	
Friday 19 th and Saturday 20 th August	Ulster Rally		www.ulsterrally.com	
Saturday 10 th September	Galloway Hills	Castle Douglas	jjbwallace@tiscali.co.uk	
Sunday 11 th September	Pendragon Stages	Warcop		Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com
Friday 30 th Sept Saturday 1 st Oct	Rally Yorkshire		www.trackrodmotorclub.co.uk	
Sunday 9 th October	Cheviot Stages	Otterburn		Lindsay Burnip poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com
14 th -16 th October	Mull Rally	Mull	http://mullrally.org/marshal-registration/online registration	http://mullrally.org/radio-reg/

Autotests

Regulations for the Croft Autotest on the 16th April are available now. Please get your entries in as soon as possible.

The events are being sponsored by Direct Car Parts who have put up some very generous prizes. First overall is a £25 voucher, and first in class will receive a £10 voucher to be used at Direct Car Parts shop in Framwellgate Moor.

Grateful thanks are due from DAC to **Direct Car Parts** for their support of this series.

Future dates for Croft Autotests are:

16 April 2016

14 May 2016

2 July 2016

1 October 2016

Hartlepool & District Motor Club - Dates for 2016

1. 20/03/16 March Clubman A/t AFW & PCA (Practical Car & Van Hire) @ Seaton Carew
2. 17/04/16 April Clubman A/T & PCA (Tones Cars.co.uk) @ Seaton Carew
3. 15/05/16 May Clubman A/T & PCA AFW(Practical Car & Van Hire) @ Hartlepool Town Centre
4. 12/06/16 June Nat B/Clubman A/T (Cars.co.uk/Practical Car & Van Hire) @ Seaton Carew * (Poss British Champ Date)
5. 17/07/16 July Clubman A/T & PCA (Tones Cars.co.uk) @ Seaton Carew
6. 28/08/16 Aug Clubman A/T & PCA AFW (b/h) (Practical Car & Van Hire) @ Seaton Carew
7. 25/09/16 Sept Nat B/Clubman A/T (Tones Cars.co.uk) @ Seaton Carew *
8. 23/10/16 Oct Clubman A/T AFW (Practical Car & Van Hire) @ Seaton Carew

AFW = all forward

(Events marked * are possible Association Autotest championship dates)

Officers and Committee Members 2016

Please do not pass on these details to any third party without the persons' permission

This list will be updated as and when necessary

Nicky Porter	nickyporter@btinternet.com	01388 772976	President
Steve Petch.			Vice President
Andy Brown.	aslsrat@gmail.com		Chairman
Chris Thirling.	Chris.thirling@gmail.com		Vice Chairman
Joan Wood	Joan.wood7@btopenworld.com		Secretary
Lindsay Burnip.	Poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com		Treasurer
Peter Masters	Peter.masters@live.com	07754 046543	Membership Secretary
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Michael Stead.	mgstead@live.co.uk	07947012550	General
Tom Hall.	group2fps@btconnect.com		General
Roger Broom.	Roggybroom@gmail.com		Nominated but no post to fill.

Torque Talk will be distributed the third week of each month

Disclaimer:

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