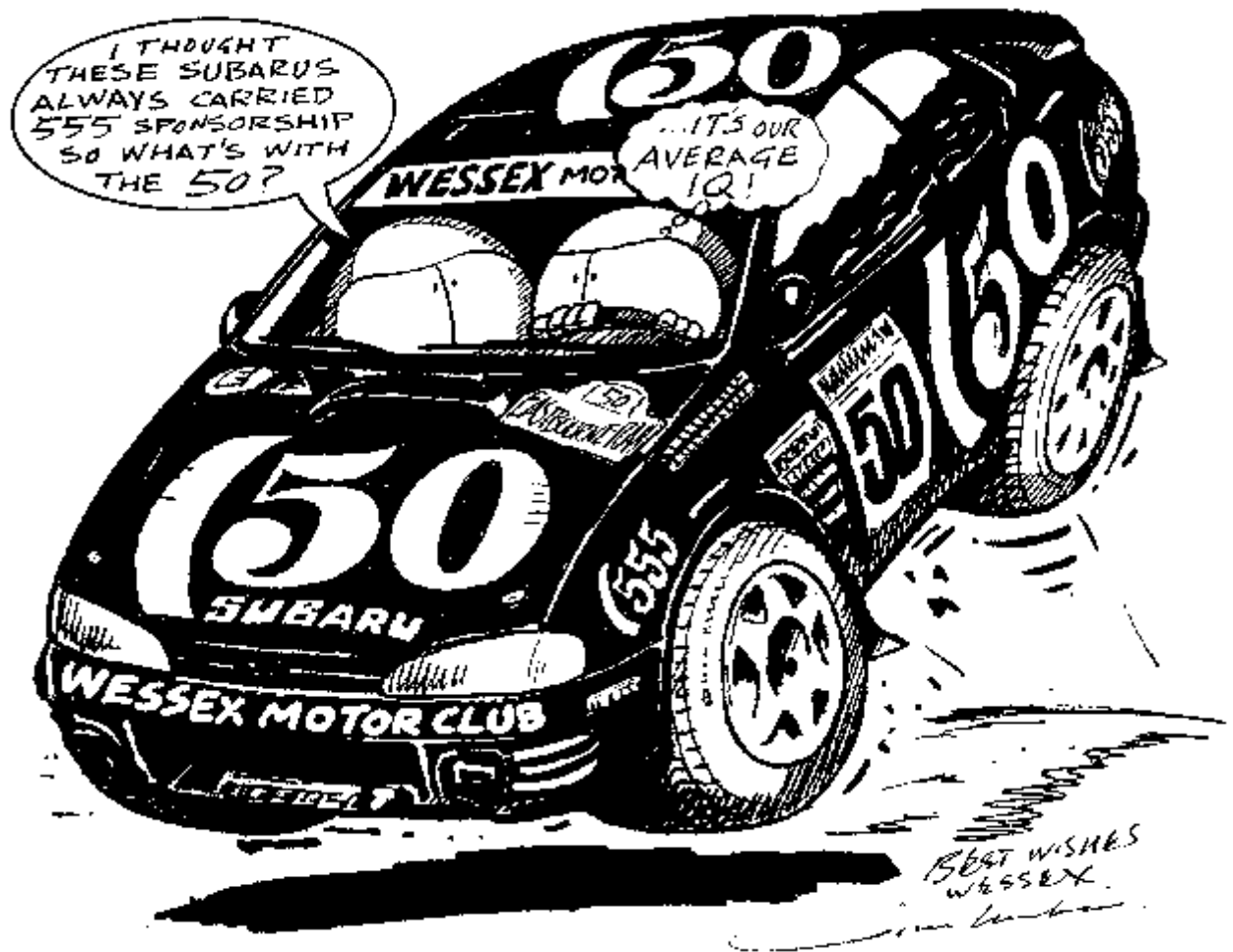


WMC Magazine

Issue 5 – Easter: March 2001



Welcome to a new era ...

INTRODUCTION

“Let’s hope that this new magazine can live a long and fruitful life and not die out within the first few months of its life.” It was with these words that Phil ended the Introduction to the first WMC Magazine last October. Well, 5 months on & it’s still going strong. So on that positive note, welcome to my first issue as editor.

I can’t go any further without saying on behalf of the entire club, a massive thank you to the 2000/2001 committee for all their hard work & commitment over the past 12 months. It was all appreciated and we’ve got a lot to live up to!

As I write this, the nation is firmly in the grip of the curse that is the Foot & Mouth Disease, resulting in an unhappy suspension of motorsport. We’ll keep you up-to-date on news and the possibility of events, but unfortunately things are well out of our hands.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue. I’m open to (constructive!) criticism, and will try not to fill the magazine with David Coulthard propaganda! (You all know the truth & are too scared to admit it!). Until next time...

Lizzie Pope.

★ NEWS ★

Crack open the champagne...!!

As the curtain falls on the WMC 2000/2001 season, it’s time to rise to our feet & congratulate our newly crowned champions. Well done to those sharing the PC crown: a full, clean 60 for Phil Kendall, & an impressive debut for David Coles & Elly Pryce. Congratulations also to Darren Tomes & James Read, who collect the RUC trophy after a good year.

Skid pan

WMC members hit Goodwood on April 25th. for a chance to chuck around someone else’s cars, just to make a change!! Be afraid, be very afraid!

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BULLNOSE RALLY

REPORT.

Another day, another road rally and another cock-up at the start. It seems that making foul ups before the start of a rally is becoming a regular occurrence and Oxford Motor Club's Bullnose Rally was no exception. Having arranged to meet Pete at my house and set off from there, I wasn't entirely surprised when Pete turned up at my place, grinned and said "So, do we need our licences for signing on?" 'D'oh!' was the right answer for that question. We bundled in the car and set off immediately, hoping that we still had time to get back to Pete's place and head up from there. An hour later we got to Verwood, having got lost in a detour in Totton and then returned to Southampton because I had forgotten my club membership card!

Eventually we got to the event, and we weren't late for scruteneering. No problems there. I think getting the car through Hart Motor Club's pre event checks would have looked like a full MOT by comparison (although that wouldn't surprise anyone who has done their events).

This was the first event we had done together at National B level, although I had naved for Pete before on Clubman rallies. The only real differences between a National B and a Clubmans rally are that you need a licence, the slightly trickier navigation (still fairly straight forward compared to Wessex 12 car nav), a higher entry fee and sometimes a longer route. The other thing is that you compete against other seasoned crews from around the country and are included in the overall results. Now you get to know how good (or bad) you really are!

The event started with a 20 minute drive up the motorway on a non-competitive section before the main part of the rally. The idea was so you had time to plot the route for the second half of the event before driving it (not all events do this), so the last few stages would be driving with the navigator concentrating on bend calling. Unfortunately we were given an A4 sheet full of grid references that I didn't have time to completely plot. Looks like I was going to have my hands full in the pre-plot section.

The competitive sections started and we got cracking. Everything was going great until we passed our first codeboard. 'What was that Pete?', I shouted, having only just noticed the board with my head buried in the map. 'What was what?', came the reply. 'The codeboard, what was it?'. 'What codeboard?!?'. Oh shit. We reversed up smartish, got the code and got underway again.

After the rocky start, we settled into the event well. The naving was going well, Pete was driving great and we weren't losing much time. We got pissed off a few times though, with dodgy marshalling not giving us the times we got into the time controls and not getting waiting cars out of the way. We hoped this wasn't going to cost us places!

With much trepidation, I saw the stage numbers clock-up and realised the pre-plot section was approaching fast. I wouldn't have a lot of time to muck about so I tried to get as much down on the map after plotting the current stage and telling Pete where to go. I should take up circus performing after the experience I got juggling the two maps about.

Well into the pre-plot section, the event went into one of those slow motion sequences that happen when things are really happening very fast and going very wrong. I had left my

window open since the start of the event, as it was far too time consuming closing it after every control. I was swapping maps and noticed the pre-plot clue sheet flapping about by the window, holding on by one flimsy staple, with the distinct intention of making a new life in the Oxfordshire countryside. Then it was gone.

I screamed at Pete to stop and as we reversed up I saw, with much relief, the clue sheet sitting there on the tarmac, not flapping over a hedge in the wind or mopping up the contents of a ditch. I leapt from the car and, absolutely pumped with adrenaline, sprinted to the clues with a speed that Linford Christie would have been proud of. If he had been watching at the time he may also have wondered why I went to the trouble of getting out of my harness instead of letting Pete drive back up to the clues and leaning out of the car to pick them up!

After this moment of chaos the rest of the event seemed as if we were going through the motions by comparison. The final highlight was a sign by the road proclaiming "VIDEO" and some nutter, possibly one of the organisers (?) screaming 'Square Right!'. Excellent. I buried my head in the map to look as if I was doing something, whilst Pete got the car round the corner with lots of enthusiasm (and possibly lots of handbrake too!)

So at the finish we got our results. 12th overall out of 17 (having been seeded 12th), and 2nd Semi-expert. Not bad we thought, shame there were only three Semis competing. Still, we got to the finish with no fails, meaning we had driven the correct route, and having really enjoyed ourselves. Fantastic!

For anyone who's done a few 12 cars and wants a taste of bigger and better rallying, have a crack at the next Clubman event; Wessex's Funky Elephant rally could be the best place to start. Hopefully we'll see you guys there.

Steven Azzopardi

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW...

As we wave a fond farewell to the 2000/2001 committee, it's in with the new kids on the block, so here's a quick hello from us.

President



Elly Pryce
e-mail: ep500

"I'm in my first year, doing Geography. I drive a red Fiat, but also nav. for David in his blue Fiesta. We're joint PC winners this year, but I'm not sure if that's down to my Geographer's way with maps, or our frequent trips to the Burger Van! Or it could be down to the exceptional skills of a woman driver!!"

Secretary



Darren Tomes
e-mail: dst199

"I am the new secretary for the club. I am in my second year doing Maths with Astronomy. I am the first student at the uni. to do this combination & am the only person in my year doing it. I drive a red MK1 XR2 Fiesta now, but did drive a very large red & under-powered Sierra which I got stuck a few times trying to turn around in the lanes."

Treasurer



James Read
e-mail: jar100

(james_a_read@hotmail.com)

"I'm a first year adult nursing student based at Southampton. I spend half my time on clinical placement, half at uni. I've competed in the rallies this year & won PC5 & PC6. Along with my flatmate & driver, Darren, we will almost certainly win RUC this year so it'll be good to have a trophy next year. I'll be getting a car over the summer so may drive a couple of events next year for a change."

Competition Secretary



David Coles
e-mail: drc300@ecs

David obviously has some deep-set psychological complex due to the fact that he produced a photo of his car & not of himself!!

"I'm in the first year, doing Computer Engineering. I drive the blue Fiesta & am famous for putting it into a field! My favourite place is the Burger Van, a regular WMC haunt, especially their Cheese Burger Specials. But then there's always the Crown!!"

Karting Secretary



Andy Davis

e-mail: aemd199

"I'm in my second year, doing Pharmacology. I joined the club in my first year, 1999, and was previously the Secretary. Now I'm the Karting Secretary. I am in my second season with the Karting team. I drive the blue Astra MKII, with the spots, alloys & stupid exhaust!! I think I'm most famous for nearly hitting a police car head on last year on an event, which was nice. I love the WMC as it gives me another excuse to drive fast!! Also, the events & socials are always entertaining."

Magazine Editor



Lizzie Pope

e-mail: emp100

"I'm in my first year, reading English. I drive a red, MKII Fiesta, but she's at home, so now & then I take the wheel of Chris' Spitfire, which has a habit of stopping during events! I'm known for collecting the wooden spoon, taking my own route in events, and infamously ending up in a muddy, flooded, white road before being towed out ... and we were marshalls!! Beware: I'm a HUGE David Coulthard fan. You have been warned! Oh, & I'm the WMC's very own Essex girl...!!!"

Social Secretary



Rupert Goodman

e-mail: rrg199

"I'm in the second year doing Sociology. I come from the Eastleigh/Winchester area, and have grown up around here. The main reason I decided to go for SocSec is that I don't do events on the grounds that I will crash the car!"

Web Site Editor



Olly Smith

e-mail: oes100@ecs

"I'm in my first year, doing Computer Science. I'm a Mini maniac. I started off with the first car in November, wrote it off after PC1, bought a second one which became a long term project car after the floor fell out. I'm about to buy a third one at the end of March! I do all my own work on the cars."

**"WE ARE
THE
CHAMPIONS!!**

"
—

Ladies & gentlemen, please take your hats off to these fine examples of motor racing excellence. I present to you the 2000/2001 WMC Champions! (Cue the rapturous applause).

Here's what Darren Tomes, joint RUC winner & new WMC Secretary had to say: "After forgetting to join the motor club last year I was persuaded to give it a go this year by my new flat mate James. Going into the first event we did not know what to expect and it showed in the result when we where pulled out of a ditch by a friendly farmer. The next 2 events went better, but then on PC4 we got stuck again and thought our chances of any success were gone, with Dave and Elly

storming the championship. Then a win in PC5 with our rivals bugging up put us right back in the chase. After a few more good finishes in the new car, and rivals missing events we were left in second behind Dave and Elly. As they would take a PC prize it was second place in RUC that would take the honours. All we needed was a good finish in PC9 and hope Richard Sinden was a no show at PC10. With Richard not bothering to turn up we where crowned RUC Champions, woo hoo.

**FOOT &
MOUTH**

For those of you who've had your heads in the sand for the last few weeks, Foot & Mouth Disease has been swiftly

spreading the country. As a result of this epidemic, the Motor Sports Council will not issue MSA (Motor Sports Association) Permits for certain events. Included in this list of events are autotests, navigational scatters and 12-Cars. Unfortunately, the final 2 rounds of our championship were affected by this, so PCs 9 & 10 were substituted with Table Top Rallies. A new venture for some of us, I'm sure all would agree that they provided valuable navigation practise. The much anticipated Funky Elephant Rally, and our very own Summer Scatter look to be biting thr dust too. We'll keep you up-to-date with the latest, and hope that this will clear up as soon as possible. Looks like I'll see you all that the pub, then?!

Lizzie Pope

2001/2002 Committee:

President

Elly Pryce
ep500

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dst199

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Social Secretary

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For the latest news, information, championship tables and much more, check out our website:

www.soton.ac.uk/~motor

Have a question that needs answering? Why not contact the committee at:

motor@soton.ac.uk

*Any **interesting, embarrassing or insane** stories that you'd like the rest of us to enjoy? If so, **get it in the magazine!***

Trying to sell something? Advertise right here, right now.

For submissions, please e-mail emp100@soton.ac.uk