



Durham Auto Club

NEWS LETTER



Durham Auto Club meets at:
Lambton Hounds Inn
62-63 Front Street,
Pity Me,
Durham
DH1 5DE
Tel: 0191 3864742
1st Wednesday of the month - 8.30pm



Disclaimer:

Articles and reports supplied for the DAC Newsletter are the views of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Committee or other club members.

Reports and News articles:

If you have any results or reports of your motorsport outings or articles you would like adding to the Newsletter, please forward them to Newsletter Editor Andy Brown (andrewbrown.dac@gmail.com).

Committee



If you would be interested in any position on the Committee or you would like to nominate someone, please contact Tom Hall or pop along to the next committee meeting (see Club Diary below).

Annual General Meeting

The Durham Auto Club Annual General Meeting will take place on 10 February 2016 at the Lambton Hounds Inn (address shown above) at 7.30pm. The meeting will start at 8.00pm prompt. Member can re-apply for their club membership at the beginning of the AGM.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT ARI VATANEN SAYS, THE AUTO CLUB NEEDS YOU TO RUN.

Club Dairy and other Events

13th	January 2016	DAC Committee meeting
13th	January 2016	Scatter - N Yorkshire - ilkleymotorclub.org.uk
16th	January 2016	Vintage Rally - N Yorkshire - vscc.co.uk
17th	January 2016	Jack Frost Stage Rally - Croft - darlington-motor-club.org.uk
18th	January 2016	12 Car Rally - North Yorks - maltonmc.co.uk
19th	January 2016	12 Car Rally - W Cumbria - wcmcrallying.co.uk
20th	January 2016	WRC Monte Carlo Rally
23th	January 2016	12 Car Rally - North Cumbria - edenvalleymotorclub.org.uk
24th	January 2016	Sporting trial - Nr Penrith - nptcc.org.uk
24th	January 2016	Autotest - W Cumbria - wigtonmc.co.uk
27th	January 2016	12 Car Rally – Northumberland – DAC & Hexham MC
3 rd	February 2016	DAC Committee meeting
5th	February 2016	North west stages - Blackpool
7th	February 2016	Autotest - Brandesburton - northhumbersidemotorclub.co.uk
8th	February 2016	12 Car Rally -North Yorks - maltonmc.co.uk
TBC	February 2016	DAC AGM
12th	February 2016	WRC - Rally Sweden
15th	February 2016	12 Car Rally - W Cumbria - wcmcrallying.co.uk

17th	February 2016	Scatter - N Yorkshire - ilkleymotorclub.org.uk
20th	February 2016	Jack Neal Memorial Stages - Blyton
20th	February 2016	Snowman Rally – Inverness - hccmarshals@yahoo.co.uk
20th	February 2016	Classic Trial - North Cumbria - fellsideac.co.uk
21st	February 2016	Autotest - Seaton Carew - hartlepoolmotorclub.co.uk
28th	February 2016	Riponian Rally – Thirsk - Mark Williams - marshals@riponian.co.uk
28th	February 2016	12 Car Rally - Northumberland - Hexhammotorclub.co.uk

Auto Test Wheel Spin

Wigton MC Christmas Autotest - Maryport,

28 December 2015

Always worth the long drive over to Maryport. Luckily the main roads were clear, but lots of minor roads were still blocked with floods after all the rain. A full entry of 30 made for some stiff competition. The field was a mixture of classics and modern cars.

Three tests were set out on the huge derelict factory site. The tests were very simple and flowed very well. Tests can't be too tight for historic cars. The weather was much better than the last time I was here a month earlier, when it was under water.

We had a pleasant lunch break, with soup and rolls provided by the ladies had all done some baking. The cakes were delicious and well worth going over for that on its own.

It was good to watch cars like TR4's, Midgets, Mini Coopers, MG GT's being thrown around. I seemed to be doing well, especially after my main rivals lost their brakes. A Corsa and a Puma. Don't know where I finished as I had to leave early as was losing power steering fluid quite quickly. Stopped at garage in town to get some power steering before driving home. Managed to remove sump guard when got home and tighten up a loose connector.

Peter Masters

Durham Auto Club Cummins Autotest - Darlington

30 December 2015

This was our annual Christmas Autotest bash. We were rather unfortunate with the weather this time and that seemed to keep the entry numbers down to 13. The low entry meant we got lots of tests in. Not sure how many, but it was lots. Mark Thorton did a superb job with the tests. Not too hard and not too easy, but very enjoyable to drive. Felt sorry for the poor marshals, but the two Tony's and Tricia did a sterling job in the gale force wind and rain. There was a battle for the lead with Mark, Mark and Tom fighting it out in the Scamp, MX5 and Mini. You still can't beat a Mini though. Tom taking the win and trophy in the end. Graham Nicholson beat me in the FWD class in his ex Stu Leighton Puma, despite having hand brake problems. Stu never made it in his new Puma as his alternator had packed in.

Peter Masters

Hartlepool MC Plum Pudding Autotest - Seaton Carew

3 January 2016

This ran with a full entry of 30 cars. We were blessed with reasonable weather, for Seaton. It is normally cold and wet here. Two test areas were set out. One fast and open. One tighter and resembling an ice rink as it was covered in water and sand. Brilliant, just how we like it. I was having brain fade and found it very hard to learn the tight test. It sank in in the end, after much brain overheating.

We were privileged to have some excellent drivers here. Three Drift car drivers entered. They were fantastic to watch - Poetry in motion. Don't know about noise testing though. Don't think

Croft would let them compete. Great to see flames being shot across the car park. Although Mark in his Chevette and John in the Escort were faster and also brilliant to watch. Paul Swift, Tom Hall, Phillip Mayne and several other Minis were as fast as ever, battling it up at the front. They lacked power on the long test, but more than made up for it on the tight test. I was having a battle in the FWD class up against, Pumas, Corsas, Micras, Polos. Coming home in 2nd in his stripped out Corsa. I nearly caught him when he forgot to top up his 4 litre petrol tank and ran out of petrol on one test. We did not laugh much. Another great day out. Big thanks to Stu and his team. Rod (Whitby) Tony & Tricia (MG club) and all of the Hartlepool marshals, You might wonder who won. Silly question. You try beating Paul Swift in an Irish Mini.

Peter Masters

Road, Navigation and Stage Rally Round up

Christmas Stages Croft

27 December 2015

Before the Christmas stages at Croft we tried to find wheel rims and snow tyres to fit the GTM. It is easier finding false teeth for a rocking horse. But the week before the rally we had warm weather so luckily our lack of snow tyres would not be a problem.

As usual the morning sun in December would be very bright and low requiring Ed to wear sunglasses. I instructed him to bring a pair but as usual he forgot. So after a little rummage through Jason's Campervan we found a pair of Peppa Pig sunglasses that would do the trick.

We were seeded as car 30 and after a couple of trips onto the grass on stage 1 we were disappointed to be lying 25th overall. So heads down, we hit the tarmac keeping it well sideways on every corner. After 4 stages we were lying 20th overall.

During the lunch halt Malcolm Wilson took an Audi Quattro on a demonstration drive. Unfortunately he only drove the Audi Quattro around the Grandstand area which meant spectators around the Sunny complex missed it all. This left plenty of disappointed spectators.

The Wee Beastie (GTM) was going well apart from some very smelly brakes due to a warped disc and a sticking caliper. We freed the caliper at every service as we didn't have a spare disc or caliper.

The final four reversed stages went really well apart from catching a Citroen Saxo who refused to move out of the way until we out dragged him into the main straight chicane. We were also catching a Mitsubishi Evo as well but he would always move immediately out of the way. I won't start that debate about using mirrors because it causes many pages of arguments on the British Rally Forum.

Final 2 stages were run in the dark and thanks to our LED light bar we posted some really good times. If you need some lights for your car, I can fully recommend LED lights. They are cheap, easy to install, use low power and give amazing performance.

We improved our position from 20th to 14th Overall and 2nd in class 3. Paul Swift piloted by DAC member Jessica Swift finished a great 4th overall and second in class 4. Some results for the other DAC members are shown below.

Thank you again to our Fury Events service crew for keeping us going to a good finish. Next event is the Jack Frost stages on the 17th January also at Croft. Thanks to our sponsors Fury

Events or will it be ETATV Rally team in the future???

DAC Member Results

Paul Swift & Jessica Swift 4th O/A
Edward Todd & Andy Brown 14th O/A
John Nicholson & Peter Littlefield 50th O/A
Mark Burton & Zoe Burton 59th O/A
Mike Herrington & Rachel Anne Heel 63rd O/A

Michael Farmer & Kari Bates unfortunately retired when the gearbox on the Ford Focus let go.

Andy Brown

January Jaunt

27 January 2016

Durham Auto Club and Hexham Auto Club will hold a Navigation event on Wednesday 27 January and will feature a 55 mile route on maps 88 & 92, starting from Lanchester. John Nicholson (DAC) and Ed Graham (Hexham MC) are jointly organising this event to allow as many Durham and Hexham members to take part. This will fill up quickly so don't delay in getting your entry in. John and Ed will appreciate any support from DAC members to Marshal the route and controls.

There will be 2 classes, Expert and Novice. If you require REGS and an entry form please see the email I issued in December or contact me on my email (andrewbrown.dac@gmail.com).

Andy Brown

Regularities, Historics, Classic and Trials

Nothing to report.

There must be DAC members doing Regularities, Historics, Classic or Trials who can send us a report of their event or do you all sit and watch Big Brother. ☺
Send me a report, tell us what was it and how did you get on?

General and other business

Durham Auto Club Websites and Social Media

[Durham Auto Club - Facebook page](#)

[Durham Dales Classic Trail - Website](#)

Durham Auto Club Website link will provided soon.