

Torque Talk



WEBSITE ADDRESS:

The magazine of Durham Automobile Club

WWW.DURHAMAUTOCLUB.CO.UK

February 2017



A blast from the past! Chris Thirling and Chris Wilkinson on the 2011 Christmas Stages. We have a winner! Well done Peter Masters.

Club nights Jan/Feb/Mar

Durham Auto Club 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

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

Forthcoming Events

2017 Calendar

(WEDNESDAY unless stated otherwise)

FEBRUARY

15 th	FIRST ON SCENE Training	Honest Lawyer	8pm
22 nd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

MARCH

1 st	FILM NIGHT & TALK – Pete Masters Travels abroad on Motorcycle! (ALWAYS interesting! Not to be missed)	Honest Lawyer	8pm
8 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
15 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
22 nd	KARTING NIGHT entries £40.50 pp contact LINDSAY	see Torque Talk for more info or	
29 th	Table top Navigation Training	Honest Lawyer	8pm

APRIL

5 th	TREASURE HUNT (Pam)	Start TBA finish Hamsterley	
12 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
19 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
26 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

A future events diary will appear at the end of this edition of Torque Talk

Editorial

Hi Everyone, and welcome to a slightly more compact edition of Torque Talk. With the lateness of the January issue, this edition is a bit light on content, but I hope you still enjoy it.

I find it difficult to believe that a rally was cancelled because of Snow! Such was the fate of the Cambrian Rally. From what the Clerk of the Course has written in his press release, I'm sure he did it for the right reasons. BUT Rallying is meant to be a test of crew and car over loose, tarmac or "challenging" surfaces. Snow is most certainly challenging and driving a rally car on snow takes more than a little bit of skill, but that as they say is part of the challenge. By the same token, officials and Marshalls would shift hell and high water to ensure an event went ahead. When I think of the times I have Marshalled, spectated or serviced in appalling conditions I just wonder if the heart really has gone from Rallying. I sincerely hope it hasn't though I suspect it has.

Toyota are back! They took their first win of the 2017 season on the Swedish Rally. Its only taken two events since their return to the Championship! A very happy (apart from the bumps!) Jari-Matti Latvala took the win in fine style in the very aggressive looking Toyota Yaris. Granted that Thierry Neuville threw the win away for the second time in two events, but as the old adage says, "To finish first, first you have to finish" The Yaris is at the beginning of its development curve and I would say that the others are in for a fight and a half this season. From an enthusiasts point of view, with the latest spec cars and some really fantastic drivers, this season looks like it is going to be a corker!

Later on in this edition, I have gone into some detail regarding the possibility that all motorised "vehicles" which includes everything from a racing car to a motor mower will have to have Third Party insurance. Fred raised this item at the last committee meeting and spoke to me previously about it. Outwardly, it looks like bureaucracy has gone mad, but it just shows how things can spiral out of control. Take a look later in the mag – I hope I have provided a bit of clarity.

Congratulations to Peter Masters who correctly identified the sports racer in the competition which featured in the December and January editions of Torque Talk. So far I have only had one entry to the multi question competition I set. I'll give it one more month and then if I don't receive any other entries the only one I have received will win. Come on, have a go!

I have my tickets purchased and accommodation sorted for my annual pilgrimage to Silverstone for the World Endurance Championship. Sadly no Audi this year, so the LMP1 cars are limited to Toyota and Porsche. It will be interesting to see what happens to the premier category in the future. It's to be hoped that another manufacturer or even a privateer team running Audi's now museum pieces could be enticed into the championship, but somehow I doubt it.

Oops of the pre-season F1 testing goes to Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari. After a few hours running in an old car which had been modified to 2017 aero spec, Vettel lost control of the car and damaged the car so badly that the test had to be abandoned. That must have been some accident as I'm assuming that the reason for the test being abandoned would be the tub was too damaged to attach new or replacement pieces to it. What hasn't been mentioned however is the cause. Ferrari stated that Vettel lost control, but was that the result of a mechanical failure?

Also in F1, Rosberg stated that he would have preferred to see Alonso take his seat, as that would give Lewis something to think about or words to that effect. Looking at it in F1 terms, what Rosberg is essentially saying is that he couldn't get under the skin of Hamilton, so it needs

someone like Alonso to do it. I have to wonder if Bottas has the mental resilience to be considered a joint No1 driver.

Some of you may have missed the fracas between Sky TV and Discovery that so very nearly resulted in the loss of Eurosport and several other motoring orientated channels to Sky subscribers. It was all down to how much Sky would pay Discovery for their content. The point Sky was making, and I have to agree with to a fair degree, is that Discovery are showing repeat after repeat of old programmes and as such, shouldn't be paid as much. Happily a compromised was reached and Eurosport on Sky continues – along with Canadian based programmes which in one case described how they hoped to have a power station online before the new Millenium!!! Point proved I think.

Well I did try and give it a good go, but it's a close run thing between watching Formula E and Crown "Biscotti" drying on a wall (where do they get the names for paint from?) Up to now, Crown with its elegant cream coloured paint has it, but maybe that will change as the season progresses. Don't get me wrong, I would like to see a competitive electric powered series, but for whatever reason, this isn't doing it for me. Perhaps a grid full of Nissan Leaf's would be a bit more like it?

That couldn't be said of the Bathurst 12 hours. A superb long distance race which featured Ferrari, Bentley, Mercedes Benz and Porsche cars to name but a few. Unpredictable with several incidents which wouldn't have been out of place in a novice club race, however very entertaining!

If anyone has any out of date full harness seat belts or a couple of rally seats that would fit the Spitfire following the lifing of these components, I would be glad to hear from you. I cannot believe that this ruling has been brought in, which to me is yet another unnecessary cost to the competitor. If belts have been in a really big accident, are frayed, cut or damaged, I would replace them in any case, but just because they are a few years old is beyond my comprehension! The same applies with seats. Are the MSA hell bent on destroying grass roots motorsport with pointless regulations? It would certainly seem so.

Talking of the Spitfire, its two steps forward one step back at the moment. The more you dig, the worse the tub seems to be, and typically the parts that I need are no longer available. I have a distinct lack of skill in making the necessary repair panels and the results of my labours are frankly laughable! Maybe it's time to ditch this project.

The First on Scene training seemed to go down very well, sorry I couldn't make it. I do think it's useful to have this sort of training, not just from a motorsport perspective, but also in day to day life. I did at one point have my First Aider's certificate, and it's amazing how much help you can be to someone who is injured or has taken ill in the first few minutes and especially the "Golden Hour"

Just before I go, a timely reminder that subs for 2017 are now due (overdue?) If you want to keep on receiving this superb magazine and be a member of one of the best motor clubs in the country then it's time to cough up the dosh!

That's it for this month, good luck if competing, see you in March!

Marty

Chairman's Report

The new club year started on 1st February and we have already started our 2017 club activities.

We held a quiz night on the 8th Feb and a First on scene training night on 15th Feb. Thank you to everyone who supported these two events. Peter Masters will hold a Talk night (I've been told Peter's talk nights are not to be missed). We have a Kart night coming up very soon and further details are available in this magazine and Website.

Congratulations to DAC members Stephen Petch and Michael Wilkinson for their 1st overall on the Riponian Stages rally. Steve Petch also finished well in 7th overall in his WD40 Ford Fiesta. Andrew Hutchinson finished his very first gravel rally in 43rd overall. This was Andrews 3rd rally as a co-driver but his first ever finish. I am sure he will have lots to tell us for the next magazine. Mind you for his first gravel event he looked very chilled (see picture below). Ben Cree was our other DAC member competing on the Riponian stages rally but due to engine problems he had to retire. Ben had his Peugeot 205 recovered to the nearest pub, so he could drown his sorrows in a cold pint of Yorkshire nectar.



Catherine Hutchinson

On the road rally scene, Simon Jennings and Clive White finished 6th overall on the Hexham MC February Fling 12 car. The John Robson Historic Navigational Rally and the March Melee are the next rounds and a few Durham crews will be taking part in both of these events. For the DAC navigational championship, we will start with another training night at the beginning of March to the same format as last year. Then we will kick off with some Treasure hunts, Scatters and regularities. Keep your eyes and ears open for these events as they are a very cheap form of motorsport and great fun.

If you have any reports or information you would like to be added to the Magazine / Facebook / Website please forward to Martin Hall (martinhall49@gmail.com)

We have a calendar of events for the year which are available on the DAC website, hopefully there is something for everybody. We have some other events in the melting pot which we will inform you about when they are finalised.

Andy Brown

Chairman of Durham Automobile Club



Congratulations to Peter Masters who correctly identified the car above as a Malzoni GT.

Email from Nicky is as follows:

CORRECT!!!!!!

The car belonged to a Brazilian friend for many years and he has recently sold it to someone in Holland.

What makes the car valuable is that it was the first car that Brazilian F1 World Champion Emmerson Fittipaldi drove in a race, back in the 60's.

The story goes that he was leading a one hour race and with only a few minutes left of the race, the DKW 2 stroke engine dropped a spark plug and so he finished second.

So, in the end it only had 2 healthy cylinders left!!!!

When he rebuilt the car he got Mr Malzoni to help him. The car has always lived in Brazil until last year.



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We look forward to seeing you!



Fury EVENTS

Drive it • Shoot it • Ride it



Social Secretary report MARCH

Hi All

Now the nights are drawing out we can get down some events on club nights now!..Excellent.

We had a great turnout for the Quiz on the 1st of February, see John Nicholsons report.

By the time you read this there will have been the First on Scene training and Pete Masters will be getting close to hosting his film and talk night (More on these next time)

As you will see from the Club Calendar we have lots on offer already and the promise of more to come once we get a couple more dates firmed up...We will be running a 'proper' club championship this year and the NAVIGATIONAL one is suitable for those just wanting to do club night events and not the more 'serious' stuff. We really do offer something for everyone as a club so I hope you all enjoy the coming events. Treasure hunts, scatters and regularities, gymkhanas and grass events and more...

NOW for the big announcement..as you know last summer we held an **AUTO JUMBLE and CAR DISPLAY at WITTON CASTLE**, Chris Thirling and I organised it quite quickly but even so it was quite successful we think. It generated a lot of interest and we have had enquiries to see if we are going to do it again!..

WELL... YES WE ARE..

SUNDAY 16th JULY at Witton Castle again, a beautiful venue with lots of Durham Automobile Club history of events here going back over the years. We want this year's event to be BIGGER and BETTER and with more time to organise and promote the event there is no reason why we can't have a great day and attract cars and visitors from a wide area. To make it a success we want to get planning soon and we have decided to set up a SUB COMMITTEE to plan, organise and man the event, we will also need a few extra people on hand on the day.

We would like a few volunteers to join Chris Thirling, Andy Brown and myself on the sub-committee ANYONE can be on the sub-committee so please if you would like to be involved let one of us know and we will tell you when we are going to have a get together!

Last year we had a great day and even managed to raise some money for charity and show a small profit for the club. With some help we could make this into a great annual showcase for the Club.

SO if you are interested in the planning and organisation or just helping on the day PLEASE get in touch with Chris, Andy or myself. Contact details on last page of Torque Talk.

We are going to have a busy year for DAC Ltd and its members with lots of good banter, some serious and NOT so serious motor sport and lots of good company and laughs.

Looking forward to seeing everyone enjoying themselves..

All the best

PAM

Social Secretary

The End of Motorsport?

Much has been made of a ruling by the European Court regarding the Vnuk ruling that has rightly caused quite a kerfuffle within motorsport circles. I have done a bit of research and hopefully I can bring a bit of clarity to the situation – at least for now – as this is all very complicated.

The ruling stems from a judgment in the case of Vnuk v Triglav, case C-162/13 before the European Court of Justice, and known as the Vnuk judgment (The case involved a Slovenian farm worker, Damijan Vnuk, who was injured when he was knocked off a ladder by a tractor reversing with a trailer). Vnuk was working on a farm at the time, and sued for compensation from the motor vehicle insurance policy of the tractor. The lower Slovenian courts rejected his claims, but the Slovenian Supreme Court referred the case to the ECJ (European Court of Justice).

The ECJ then issued a proposal that all motorised vehicles should have Third Party Insurance, and that would include anything from a motor mower to a racing car. The problem is that this proposal has been extremely badly worded, and as it reads at the moment, it covers any motorised vehicle. A fix to this had been proposed which was meant to be in place before the end of 2016. This would have clarified the proposal so that the need for Third Party Insurance would only relate to vehicles used for road traffic purposes. Needless to say, no such alteration has been published and as such the initial proposal still stands.

However, as the UK voted to leave the EU in the referendum, can't we just ignore it and essentially plough our own furrow? Sadly not, as we will still be a member of the EU for two years following the triggering of Article 50. There is the potential for this proposal to become European Law and for us to have to abide by it. If it does become law, then it is likely it will remain as a consequence of the UK transferring European Law into British statute as part of the Brexit process.

One has to wonder how someone getting knocked off a ladder in Slovakia could potentially have the effect of providing a load of business for the insurance industry whilst increasing costs for anyone with a motor mower but that is the way it is. The critical point is that the amendment to the proposal needs to be made or we could be lumbered with this. Could I suggest emailing or writing to your MEP to communicate your displeasure?

As I said previously, this is a complex issue, and if you want more detail or a greater insight, there is a superb article on the Motomatters website. The address is https://motomatters.com/analysis/2016/12/23/no_the_end_is_not_nigh_for_motorsport_in.html

Marty

The - I'm too full to eat any more Quiz

It would appear that this quiz would be better suited to Mastermind than the club mag!

I have one entry, which unless I receive any others over March will win the prize. That entry wasn't all correct, so I will change the rules to the most correct entry will win the bottle of plonk!

Simply list on an email numbers 1 to 25 with your answer next to it and send your entry to dacveterans@gmail.com.

- 1 Mixture and Petrol
- 2 132
- 3 Damn Fine V8

Go on, have a go!

Competition open to all DAC members and Veterans, the editors decision is final

- 1 What does the acronym MAP stand for in engine management terms?
- 2 What was the number of the original Durham Ordnance Survey map (red cover)?
- 3 The Ford Cosworth V8 Engine type DFV – what does DFV stand for?
- 4 Who was the primary sponsor of the Group4 Escorts driven by Pentti Airikala and Malcolm Wilson?
- 5 Bagshot in Surrey was extensively used to test rally cars, what was its primary purpose?
- 6 What was the type number of the Tyrell six wheel racing car?
- 7 What is the primary constituent of AdBlu now being used in some diesel vehicles?
- 8 Where on a car may you find a trunnion?
- 9 Which manufacturer produced the first mass production fuel injected petrol engine car?
- 10 How many cylinders did the BRM Type 30 F1 car have?
- 11 Which electronic manufacturer produced the first practical electronic ECU to control spark and fuelling?
- 12 At which British racing circuit would you find Gerrards corner?
- 13 Who first produced the A2 rally tyre?
- 14 Fred Henderson rallied a 1600 Toyota Corolla in the 70's, what was its type number?
- 15 Stig Blomquist was famous for driving which two makes of rally car?
- 16 Hans Thorsellius was the regular co driver for which driver?
- 17 Who is the 2016 World Rally Champion?
- 18 Who holds the record for the fastest F1 lap at Silverstone Circuit?
- 19 Which type of car will the 2017 Toyota WRC car be based on?
- 20 Who was the 1982 World Rally Championship driver?
- 21 How many times has Sebastian Loeb won the WRC?
- 22 Where is the Ferrari headquarters based at?
- 23 Which multiple champion manufacturer will rejoin the BTCC in 2017?
- 24 How many times did Tommi Makinen win the WRC?
- 25 What was the type of Mercedes that Nicki Porter rallied and who was the primary sponsor?

Apologies if the above are a bit techie, but I couldn't make it too easy!

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DAC Veterans Register

Still no new members so I think that its time to decide if there is any mileage in a Veterans Register. The ex-members who have been in touch will remain on the email distribution list, but the thought of having a section devoted to ex members and events aimed at them may be something that isn't going to fly. I'll leave the registration open in case we get any interest this month, but as good an idea as this is, I have to say I'm very disappointed by the result.

Many thanks

Marty

Urgent Appeal:

We are in desperate need of venues to run Autotests and other club related events

If you know of anywhere that could possibly be used as a location for an event, could you let me or another committee member know so that we can make contact with them to see if arrangements can be made.

Email me at dacveterans@gmail.com or contact any committee member

Many thanks

Marty

Forthcoming Events

2017 Calendar

(WEDNESDAY unless stated otherwise)

FEBRUARY

15 th	FIRST ON SCENE Training	Honest Lawyer	8pm
22 nd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

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15 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
22 nd	KARTING NIGHT entries £40.50 pp	see Torque Talk for more info or contact LINDSAY	
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APRIL

5 th	TREASURE HUNT (Pam)	Start TBA finish Hamsterley	
12 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
19 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
26 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

MAY

3 rd	GORDON Event more info to follow		
10 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
17 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
24 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
31 st	GRASS EVENT WITH BBQ	Stuart Andersons	TBC

JUNE

7 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
14 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
21 st	QUAD & CLAYS	FURY EVENTS	TBC
28 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

JULY

5 th	TREASURE HUNT (John)	venue and time TBC	
12 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
16 th	SUNDAY AUTOJUMBLE & CAR DISPLAY	Witton Castle	TBC
19 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
26 th	GRASS GYMKHANA	Ed Todds (Witton le Wear)	TBC

AUGUST

2 nd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
9 th	Committee Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm

16th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
23rd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
30th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

SEPTEMBER

3rd SUNDAY	DURHAM DALES	NISSAN	TBC
6th	Treasure Hunt or Scatter (Lindsay)	Venue & Time	TBC
13th	Committee Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
20th	QUIZ NIGHT	Honest Lawyer	8pm
27^h	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

OCTOBER

4th	SCATTER (Pete Masters)	Venue and time	TBC
11th	Committee Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
18th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
25th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Some Nog & Natter nights will change to events as the months progress. Email notifications will go out but keep an eye on Torque Talk and the website!

For Example we have a REGULARITY TRAINING exercise and a 'proper' REGULARITY to schedule probably one in April and one in May, just waiting for Nicky to confirm dates..

Officers and Committee Members 2017

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

This list will be updated as and when necessary

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