



BACKFIRE

www.northwestcasualclassics.com
www.nwcc-backfire.blogspot.com

January 2009

Editor's Word

Hello to everyone and a Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Santa brought you all you asked for. As John has been away for Christmas he asked me to put a few words together for this issue as he may not have time (or be sobered up) when he returned.

We had a great year as a club last year with the awards won and I'm really looking forward to this year's show season. We should be able to build on this from now on. I think we are now really getting ourselves on the classic map. The February issue of Practical Classics featured our club on their club guide pages with words by Dave Espley and a photo by yours truly. The issue is still on sale and Mike has reproduced the feature on the web site.

Personally, I'll be glad to see the back of 2008. With being ill for most of the year, then the Mercedes broke down twice over Christmas and the new year. Then between Christmas and new year we had to buy a new television as that packed up as well. Our first "event" of the year is our annual club meal, the details of which are on the next page. I believe Dave has the menus available and will be asking for names and choices of food. I hope to see lots of you there.

Steve.



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CLUB EVENTS 2009

Jan. 31st - Club Meal at The Sportsman, Penketh.

Tom Evans - We are very sorry to hear that NWCC member Tom Evans recently passed away. Tom was the proud owner of a Blaze MGB GT, our sympathies are with his family.



Next Meeting February 10th
Deadline for inclusion in next issue Feb 3rd

DISCLAIMER

Any views or opinions expressed in the NWCC newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the club, its officers or committee members. No responsibility can be accepted for inaccurate or misleading information within this newsletter, but every effort will be made to verify, wherever practical, beforehand.

Please note: The third party liability insurance which the club has taken out only covers members when attending events which have been booked through the club. For other events attended individually, please make sure you are covered by your own insurance.

Bits & Pieces

FIVA agree on

Historic vehicle definition

At the annual FIVA General Assembly held in Brussels in October, part of the agenda was dedicated to finalising a definition of a 'historic' vehicle, a hot topic for a number of years. The wording agreed is:

FIVA defines a historic vehicle as a mechanically propelled road vehicle:

- which is at least 30 years old;
 - which is preserved and maintained in a historically correct condition;
 - which is not used as a means of daily transport;
- and which is therefore a part of our technical and cultural heritage.

This definition is important for a number of reasons, but mostly for political lobbying purposes. For example, the EU Commission have given indications that while they are happy to consider legislative exemptions for a reasonably small number of vehicles, used for relatively low mileages, they would become concerned if the number of vehicles or the mileage they covered grew too large. It is hoped that by lifting the defined age to 30 and excluding vehicles used for daily transport, this will be avoided.

The new definition will be officially effective for FIVA in 2010, but it will start to be used for some purposes immediately. Its adoption by FIVA does not mean that individual countries will use it for all purposes, and members may be assured that FBHVC will not cease to represent the interests of vehicles it currently covers.

From FBHVC web site

DRIVE IT DAY

Remember - next year's Drive It Day will be on Sunday, 26 April. The aim is simply to be seen so that the public is reminded that historic vehicles exist and that there are lots of people preserving them for posterity. So people don't need to do anything special if they don't want to - all they need do is just use an old vehicle instead of a modern one for whatever it is they do that day.

DID not only intends to show how big and varied the historic vehicle movement is, it also aims to show how infrequently they are actually used. The number of old vehicles on the road on that one day in the year will highlight just how rare it is to see them the rest of the time and thus demonstrate that historic vehicles make up only a tiny fraction of normal traffic.

New Road Traffic Bill Announced

Amongst the measures to be included in the new Road Traffic bill announced by the government today, there is a provision to allow for a ban on a driver found using a vehicle in a dangerous condition on the second offence.

While everyone (including ourselves) would support measures to remove dangerous vehicles from the road along with the owners, a worrying precedent could be set.

Since the definition of 'Dangerous' is left to the roadside Police Officer's opinion, what is not viewed as dangerous by one, may not be seen the same way by another.

A letter has been sent to the Transport Minister for his opinion and the site will be updated when we get a response.

From the Association of Car Enthusiasts (ACE) web site

A.G.M. 2008

John Greatbanks opened the meeting with greetings to members and thanks for attendances to shows and meetings over the past year. He then continued with his opening remarks. There were no apologies for committee absence, so John asked if anyone would like to be nominated for a committee position. There were no replies. He then asked other members of the committee for their reports.

Russ Hadfield reported on the gazebo survey he organized but said he will expand on it at the next meeting.

Dave Espley, as social secretary, had no matters outstanding. He reported on the Fiddlers Ferry Show date is certain for the 12th July. Although it clashes with Disability Awareness Day, this is not thought to be a problem.

He reported on the club meal at The Sportsman, Penketh. The date is now confirmed as Saturday 31st January and Dave asked for a list of members wishing to attend to be taken at the next meeting. A member has asked for a social night later in the year and Dave is looking into this. He also reported that the evening road run/treasure hunt had to be cancelled as the Dunham Rose cafe, where we ended the run, closed suddenly.

Maria McPartland reminded members about the upcoming event at Lymm on Boxing Day and thanked members for their support at shows during 2008. She then outlined the recent show survey she carried out and said she would publish the results next month (Jan).

Rob Smith handed out an accounts report to members and went through the figures.

He explained the income and expenditure and membership numbers. Membership is fairly consistent with some members not renewing and the club gaining new members over the year. Income has exceeded expense and the club has a healthy positive balance.

Chris Lee proposed the accounts as accurate and Maria McPartland seconded the motion. The accounts were then voted as accurate by the members present.

Steve Tanser then thanked the members for support during the year by sending in articles and pictures for Backfire and hoped he could rely on their continued support in 2009. He then apologised for the slightly lower quality of the club newsletter as he had forgotten to order new paper and had to fall back on some he had at home. Steve then drew member's attention back to the accounts and the expenditure of producing the Backfire. He had produced a detailed account of the production costs and made them available for members to see.

Mike Bennett started by thanking Jim McPartland for stating the web site, then went on to explain how the site is a window into club. He then asked for suggestions for the future and explained the functions of the site.

Chris Lee then proposed that the committee is closed down and this was seconded by Dave Espley.

Voting then began for the committee for 2009 and all members were officially re-elected.

A.O.B.

Chris Lee had three points to bring to the attention of members:-

1. Agreed values.

These aren't always upheld by insurance companies in the event of a "write off" situation. To be certain your car is correctly valued, get a written valuation from the owners club.

2. Number Plates.

New rules by VOSA state that plates carry the phone number or post code of the plate supplier. The regulations exempt vehicles registered before Sept. 2001; unfortunately, it would appear that nobody has told the police this.

3. Driving Licences.

The new photo licences came in ten years ago. Though few people are aware, these need to be renewed every ten years and it doesn't look like DVLA will be informing drivers. Check your licence for a code which gives

the renewal date. The only licence which doesn't need the holder to renew is vocational licences where the driver needs a regular medical.

Rob Smith raised a point that the club constitution is now three years old and that now is the time for any amendments if necessary. There was no suggestions forthcoming at the time.

John Greatbanks then mentioned what a good year it was for the club by winning two trophies for the club stand. He also congratulated the members who had won individual trophies for their cars. John then thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Dave Espley then presented Maria with a bunch of flowers from the club for her efforts over the year.

CLUB DISCOUNTS



Orford Green, Warrington

ANDREW PAGE

Lilford Street, Warrington. Ask for Simon

Alpha 1 Autos

U2 Priestly Street, Warrington. Discount card required

Please remember to take your club membership card with you in order to claim your discount

Mouldsworth Museum outing
3rd Sept 2008
by Dave Espley,
Social secretary without portfolio
Pictures by Chris Lee

24 adults and 2 youngsters made the second visit this year to James Peacop's restored water treatment building cum Museum, on a pleasant Wednesday evening.

This was a special invitation for our club only and although the Museum is open mid week for the normal punters until end of August, James offered to open specially for us. We have good links with the Museum and get on well with the owner who is a great character.

We met initially at our Clubhouse car park and with over 12 vehicles assembled we were amused to see the club Steward turn up in a lather. Someone had phoned him to say a horde of customers were waiting for doors to open for an early pint!! I had already obtained permission from the bar staff the day before to use the car park to avoid this very thing happening. The Steward slunk off when he realised we were on our way elsewhere. Ho hum.

After a hectic exit from said car park into busy traffic we managed to split ourselves up nicely and all somehow got there in about 36.25 mins. We had to be a bit sharpish as the light was failing and we knew James wanted to do his "talk" after our snoop around.

The Museum is a great place for discovering something different every time you go. There was some educational things for the kids to try and no end of other stuff and vehicles to explore.

After our look around, James gave a very interesting talk about

the "art and design" side of the motoring history and memorabilia. We chugged off home as night fell and I believe we all had a most worthwhile trip.

Thanks once again to James for hosting a pleasant evening. Thanks as well to all who turned up.





Daresbury Labs

by Steve Tanser

An unusual invite for the club came via Rob Smith, our treasurer, to put on a display of cars at Daresbury Labs where he works. On September 14th they were holding a one-off open day for employees and would like us to be one of the attractions. The day was an extremely interesting one for all of us who attended.

We arrived to find a hard standing car park allocated to us so we could park together. We were then allowed free run of the site. First port of call was the tower. We were advised that this could be busy later on so we went up early. There was a terrific view of the surrounding area from the top, but the morning was still a bit misty, so it could have been better. Other attractions on hand included driving tests in 4 x 4s, with a slight difference. One had the steering reversed so that to turn left you steered right and vice versa. The other involved guiding a blindfolded driver, with a blacked out windscreen, via a TV screen. Great fun was had by all who tried them.

There were also quite a few things for younger ones to try such as Robot Wars, wall climbing and a miniature train. The birds of prey rescue charity display was always busy. Scientific areas containing the accelerator rings were open to everyone to look around so, after a spot of lunch, we had a wander. Staff were on hand at various points to explain the operation and, for me, one of the most enjoyable parts of the day was how everyone explained the science in a way in which we could understand. No one talked down to us at all.

It was a fascinating day and made welcome change from the usual static classic car show



