

MAY 2024

The **Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent Ltd (BpMCK)** is a member of **Motorsport UK**, the **HRCR** and of three Regional Associations, the **ASEMC**, the **ACSMC** and the **AEMC**. Blackpalfrey is also a partner club in the **Weald Motor Club** consortium. These organisations allow Blackpalfrey members to compete in a wide range of events, for both **classic** and **modern** cars, organised by many other motor clubs all over southern England.

The home of Historic Road Events in the South East

In the middle of this cold, wet Spring we are having (global warming – Huh!), we were lucky to have a couple of fine weather days for the **Hughes Historic Rally**. A slightly disappointing entry of just under 40 enjoyed a popular event, which was fully marshalled, both ‘on the road’ and for the Tests at Manston Airport. Many thanks to our members and members of other local clubs, who supported us admirably under the guidance of Chief Marshal Phil Smith and Grahame Standen.

Special thanks must go to CoC Dave Hughes and Dick Athow, who spent much time, energy, road-miles and butt-kicking, keeping the 6 month build-up to the event flowing nicely. Of course, there were many more in the ‘team’ and all contributed greatly to the overall success of the event – too many to mention all by name, but they know who they are – thanks! We were especially pleased to receive so many encouraging comments from competitors AND marshals this year - which is reward enough and makes the months of hard work worthwhile.

Winners were Ian Crammond & Matt Vokes in their pretty 1968 280SL



See - www.motorsportuk.org/events/motorsport-month/ - for ‘what’s on’ (and pics of South Eastern events) + ‘rolling’ pics of our Sunday morning 12 Car Regulation Rallies.

blackpalfrey.co.uk



Copy for Jun HIGHWAY by 24th May, PLEASE - have YOU any stories, pics etc for YOUR mag?

Editor: Brian Millen, 10 Hawkrigde Grove, Kings Hill ME19 4JB – brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk

- Editor

We have been totally absorbed in running The Hughes and have not have enough time to concentrate on the AGM for another week or two. Consequently, the Committee has decided to **re-schedule the AGM, together with the presentation of 2023 Awards** hopefully in the next few weeks. We will let you now the date soon.

INSIDE: Future Events - p2. HUGHES HISTORIC RALLY - p3. Weald Targa at Manston – p6. Peking to Paris – p6. West Malling Airfield now - p7. RS Clubman Licence advantages - p8. Motorsport UK TV - p9. Trevor’s MX5 for sale - p10. Blackpalfrey Rally Championships - p10. StreetCar - p10. Two more Pics – p11. Extras & Committee Contacts - p11.

Hughes 'wash-up' Meeting – Wednesday, 8th May 2024

All members & friends welcome

8:00pm onwards at Newnham Court (Nr J7 M20 – OS178/781570)

Dates for your 2023/24 Diary

Below, you'll find a list of our events for 2024 but, don't forget, as BpMCK members you are able to enter many more events promoted by member clubs of the Associations listed above - all you need is the

FREE RS Clubman Licence.

Apply-on: motorsportuk.org/Competitors/Competition-Licences/

The 2023-2024 Club Regularity Series –

Jack Stewart & Matt Davies have set the date for the last round of the series **on Sunday, 30th June.**

Venue & map to be advised.

More details on www.blackpalfrey.co.uk



Sunday morning RegRun Rally - Sunday 30th June. We are looking for **MARSHALS** for these events and ask you to put these dates into your diaries and let us know if you are able to help in any way. This year Grahame Standen and I have got together to look after the marshalling duties for these events and would be delighted to help you, help us, make this next season for Blackpalfrey the best...

Phil Smith - Chief Marshal Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent

Contact - phil.blackpalfrey@gmail.com (07736 148989) & grahame.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

Notice of AGM – Date TBA

at Newnham Court Inn (OS OS178/781570 - J7 M20) – 7:30pm

if you would like to be more involved, as a Committee Member or as an Officer of the Club (see last page of any HIGHWAY), or have any Club matter or comment to be raised at the AGM, please advise Andy Elcomb andy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com a.s.a.p. or before 20th May.

2023 Club Awards will be presented after the AGM.

2024 Hughes Historic

- 13th April

It was a beautiful day for our annual pilgrimage down to Kent, the Garden of England, for the 2024 Hughes Historic Rally...

Measured mile checked, scrutineering successfully completed and paperwork picked up (although there was an option to have the roadbook emailed that evening, for those coming down the next morning - which was a nice idea that others might want to consider) and it was off to our last minute booking at the Travelodge in Canterbury - into two of the tiniest single rooms you've ever seen - not exactly perfect for a couple of 6'3", 17 stone chaps!

As seems the norm for the Hughes these days, it was a clear and sunny day for the event - always a bit of a double-edged sword, as it also tempts all the cyclists, horse riders, walkers and farmers out onto 'our' roads! - but it was with high hopes that we arrived at the Polo Sports Club on Saturday morning, prepared to take on some of Dave Hughes' ever-demanding plotting.

At the drivers' briefing, we were told that all speed changes would take place at either ITCs or at road junctions, which was a bonus and certainly helped with a couple of choices in some of the plotting as the day went on.

Reg A was given out with timecards an hour before departure time - it was "right turns" in a list of grid squares, which was a fairly straightforward start to the rally - particularly for the Crammond/Vokes team, who took an early lead with only 6 seconds of penalties.

Unfortunately, Reg B had to be cancelled as parts of the route were still too wet to use. So, after A it was a brief coffee stop, then we were off to Manston Airport for the first visit of the day, where 7 tests awaited us. These certainly helped to put a smile on our faces - although good eyesight (or some binoculars) was required to spot some of the cones, which were a very long way apart! *Angus enjoyed putting the Cortina through its paces*, and we were one of the 17 teams that beat the bogey-time on Test 4, but King/Carr, Fowle/Pickering and Griffiths/Howell all did particularly well overall.

The Burnes enjoyed a spirited drive in their lovely 1960 MGA From there, it was a bit of a wait (due to the cancelled Reg B) before we were allowed to start Reg C.

This was a '4 times under ETL' affair, which seemed fairly straightforward, except for one big question - it was 'consider all roads' and there was an early white that no one seemed to be able to agree whether or not it was 'gated'. There was a lot



of ‘will we, won’t we?’ questioning going on between the navigators – although, in the end, only one or two gave it a try (wrongly, it turned out). This was followed by another bit of confusion as we arrived at traffic lights at roadworks (which had apparently popped up overnight). At least it was enough to confuse me, as I felt sure that there couldn’t actually be lights on a Reg (without a mention and an added time allowance) and made Angus pull over while I considered whether I had totally mis-plotted the Reg! I hadn’t, however, but the self-imposed delay did cost us our Joker.

Next, we headed south for a sandwich bag lunch and decisions about whether to treat Reg D - the usual Hughes Rally blast around the Manston perimeter road - as a regularity or jogularity. I went for the latter, and just about had enough time to create the required time sheet before we headed off, back to the airfield for the final two tests, the last of which was a great combination of two of the morning ones.

Then Reg D, which was made more poignant, as Government plans may make it the last time we get use the airfield for this event. The start was slightly marred for us and others, as we’d been given the wrong distance to cone A for the first turn, which set us off on the wrong foot - but the rest of it was great fun and for us fairly faultless...right up until I completely missed a ‘turn left at U’ instruction, which cost us 3.20m in penalties - far too much for us to ever hope to make up (sorry, Angus!)



Class win for the Howard/Mayes GTi

We then had two Regs, sending us south to the Folkestone Garden Centre for a very quick afternoon stop, before finally heading back north.

Reg E was another we had plotted the night before, consisting of a series of statements followed by a short herringbone - the speed changes, once again, helping with choosing the right roads. On to Reg F, for which we had already been given a number of points to plot and the last minute instructions were simply to miss all of them!

Alan Petitt/Peter Rushforth - 16th in their MX5

And so, to the final two regs; Reg G, which we had also already plotted - a mixture of spot heights and tulips - and an added minute of time to allow for crossing a busy A road (which was missed/forgotten by 15 crews, including quite a few in the top ten!) EOR G finished only yards from the start of Reg H, the final ‘sting in the tail’. This was a proper ‘plot and bash’, where we hard-worked navigators had to try to plot numbered grid square exit directions, while still having to map-read, and keeping our drivers’ speeds under control - quite a challenge to round off the day, and one which had lots of people using up their jokers!



Finally, everyone headed back to the Polo club for dinner and the results – we finished 9th O/A in our 1965 1500 Cortina, the Crammond/Vokes 280SL had managed to stay out in front and took the top honours, with Fowle/Pickering’s 1600 Escort only 17 secs behind them, and King/Carr’s MR2 taking 3rd place another minute behind. The first of the Expert class was

1st Club Class and Best Blackpalfrey to Woodhouse/Williams



Engel/Dunkerley's Eunos in a brilliant 5th place and, topping the Novice class, were Crask/Middle 11th in their MGBGT.

The Best Clubman's Award and the Best Blackpalfrey Trophy was taken home by the Woodhouse/Williams Team in their Rover25, their penalties making them 6th O/A on the day.

I know, for some, it seems a bit of a trek down to Kent, but it was a real shame that more people hadn't made the effort for this one. It was certainly their loss, as it proved to be a very well-organised and highly competitive rally, and very much enjoyed by all those who turned up.



Huge congratulations to Dave Hughes, Dick Athow, Chief Marshal Phil Smith, Brian Millen and **all of those involved** in putting a fantastic day's rallying together - you can definitely sign us up for next years' event...

Full results on [Hughes Rally - Home \(blackpalfrey.co.uk\)](http://blackpalfrey.co.uk)

Mike Cochrane

Thanks to the generosity of the Entrants, this year, we were able to draw 6 prizes in the Hughes Marshals draw.

The lucky recipients were:

1. Rebecca Groves £50.00
2. Ryan Gilley £25.00
3. Simon Soanes £25.00
4. Claire Gibson £25.00
5. Tim Mewett £25.00
6. Grahame Gilmore £25.00



Many thanks to you, AND all the Marshals who were not lucky enough to win some cash – but, we hope you **all** enjoyed the day and may have better luck next year!

Phil Smith & Grahame Standen



Car and Driver says 95% of electric cars are still on the road. The remaining 5% made it all the way home.

Regs out
22nd March!
Entries Open
5th April!

WEALD MOTOR CLUB
PRESENTS

CONNAUGHT
COMPETITION ENGINES

MARSHALS
very
welcome!

KENT TARGA RALLY

11TH MAY 2024

StreetCar

Weald Motor Club are pleased to present
The Kent Targa Rally
Single Venue - 90% Tarmac – Potentially Non-Damaging Targa Rally
Aimed at Newcomers & Seasoned competitors alike. 40miles of tests proposed!
Based at Manston Airport – Near Ramsgate, Kent
Entries £99 Per Driver – Navigators Required – Double Drivers Welcomed
Keep an eye out on Facebook & <https://www.wealdmotor.club/>

Manston is a huge venue, and we will need a large number of MARSHALS to ensure the safe and smooth running of the event. If you are new to rally marshalling, then this event will be an ideal introduction as we have a selection of important, but low stress, observation roles plus the normal key start and finish timing jobs.

We would also specifically like to appeal to any Rally Safety Radio Marshal crews to join us as we will be running the Motorsport UK safety radio system with a licenced radio controller.

Marshals are invited to register now :

contact our chief marshal, Liz Jordan, on 07860 668866 or email - marshals@wealdmotor.club



The **Peking to Paris Motor Challenge** is unique in the motoring world - a true endurance motor rally following in the wheel-tracks of the original pioneers of 1907. Driving an old car nearly halfway around the world with a bunch of like-minded enthusiasts, against the clock, with the added spice of timed sections, makes Peking to Paris the longest and toughest driving challenge for Vintage and Classic cars. The rescheduled 2022 Peking to Paris Motor Challenge will now take place between 18 May and 23 June 2024...



Travelling through China, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey Greece, Italy and France, the epic 36-day adventure will cover approximately 14,250kms (8850 miles) and be a true test of endurance for both car and crew. You will be able to find all of the latest news and stories from Syd Stelvio, on the HERO-ERA website.



Blackpalfrey crew, **Patrick and Pamela Watts** in their **1965 4261cc Sunbeam Tiger**, will be running at 71 and we wish them the best of luck for a good and trouble free event...

*Team Blackpalfrey stickers feature on both sides of the Tiger.
You too could have one (FREE) - that's 'Sticker', not Tiger!*

TEAM BLACKPALFREY vinyl stickers (170x74mm). BADGE (90mm diam) windscreen vinyl stickers



Available from Grahame Standen - grahame.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

FREE! inc p&p

Just email Grahame, with your name & address + which and how many you want
(please include 'Blackpalfrey Badges/Stickers' in Subject)



Although I have lived, happily for seven years, in Kings Hill, this rather sad picture of what used to be the Officers Mess reminds me of the good days and evenings we spent there, back in the 1970s/1980s, when it was West Malling Airfield.

After the halcyon days of night rallies/autocrosses/PCTs/autotests etc., Blackpalfrey moved there and ran many autotests and Sprints on the Airfield. The building pictured had a good bar, and was great as a Club House before the 'developers' moved in, and we were not able to use the Airfield for Motorsport anymore.

The iconic Control Tower remains and, after some remodelling, now serves as a Coffee Bar and Offices for the community

- Ed.



From MS UK - Your free digital **RS Clubman licence** already offers you the benefit of Personal Accident insurance when competing at events under a Motorsport UK permit and, like every other member, you receive our monthly digital magazine, *Revolution*.

Your digital RS Clubman licence can be upgraded for 2024 and offers a range of additional benefits including:

- A 2024 physical and personalised RS Clubman printed licence card
- Motorsport UK lanyard and licence card holder
- A 2024 Motorsport UK Competitor car sticker
- Enhanced partner Member Benefits including:
 - 8% discount in store and online with Halfords
 - Discounts on pump petrol and diesel
 - Free 90-day Tastecard membership offering discounts and 2-4-1 offers at a range of high street restaurants and experiences, including cinema
 - Up to £120 cash back on road tyre purchases with Pirelli
 - Discount on tickets to the Silverstone Museum
 - Discounts on the full range of Wera Tools
- Many more additional motorsport, automotive, event, experience, travel and High Street savings

It's not too late to **UPGRADE** your licence for the 2024 season and access these enhanced benefits. The upgrade, including postage, costs just £20.99 to allow you to make so much more from your RS Clubman licence.

To secure your RS Clubman licence **UPGRADE** with all these additional benefits, simply log in and select the **UPGRADE** option when viewing your digital licence.

[LOG IN NOW](#)

Your physical membership pack with printed personalised RS Clubman Licence and Competitor car sticker should be fulfilled within 10 working days.



Need a Navigator / Co-driver / Driver?



Just let us know who you are, with contact number and a few details, and we'll 'ask around' – we'll do our best to find you a partner for any event(s), whether it be a **Tour / StreetCar event / Scatter Rally / Club Rally / 12 Car / Treasure Hunt / 'bigger' rally / Targa / Local / International / Marshalling** or any motorsport event needing a 'car'....

Motorsport UK TV

Dear Clubs,

Motorsport UK continues to promote **Motorsport UK TV**, its dedicated internet video portal providing a single destination for the UK motorsport community and fans to access a huge variety of video content to enhance their enjoyment of the sport.

Available via www.motorsportuk.tv there is an ever-growing library of short form 'how-to' videos, providing explanations about every aspect of the sport for everyone from the novice starting out, to the experienced competitor looking to enhance their skills and knowledge.

It is a wonderful promotional tool that continues to grow and much of the content can be shared by you to promote the disciplines and sport at large.

The Motorsport UK TV team have produced a suite of graphics and assets in various sizes that you can use on your website and social media to promote the platform and the rich pieces of content that are available. These are available to download and use here – Folder icon **NeverMissAMoment_Adverts**. If we could ask you to link to

https://motorsportuk.tv/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=advert&utm_campaign=motorsportuktv - then we would be really appreciative.

Finally, all of the Motorsport UK published videos are available **HERE**. These are available for clubs to link to and embed in their website as well. This link will be updated on a regular basis when content is published.

If you have any specific requests, or have any feedback or content ideas for Motorsport UK to consider, please contact Daniel Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, (Daniel.smith@motorsportuk.org) and Brandon Begg, Motorsport UK TV Manager, (Brandon.Begg@motorsportuk.org).

Regards
Daniel Smith





For Sale: 1998 1.6 MX5 (Hard top available, at extra cost) - £950

Further details from trevor.hawkins@blueyonder.co.uk - ☎ 07831 311414

THE BLACKPALFREY MOTOR CLUB OF KENT RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP 2023/4



Rules and Regulations (point scoring etc) can now be found on
www.blackpalfrey.co.uk



Although BpMCK is a club that actively promotes Historic and Classic *competitive* car events (as well as, of course, our popular Tour of Kent – part of the HRCR Scenic Tour Series), we also encourage our many members, who *may, or may not*, have a *Classic* car but would, perhaps, like to be involved in ‘the new name in grassroots motorsport’ – STREETCAR. The StreetCar ‘disciplines’ are based on: Autotests, AutoSOLOs, Car Trials, Cross-country, Touring Assemblies, Navigational Scatter Rallies, 12 Car Rallies, Road and Historic Rallies and Targa Rallies and all of these events are run by us and other local clubs, to which we are invited.

Steve Thompson – streetcar.blackpalfrey@gmail.com, or any Committee Member, is your point-of-contact for StreetCar.

You are encouraged, by MS UK, to join their StreetCar Facebook group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/streetcarmotorsportuk>

If you want to know more, click on: [StreetCar Launch - Motorsport UK Magazine](#)



Presenting – our very handsome MUG – logo front & back

Tea tastes better in it!

Available from trevor.hawkins@blueyonder.co.uk

for the special price of just **£5**

Collect at any Club Night or BpMCK event.



Chair: Brian Millen, 10 Hawkridge Grove, Kings Hill ME19 4JB – brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk

Secretary: Andy Elcomb andy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com **Webmaster:** Tom Ash webmaster@blackpalfrey.co.uk

Treasurer: Joy Waiton joy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com **Membership:** Tom Ash tom.ash@btinternet.com

Your present committee is:

Secretary	Andy Elcomb	andy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Competition Secretary	Steve Thompson	Steve.CompSec@gmail.com
Treasurer	Joy Waiton	joy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
WebMaster	Tom Ash	webmaster@blackpalfrey.com
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Social Secretary	Peter Boyce	pandjboyce@btinternet.com
Club Safeguarding Officer	Lesley Busbridge	cso@blackpalfrey.co.uk
Facebook & Car Shows	Lee Busbridge	marinamad1@sky.com
Committee Members:	Dave Hughes / Simon Ingarfield / Bob Pilcher	
President:	Brian Millen. Directors: David Hughes / Dick Athow / Brian Millen	

If any non-members see HIGHWAY and would like to know more about the BpMCK and what we do these days, or would like to join or rejoin, the annual membership fee is only £15 (£5 for under 25s and students) or £20 family membership. If you want to know more, any Committee Member would be pleased to help....

....have a look at www.blackpalfrey.co.uk for more information about the Club and, for our on-line membership system <http://www.blackpalfrey.co.uk/index.php/join> - specially designed for YOU.

Note: some of the views expressed in HIGHWAY may not be those of The Club.