

Torque Talk



WEBSITE ADDRESS:

The magazine of Durham Automobile Club

WWW.DURHAMAUTOCLUB.CO.UK

May 2017



The beautiful and loud class winning Aston Martin and the amount of dismantling needed to replace a single exhaust on the Renault V8

Club nights May/June

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

MAY

31 st	GRASS EVENT WITH BBQ	Stuart Andersons	TBC
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JUNE

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

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

2 nd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
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9 th	Committee Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
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16 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
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23 rd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
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30 th	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
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A future events diary will appear at the end of this edition of Torque Talk

Editorial

Rarely do I disagree with officials and the MSA with anything to do with safety, but as far as I am concerned they have got it totally wrong with respect to Church corner at Thruxton. In one of several accidents there over the BTCC weekend. Dan Lloyds car rolled and hit the barrier on the outside of Church really hard which almost destroyed the car, as well as winding Dan in the process. So the barrier did it's job and saved the car from a visit to the nearby trees, what am I complaining about? Simply, why wasn't there a tyre barrier there? The explanation given by one of the Thruxton officials was that they had been advised against it as it could spin the car round. That may be the case, but a handy by-product of old tyres is that they make excellent deceleration barriers. Hitting an Armco at eighty miles an hour, or hitting a tyre barrier before hitting the Armco? I know which one I would choose!

Sadly we lost a rallying great this month. Timo Makinen was one of the original flying Finns, and along with Paddy Hopkirk proved that a Mini in the right hands could win rallies. Other highlights of his career were that he won the RAC rally three times in a row, and also won the inaugural Round Britton Powerboat race in 1969. There are a few super video's of Makinen driving the mini mainly with his left foot hovering above the brake pedal and his right foot planted firmly on the throttle – several times he can be seen to change gear without using the clutch without any difficulty at all. Makinen, Carlson and Mikola, absolute masters of the sport from a small country with a lot of lakes.

Wasn't the last round of the WRC in Argentina exciting! Thierry Neuville and Elfyn Evans were separated by a mere 1.3 seconds! The TV coverage highlighted where Evans essentially lost the event, however I'm sure that his time will come. Sometimes it's hard to get that first win, but once it has been achieved, quite often others follow. I hope this is the case with Elfyn as his driving was near faultless all the way through the rally.

I am really proud of the way that the motorsport community has supported Billy Monger following his dreadful accident. It's very unlikely that he will ever drive a single seater racing car again, but hopefully he could drive an adapted Ginetta or even a Touring Car should he still want to race (and it would appear that he does!) and providing he is quick enough in an adapted car to make it worthwhile, I see no reason why he shouldn't have a long racing career. He celebrated his 18th Birthday whilst in hospital, and he apparently said that he was going to go out and get legless – you cannot doubt his character!

There have been a few accidents in open wheeled cars of late in motorsport, and the one thing that is clear to me is that F1s current obsession with cockpit protection is misguided. I appreciate that there have been serious accidents with dreadful consequences due to wheels hitting drivers, but nothing is going to stop a wheel from doing damage at high speed. F1 states that the technology they use will be relevant to road cars in the future. As far as the HALO and other similar devices are concerned – unless you drive an Ariel Atom – that would appear not to be the case! Wouldn't it be better to – for instance - to try and improve impact protection for open wheeled cars in lower formula and make wheel tethers mandatory for all open wheelers?

Still no news on what is happening with regard to this ridiculous insurance requirement that the EU is trying to foist on us all. I have scoured the internet to see if there has been any updates, but as far as I can see, there hasn't been anything of note – unless you know better of course.

I have decided to try and find the Holy Grail as another pastime over the next few months as trying to find a car to replace our ageing Merc is proving to be ridiculously difficult! Miles of travel to see

supposed “Mint” examples have only proved to me that my idea of Mint and the seller’s idea of Mint are far apart – even after phone calls and assurances that there was “absolutely nothing wrong with the car at all” Chipped windscreens (in the drivers eye line!!!!) paint dropping off, SRS lights, sport mode not engaging a non-operational folding roof are just some of the notable issues not forgetting the wafer thin discs and rubbish brakes on a five litre V8 CLK which is capable of 155mph (providing you retain the limiter!) There is a Merc or BMW for us out there – somewhere – just not sure where though!

Talking of irritating faults, we had an issue on the CLK the other day which had me scratching my head for a while. Cruise control wouldn’t work above 65mph. Couldn’t understand why this would be the case until I twigged that this fault only occurred since we had two new front tyres fitted. It would appear that the different diameters of the front and rear tyres and the speed differential between the two was enough for the cruise control computer to err on the side of caution and disengage. Suppose I will have to contemplate two new rear tyres before too long!

Fernando Alonso has accepted that he isn’t going to break any of Michael Schumaker’s records so he has decided to try and do the treble of F1 World Champion, Indy 500 winner and Le Mans 24 Hours winner. Can’t say I blame him for doing the Indy 500 rather than try and get that McLaren to do anything round Monaco. Reports seem to suggest that he is in with a chance, though he was ten or so miles an hour down on what would be needed in his rookie test. His comments to his engineer at the last GP at Sochi were proof positive that his patience has worn as thin as its going to go and Indy may prove a welcome relief. However if he did win, there are no WEC drives available for next year – unless of course some other manufacturer comes in to the series. Now bear with me on this flight of fancy! Just suppose that Jenson Button replaces Alonso for Monaco and it rains. I don’t think there is a better F1 driver in the wet than Button and if the engine can keep going for long enough (no need for ultimate horse power in the wet), he may be in with a shout for a place on the podium. If its sunny and warm, then the “beautiful people” will be treated to yet another demonstration of the decline of McLaren and Honda.

As I mentioned Le Mans, I had a super time at Silverstone for the WEC six hour race – the first proper race of the season for WEC cars before Le Mans. What was interesting though was the progress being made by a couple of drivers in the support races. Lando Norris won his first European F3 race and then had a bit of a torid time in the second and third races, however I still think he is an F1 driver in waiting. However another driver in the 3.5 V8 series really caught my eye. Pietro Fittipaldi was the class of the field – and it showed! Grandson of Emerson Fittipaldi, he was able to win both races, even though he had a down on power engine in the first race due to a broken exhaust manifold (I saw the pieces in the pits and it was totally broken not cracked!) It’s going to be interesting to see how quickly he is recruited into an F1 team, especially if he wins the series.

CHANGE OF DATE Don’t forget that the MG Touring Car drivers will be at Fred Henderson’s garage on the **FRIDAY** evening before the BTCC event at Croft. I know that DAC is very definitely a Rallying club, but if you have never been to a race weekend at Croft, the Touring Cars is the one to go to.

Have a super month, especially if competing, see you at Croft?

Marty

Chairman's Report

Congratulations to DAC club members, Stephen Petch and Michael Wilkinson on their win on the Plains rally.

Simon Jennings, Clive White took part in the South of Scotland Targa rally. Simon and Clive had a great run and finished 5th overall. Well done guys, not bad for a car borrowed from Simon's daughter. Gordon Dundee and Alistair Dundee tested out their "new" Citroen R2 C2 and finished just outside the top ten.

Another surprise result was on Gordon's Scatter. Kimberley Richmond and Peter Gardener finished 1st overall on their very first navigational event. The little blue Lupo was seen on 3 wheels as they pushed to take a clear 2 point victory from Mick Stead & Ben Wilkinson.

You may have all seen in the MSA newsletter that the MSA has launched a new monthly marshal prize draw. This month the first two marshals pulled out of the hat received a Sebastien Ogier signed program from Corsica. They have also sent out welcome packs to over 8,000 marshals. But is it enough by our governing body towards this valuable band of volunteers? It is a simple fact that we cannot compete without marshals and the essential service they provide. Could the MSA do more to make marshals feel more valued? What can organisers do without an increase in the competitor's entry fees? As a competitor, donating to the marshal fund and thanking Marshals at every opportunity is a good start, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. As we have seen in the last few months, clubs are struggling to get enough marshals to man stages with the bare minimum. More and more clubs are using the MSA to reach MSA registered marshals with call outs for marshals. As one of the largest clubs in the North East we can all do our bit. So I ask all DAC members to consider registering / training as an accredited Marshal and supporting the local events in the UK before we lose them.

Two other items in the MSA newsletter which are well worth a read:

- The announcement that the MSA will release documents to help organisers plan closed road events. The documents are now available
- Report on the VNUK EU directive that all motor vehicles used on or off the public roads must have third party insurance. The report states that the MSA and UK government both want motorsport to be excluded from the EU Motor Insurance Directive (VNUK EU legislation) but the EU have announced further delays to their review process. Which means UK Government may be forced to adopt this directive with an impact on motorsport.

I would like to remind all Durham Auto Club members that they get a free entry for the Classics at the Castle car display and Auto Jumble. So if you want to show your pride and joy, competition car, hold an auto jumble stall, then please fill out an entry form and sent it to Pam Broom. It's free and a great place to visit for the day as Witton castle has a bar, restaurant and a play area for the kids.

We also need marshals for the event so if you are free on Sunday 16th July, pop along to Witton Castle and support your Motor Club.

Andy Brown

Chairman of Durham Automobile Club



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Front Street
Framwellgate Moor
Durham
DH1 5AU.

Social Secretary report 19th April

Hi everyone,

Social Secretary report 10th May 2017/ Other Events

As the winner of our TWO Tickets for London Motor Show was not able to attend due to work, the tickets were offered to club members at the Honest Lawyer Club Night on 26th May, Ian Burrows took the tickets and I did see a photo of him and a friend on the journey down by train – hopefully he will give us a short report on the show at some point for the magazine.

We had an excellent turnout of DAC members visiting Dr Syntax and Hexham last week. We had some 15 or so members taking part in a quiz that was a bit too specialised for some of us- namely Durham Duffers who steadfastly held on to bottom place. Other teams fared better with a Durham team finishing 3rd. It was a good night but late!

Our next DAC 'event is next Wednesday 17th a Scatter arranged by Gordon Starting at Raby and finishing at Hamsterley. – report on this for the next magazine.

The Grass Event due to take place at Stuart Andersons on 31st May (& BBQ) will be postponed and re scheduled, I will keep you informed

Look out soon for an email regarding a fun night REGULARITY TRAINING RUN on 7th JUNE (Pam & Andy to arrange) More to follow

After the QUIZ at Hexham last week we had a couple of offers to run another quiz night so this is something we can look forward to. ..Will keep everyone posted, I have a hankering for an outdoor quiz and BBQ night!!

We have a FUN NIGHT scheduled for 21st June at FURY EVENTS Courtesy of Ed Todd.. We will have a variety of fun activities. As soon as I catch up with Ed we will let everyone have more details BUT be warned I think this will be so popular look out for the details and get your space BOOKED!!

The Treasure Hunt scheduled for 5th JULY is now going to be organised by Andy Brown and start and finish will be Honest Lawyer and will take in roads not used much by the club so a change of scenery for us all. It sounds an interesting run out being a bit of a cross between a treasure hunt and a scatter! For those that find an all map scatter daunting this combines map references and 'clues' Should be a good one!

More info on these events will follow by email and in next magazine.

Pam Broom

Social Secretary

Best Interior will also have an award and there will be a **MARSHALS** draw on the day to recognise the sterling efforts of volunteers (***incidentally anyone wanting/willing to marshal on the day please contact Pam Broom or Pete Sewell..***)

1st 2nd and 3rd places will get medallions and rosettes and we hope to have a few additional 'fun' awards on the day..

ALL entrants will receive a certificate of recognition.

This event has the potential to be a real flagship in the Club Calendar and we are already getting enquiries about 2018!

I hope lots of members and friends will take part on the day, either with displaying/entering a car or vehicle or having an **AUTO JUMBLE** table or two!

Its a great way to get rid of stuff and also to 'find' those elusive parts you REALLY must have! I know one member last year had a stand and made a small amount and managed to spend a FEW HUNDRED pounds on 'essential' items!!

It promises to be a good day so be sure to get involved!

pam.broom@btinternet.com for general questions and entries

ssewell15@hotmail.com volunteer marshals

The Honest Lawyer, Croxdale Bridge

Durham DH1 3SP

The hotel's renowned AA rosette awarded Baileys Bar and Restaurant. Food served all day, offering a quality combination of locally sourced food, a relaxed atmosphere and friendly service.

Menus change seasonally, created by respected Executive Head Chef Harry Bailie, with inspired dishes and hearty classics.

Bailey's bar offers a more relaxed dining option, where dishes such as the popular Homemade classic steak burger; fish and chips served, along with an extensive selection of beers, wines, spirits. Speciality teas and coffees are available throughout the day, along with a lite-bite lunch menu.

We look forward to seeing you!



Fury EVENTS

Drive it • Shoot it • Ride it



DURHAM AUTOMOBILE CLUB Ltd

2017 Championships

Results from 1st March to 30th April 2017

If you have results that are missed please contact Gordon Dundee gandjdundee@gmail.com (note new e-mail address)

Stage Rally

Malcolm Wilson Rally

Steve Petch – 13th class B14 – 1 pt

Border Counties Rally

Ben Cree – 2nd class 2 – 9 pts

Andy Brown – 2nd class 2 – 9 pts

Le Holland Memorial Rally

Paul Swift – 2nd class D1 – 9 pts

DCC Stages

Ed Todd – 7th class 3 – 4 pts

Andy Brown – 7th class 3 – 4 pts

Somerset Stages

Stephen Petch – 1st class B14 – 10 pts

Michael Wilkinson – 1st class B14 – 10 pts

Pirelli Rally

Stephen Petch – 1st class Club – 10 pts

Michael Wilkinson – 1st class Club – 10 pts

Steve Petch – 2nd class Club – 9 pts

Andrew Hutchinson – 2nd class D3 – 9 pts

Points Standings

Drivers

Stephen Petch – 30 pts

Paul Swift – 27 pts

Steve Petch – 14 pts

Ben Cree – 13 pts

John Nicholson – 10 pts

Ed Todd – 4 pts

Co-Drivers

Michael Wilkinson – 30 pts

Andy Brown - 17 pts

Andrew Hutchinson – 10 pts

Marshals

If anyone has not been credited days when they marshalled please contact Gordon Dundee asap.

Border Counties Rally

Lindsay Burnip, Gordon Dundee (2 days), Alistair Dundee (1 day)

Pirelli Rally

Peter Masters, Gordon Dundee (2 days), Lindsay Burnip (1 day)

Berwick Classic

Lindsay Burnip

April Treasure Hunt

Pam Broom

Points Standings

Lindsay Burnip – 4 Pts

Gordon Dundee – 4 pts

Pam Broom – 3 pts

Peter Masters – 2 pts

Alistair Dundee – 1 pt.

Stuart Anderson – 1 pt.

Chris Thirling – 1 pt.

DURHAM AUTOMOBILE CLUB NAVIGATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Position	Driver	Organisors Points	April Treasure Hunt	May Scatter	July Treasure Hunt	September Treasure Hunt	October Scatter	TBC	Total
1st	Gordon Dundee		10						10
2nd	Andy Brown		9						9
3rd	Chris Thirling		8						8
4th	Simon Jennings		7						7
5th	Roger Broom		6						6
6th	Nicky Porter		5						5
7th	Peter Sewell		4						4
8th	Ian Burrows		3						3
9th	Mick Stead		2						2
									0
									0

Navigator

1st	Janelle Dundee		10						10
=1st	Pam Broom	10							10
3rd	Steve Stockell		9						9
4th	Stuart Anderson		8						8
5th	Clive White		7						7
6th	Lindsay Burnip		6						6
=7th	Wendy Porter		5						5
=7th	Kim Richmond		5						5
9th	Sue Sewell		4						4
10th	Micky Halliwell		3						3
11th	Ben Wilkinson		2						2

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	see Torque Talk for more info or contact LINDSAY	
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

MAY

3 rd	Nog & Natter	Honest Lawyer	8pm
10 th	COMMITTEE Meeting	Honest Lawyer	8pm
17 th	Gordon Dundee Scatter	more info to follow	
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
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9th	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

Nicky Porter	nickyporter@btinternet.com	President
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Andy Brown.	aslsprat@gmail.com	Chairman
Chris Thirling.	Chris.thirling@gmail.com	Vice Chairman
Vacant		Secretary
Lindsay Burnip.	Poshbirdincontrol@btinternet.com	Treasurer
Peter Masters	Peter.masters@live.com	Membership Secretary
Peter Sewell	ssewell15@hotmail.com	Chief Marshal
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Torque Talk will be distributed the third week of each month

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