

HIGHWAY

October 2024

Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent
The home of Historic Road Events in the South East



Blackpalfrey at



Team Blackpalfrey took to the road this weekend and hosted a club stand at Oh So Retro in Margate. Phil Smith, Steve & Rowan Thompson, Matt Davies, Jack Stewart and Mark & Sue Watson spent time talking to spectators and encouraging them to use their beautiful vehicles rather than just showing them!



Despite the chilly weather, over 1,500 classic and retro cars, scooters and motorcycles turned out, along with thousands of spectators. The atmosphere was fantastic with live music, trade stands and plenty of food outlets. A great day was had by all.

We came away with email addresses from interested individuals and will be in touch to give them more information and answer any questions and we hope to welcome them along to an event soon - starting with our November Club night

(see page 11) when we are welcoming potential new members to come and meet current members, along with the chance to undertake some regularity training.

Whilst we were there, we took the opportunity to present prizes to the winners of the last Reg Run in June.

Jack Stewart, one of the organisers of the June event, presented Mark and Sue Watson (who were sporting their newly acquired Blackpalfrey branded tops) with their first-place mugs.



See page 3 of this month's Highway for an update on the new season Reg Runs.

Copy for October HIGHWAY to be submitted to sue.blackpalfrey@gmail.com by 25th October

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Chairman's Chat

Hello Everyone.

Well, the children are all back to school and life has returned to normal – whatever that is. But half term is at the end of this month.

The first rally training night for absolute beginners was a success, and we all learned a lot. Thanks to all the tutors and drivers who made things go smoothly. The next training evening is being run by Maidstone & MKMC on 30th October, and we will move things along a little further. We are still getting enquiries from potential students, so I think it might grow during the winter months.



The Tour of Kent is on 6th October, the entry list filled quickly, and we are oversubscribed. This is our premier touring event and Demelza House are always grateful for our efforts. If you have not entered, the organising team will be pleased to see you on the day and you can help at one of the various stops, or en-route.

The Hughes is beginning to take shape with the new organising Committee getting their feet under the table.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find details of the October Club night which is in the final stages of organisation. Keep your eyes on the club's Facebook page for more updates.

The London to Brighton run on 3rd November is ever closer. We have a good list of marshals now and could do with another pair who have a car that can tow the entrants up the hill towards the traffic lights. Any more helpers are always welcome.

Our Sunday 12 car regularity series is coming together. At our last Committee meeting a query was raised as to why so many of these are based in East Kent. The answer is very simple. Most of the organisers live in that part of the County. We really need more organisers from the West of the County to put on one or two events in that part of Kent. So, it's up to you members to volunteer!!

On that topic, East Kent bias, I was talking with Si Kellow and he queried why we do not put on other types of events in East Kent, where our most active members are based. His thought is that there is a large untapped area where a new event, such as a PCT or autotest, could be put on. It would attract new entrants from the East of the County without adversely impacting on the established events which are predominantly in the West of Kent. I have my eye on one or two potential sites and will talk to landowners. Si has said that other clubs would be able to provide the expertise in running the event. So, watch this space.

Steve Thompson has worked hard developing the new web site, and the latest addition is the new and much improved club shop. Look this up and see what goodies are available. I expect to see you all out sporting new head gear, gilets, fleeces, etc – all with the Club logo.

Happy Motoring

Dick

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Sunday Reg Runs 24/25 – UPDATES

Following publication of the dates last month, we have a number of them now allocated with organisers (see below) however there is still more one more date available so if you would be interested in volunteering to organise a Reg Run, please contact Competition Secretary, Phil Smith, phil.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

With no one coming forward to organise the October event and possible limited entries for December it has been decided that these will be taken out of the calendar, so the first event will be in November, followed by a further six runs between January and July.

2024

Sunday 20th October CANCELLED

Sunday 24th November *Organiser: Dick Athow*

Sunday 15th December CANCELLED

Please note: there will be no Reg Run held in April 2025 due to the Hughes Rally

2025

Sunday 19th January *Organisers: Bob & Gavin Pilcher*

Sunday 23rd February *Organisers: Nigel & Rosemary Mead*

Sunday 23rd March *Organisers: Phil Smith & Charlie Harrison*

Sunday 18th May *Organiser: Peter Boyce*

Sunday 29th June *Organisers: Matt Davies & Jack Stewart*

Sunday 20th July **ORGANISER REQUIRED**

Blackpalfrey's unique Sunday morning Regularity Runs usually include two timed-to-the-second regularity sections typical of an historic road rally, over a road route of around 60 miles.

These events are open to members of the Blackpalfrey MC, the HRCR, the Weald MC, the MGCC and the TR Register. The events are suitable for 'older' and 'newer' cars and are designed to be good fun and good navigation practice.

A short tribute to the late John Fowler

Many Blackpalfrey members and friends will remember John Fowler, a Regulatory competitor for many years in his A40s with Tom Ash, who sadly died 4 years ago. I'd known him since 1967 when he started work at Southwark as a student when I'd just qualified as a 'Public Health Inspector'. We shared a similar interest in cars and bought and sold each other's cars for several years. I introduced him to Borough 19 when he self-built an Autocross mini, which he towed on a 2-wheel trailer behind his 1275 GT. The 1275 GT became his 1st rally car when joining Blackpalfrey with Tony Rowe navigating. Tom Ash will have many tales of their exploits, and I shared John in several scatter rallies in the 80s/90s.

His only son David didn't follow in his footsteps, teaching himself guitar in his early teens, he played his 1st paid gig for me as Project X on my 40th celebration (1986) where, as a 6th form band, they played Queen and Led Zeppelin! He's risen to great heights playing with many well-known artists and now tours the world as lead guitarist with The Australian Pink Floyd, currently on tour in UK at major venues David has a collection of nearly 50 guitars [must have sold John's Ferrari!]

R.I.P. John (in Sidcup Woods)

Alan Blissett



David Domminney Fowler

Autotests: Part Two

Grahame Standen completes our Autotest guide reviewing hard surface tests

Following on from last month's Autotest guide covering grass autotests, we're now moving on to hard surface autotests (usually tarmac or concrete, I'm going to call them tarmac for the purpose of this article) and their big brother, the Autosolo.



Now, most of the description for tarmac autotests is the same as for the grass variety covered last month, in fact the rules as set out by MSUK are identical, so you can expect the same, nearly.... Generally, these are a small step up so expect some bigger tests with a few more manoeuvres and a bit more reversing, so walking the tests beforehand is more important to commit the route to memory. You'll also be going a little faster with a higher grip level, but still only in first or reverse gears.

These events are suitable for most cars, so small hatchbacks and sports cars prevail but they are harder on the car generally, especially

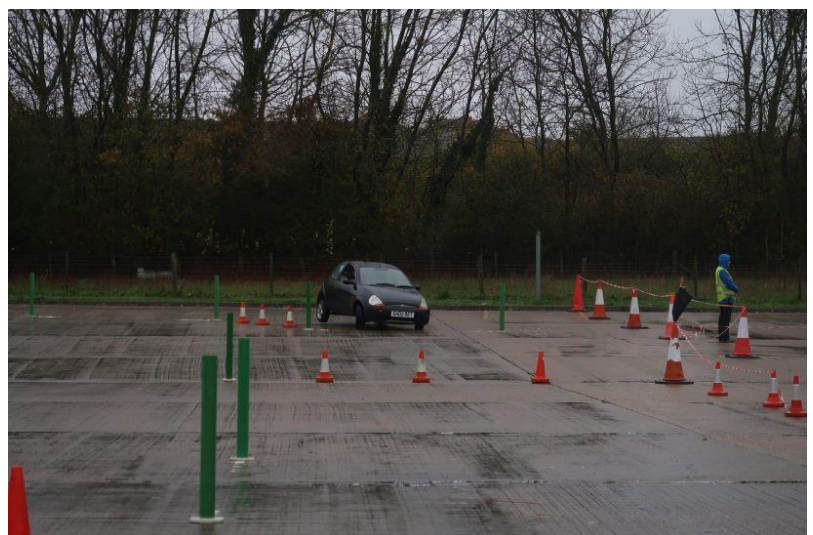
on the transmission and tyres with much more grip available and more changes in direction. You are still using road pattern tyres though, but expect some wear, especially on airfield venues which are particularly abrasive, and a hydraulic handbrake is useful but not essential for the tighter turns, along with power steering.

Cost on these events is typically a little higher, no evening events are available, so it's a full day for a £40 to £50 entry fee plus your usual expenses and a slightly higher tyre bill. Everything else is the same; classes, route markers, penalties and opportunities for junior drivers and most of all it's still good fun and very friendly.

A step, or several steps above these, there is a national autotest championship, not for the faint hearted, even longer more complicated tests and specially developed cars, still in the same class structure, often very lightweight and usually featuring 2-speed gearboxes, that's just forward and reverse. A joy to watch if you get the opportunity.

Moving on to the big brother, Autosolos, that's bigger tests, all forwards, always on a sealed surface and opportunities to get into 2nd or maybe 3rd gear. A relatively new offshoot from autotests specifically designed for standard(ish) cars which must be driven to the event (no trailers). There are specific regulations relating to the severity of turns and the distance between said turns so it can all be negotiated in a standard car of generally any size, free from any specialist modifications.

Aside from that, many of the rules set out by MSUK are similar, if not the same, as autotests, a similar class structure, penalties for wrong routes or striking a marker and opportunities for junior drivers. There is however a variation in the way the course is defined, you will have a diagram, and you still need to walk the test beforehand but each marker cone will be numbered or lettered in sequence and a further cone laid adjacent on its side clarifies which side of the marker you should pass.



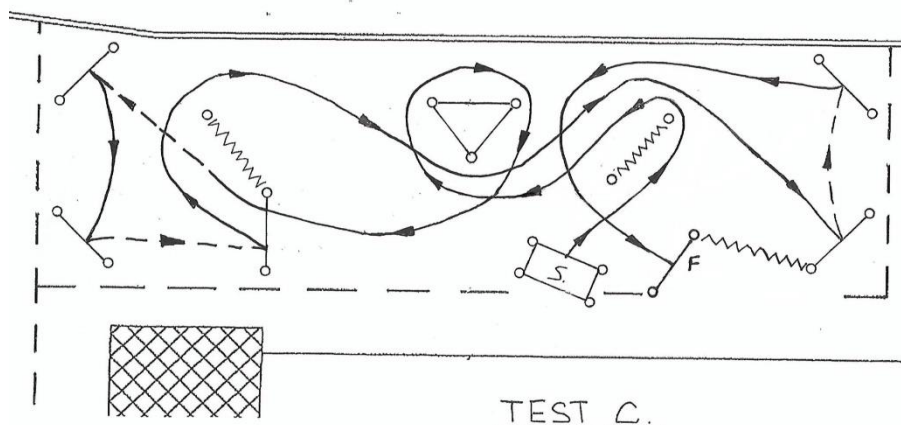
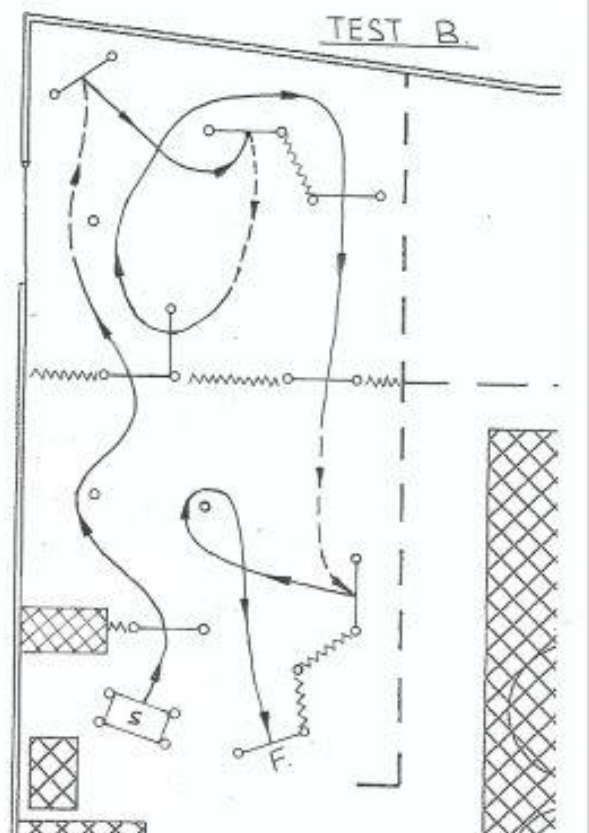
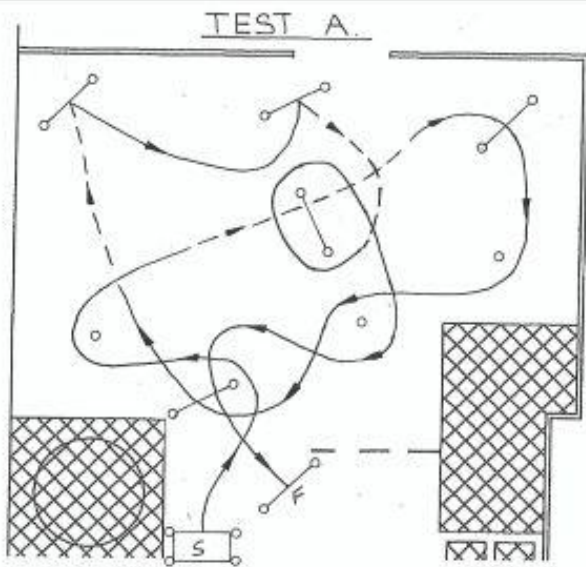
These will be all day events for an entry fee of £50 to £75 but with a wider range on the number of tests available and how many opportunities you get to do each test, usually 2 or 3 runs at each, but often every time counts so you need to be on your game from the start. There are tyre rules, so no racing or track day tyres are allowed just a high wear rate on your normal road tyres to factor into your costs.

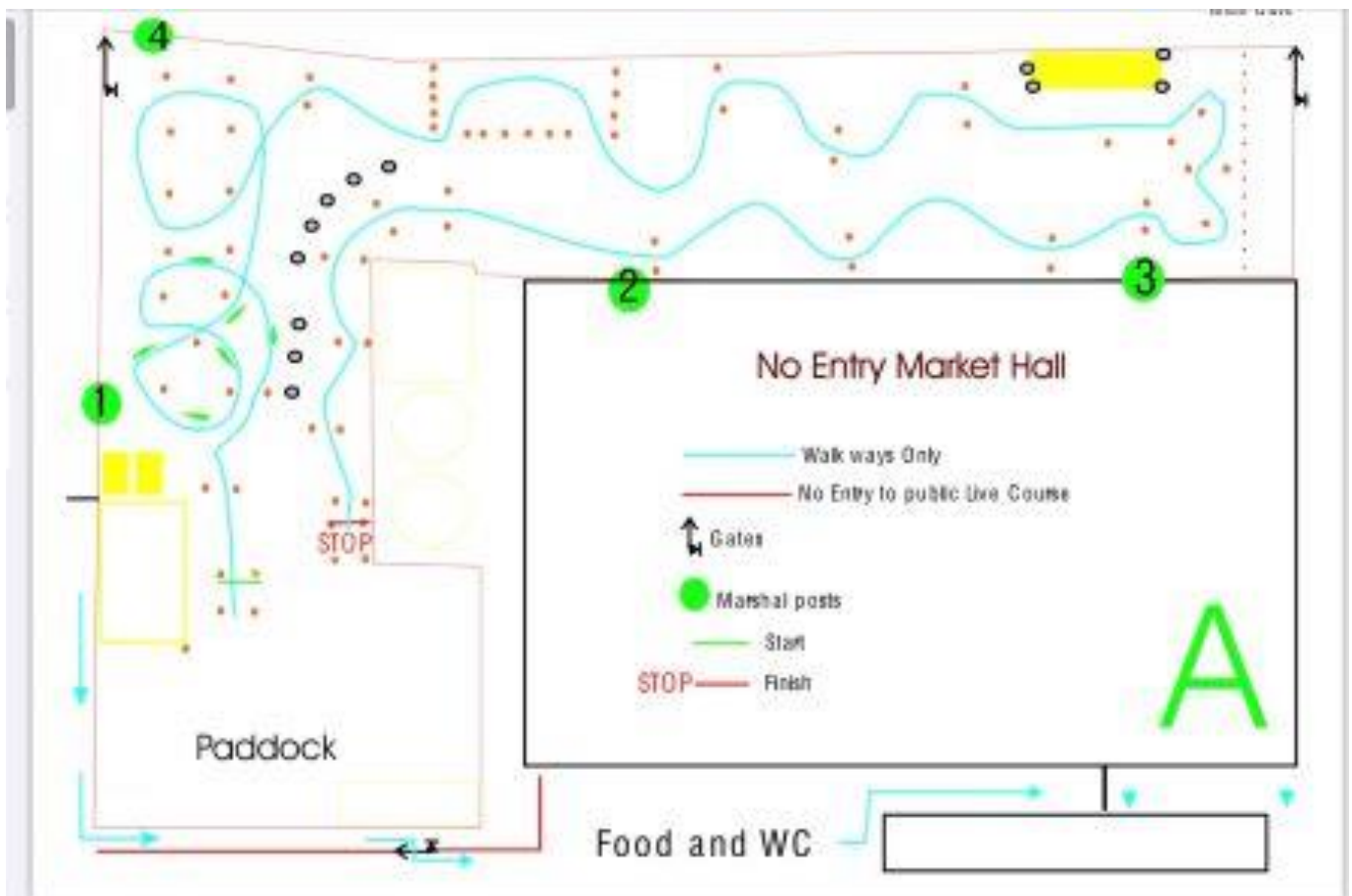
As with autotests your day will finish with awards for fastest time of the day and for the class winners, but most of all with a big smile on your face from a day of friendly competition taken as light heartedly or as seriously as you want.

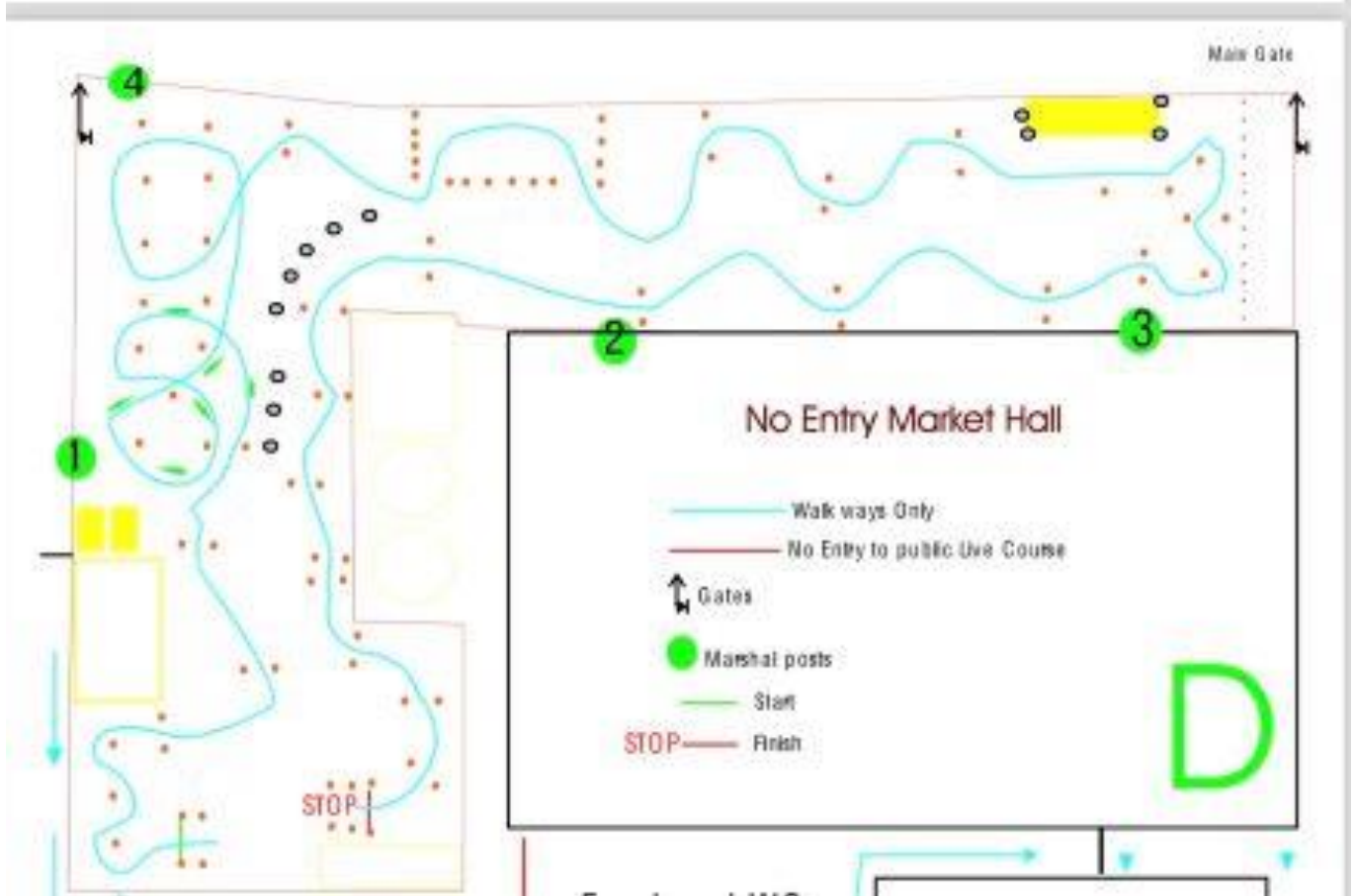
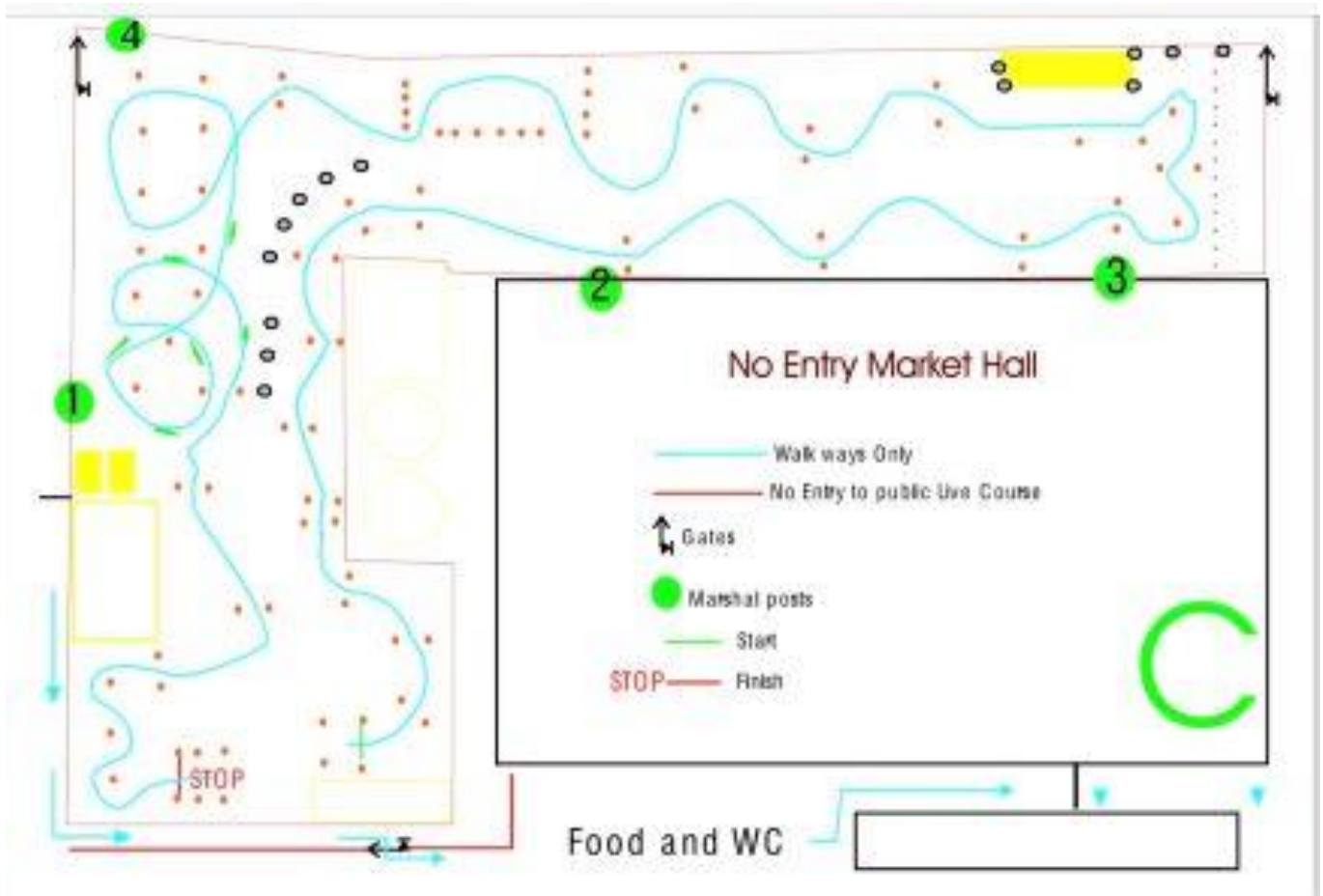
Locally, the next Autosolo will be on 19th October and Tarmac Autotest on 16th November both at Ashford Cattle Market followed by further events at Brands Hatch in the new year. Keep an eye on the forthcoming events section in future editions of Highway.

If you want to have a look and see what these fun events are about before taking the plunge, why not volunteer to do a bit of marshalling first, it's the best way to learn about it and get up close and personal to all the action.

Below are examples of some tarmac Autotest and Autosolo diagrams, the hand drawn ones shown here are from an Autotest and the computer drawn ones on the following two pages are from an Autosolo







'It's in the genes' – my induction into Motorsport

A reflection from Alan Blissett

I guess motorsport was in my blood! Dad Les and his brother Len were into speedway along with pit mechanic 'Jock', and with a surfeit of tracks local to Brixton it was an affordable pastime as a spectator. Pre WW2 there were at least 6 tracks in South London: Brixton, New Cross, Catford, Crystal Palace, Croydon and Wimbledon. Dad and his friend Jock also rode their Nortons in scrambling events at Layhams Farm Biggin Hill, Brands Hatch (anticlockwise) Canada Heights Swanley in the late 1930's, and Lydden in the 1950's. His two younger brothers were into cycling and rode at Herne Hill. When Dad traded in his Norton & side frame (variously used for trails bike, sidecar and banana boxes for fruit & veg business) in 1951 for a Ruby 7 (see photo left) we would travel to Crystal Palace and Brands Hatch to watch the motor racing.



My first real memories of Motor Racing are the annual Boxing Day meetings at Brands Hatch from 1954, the smell of Castrol R from the Formula Juniors and the oddity of road saloons racing and leaning over around Paddock Bend where we always stood. Crystal Palace wasn't far from home by bike or No 3 bus from Brixton, so I was able to venture there from 1957 with my elder brother. He, having started work, took me to the 6-hour saloon race at Brands for my birthday in 1962 (train to Swanley then free courtesy bus!). We were both into cycling and I joined DeLaune Cycling Club with some of my school mates, which took us onto Crystal Palace Race circuit for a team event in 1962.

1960's

I had been learning to drive off-road since I was 14 (1960) in Dads A40 Farina, as my uncle was market gardener to Lord Colgraine with a vast Estate 'Everlands' near Sevenoaks with estate roads to each lodge. Having passed my driving test in 1963, my instructor (a police driver friend of Dad) entered me into the 'young driver of the year' competition at Crystal Palace, which included a forward autotest on the police training skidpan near 'the Pylon'. My recently acquired a Triumph Herald (Ex Alan Woods who lived opposite and joined the Army) was not up to the job against Minis, Imps and 1100's. Working for Southwark Council from 1963, I joined the Civil Service Motor Club, to experience similar events.

After a couple of years earning £££s as a Trainee Public Health Inspector (and from gigs with my band) I was travelling to training in Tottenham and Watford and regularly passed Kennings forecourt in Hendon, where amongst all the used 1100s was a 1961 Mini-Cooper which I just had to have. The CSMC held a Clubman's Saloon Race in 1965 at the Palace; having obtained an RAC competitors licence I was able to enter without any need in those days for ARDs, only a full road license being over 18, a safety helmet (borrowed), no overalls and not even a rollover hoop, just removal of hub-caps and taped over headlights – I was off on my foray into real Motorsport'. (See page 17 for a photo – Alan is behind the Imp!) I formed a long-term acquaintance in the paddock with Eric Hall – Healey Elliot who worked at Southwark in the Planning Dept, Chris Craft – Orange! Lotus Cortina, latterly Broadspeed Escort T/C XOO341F, and his friend Alain de Cadenet. Raced against Terry Harmer, Rob Mason & Ken Costello. I also rubbed shoulders with Alan Mann, with his red & gold Lotus Cortinas before the famous Escorts.

1965-1970s

Following a few Navigational Rallies with CSMC, I joined Blackpalfrey MC of Kent in 1965 encouraged by Chris & John Betson (MGA Mk11) which took me and Mini deeper into Road Rallying/Navigating (Hughes, Harold Sharp, Grasshopper), Autocross (Detling, Bredhurst, Staplehurst, Cobham) Car Trials (Tyrwhitt Drake, Mereworth Woods), and a short foray into Clubman's Rallycross which I had followed since the inaugural meeting at Lydden Feb 1967. Several of my acquaintances from Autocross; Roy Edwards (Tun Tyres Mini) Rod Chapman (Mk11 Cortina/Escort), and Mike Butler (R8 Gordini) were competing. I was an active participant in a whole range of motorsport sport both



on and off-road until 1971, using a series of Minis and Twin Cam Escort, when having purchased a house in Kent and getting married, I cut my costs and moved into navigating only until 1979. Once navigating for Chris Sclater (Allards of Brixton) in ex- works Twin Cam XOO354F when Martin Holmes was ill.

1980s – 1990s

Equipped with Ex Irish Rally prepared Mini 1975 GT (Ex Tony Rowe/John Fowler Bp members) it was back to Rallying, Autotests and PCTS. I joined Borough 19 (Bromley Motor Club) in 1979 (at an award evening in Bromley Common – Bill Cook also won a class award at the same time – Stone Lodge event) They were more local than Blackpalfrey and I soon became a member of the event organising Committee (served 40 years till Covid). B19 had a number of members participating in Rallycross in the lower classes, and having never missed an event at Lydden save for 1974-77 when my children were born, our group ventured wider afield than Lydden, including Cadwell, Croft, Nutts Corner, Mondello, Pembury, Anglesey and Valkensward (Holland), with my occasional use of our shared Mini & Metro, for RallyX, Sprinting and Hillclimbs, the latter two which were sparking more interest, as less damaging to the cars. I became more of the Rallycross Team Manager with an Entrants Licence 1987-96 – ‘Last Minit Racing’ was formed Matt Osborne driving and Orpington Car Stereo/Kenwood sponsoring.



I concentrated my driving on tarmac speed events in a series of 3 Fiestas – sponsored by Arlington Associates (and an occasional loaned Mini), which took me to South East venues like Valance, Bodiam, Pestalozzi, but also Goodwood, Lydden, Hethel, Snetterton, Mallory and Olivers Mount (Scarborough), I was quite successful. I did the occasional Nat B race in single make series under my MSA Clubmans Race/ Speed Nat B licence. I also participated as Driver or Navigator in a series of Scatter Rallies during the 1980's/1990's using Mini, Capri, Mk3 Escort, Sierra – with Tom Ash, John Fowler, Mike Bedwell, Sue Speller and in Julians deM's Alpha GTV, on Blackpalfrey's Scatter nominally called 'The Hughes' we won in 1986 and got a brass replica scale Concord!

In 1990 I acquired Steve Preston's race Mini, which had been modified and lightened with glass fibre panels and installed an Allegro 1500 engine. Alas this succumbed to severe structural front-end damage in 1992, and had to be re-shelled with a much-modified shell from Jonspeed. This process took an inordinate amount of time, due to funding and other developing motorsport roles. It was not very competitive on 13 x 7 wheels and was rarely used and sold on to a sprinter in 2002.



Officials Roles 1993-Current

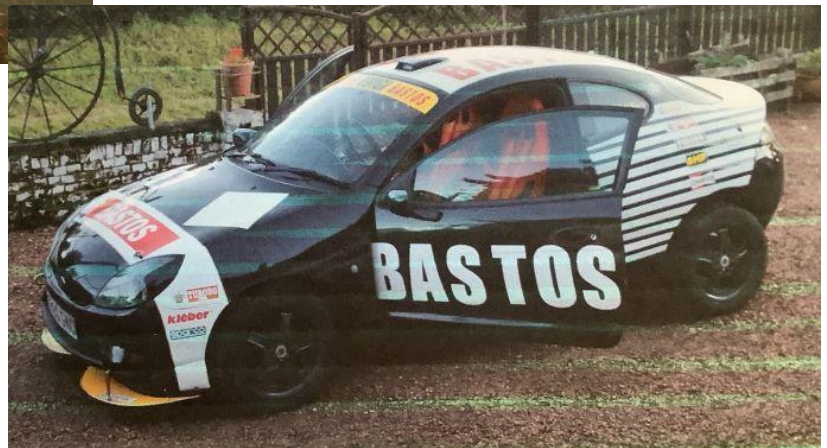
I took on several MSA officials' roles as Clerk of Course AutoX, Sprint/ Hillclimb, and Rallycross* which I held between 1995 and 2008 (*from 2000). As a qualified CIEH Environmental Health Inspector, I became a Noise Test Official/ Environmental Scrutineer for Rally/Race/RallyX from 1993. I was Principal Env. Srut for National RallyCross Championships & British rounds of European RallyX, with an FIA International License. In 2012 I was appointed by Motor Sport Association Environmental Inspector, only 2 of us now nationally! and although we had regions of responsibility – East & Southeast England, it looks like I cover all Circuits of Cadwell as far as training and overseeing Environmental Scrutineers.

1996-2002 International Rallying



With my long-term buddy Keith Oldfield moving permanently to Northern France we continued our partnership as driver/co-driver in a series of long-distance road rallies with the European Endurance Club, mostly assembling and starting from Liege. 1996 to Budapest (Hungary) & 1997 to Agadir (Morrocco) (see photo left) using an Oldfield built Citroen Special -sponsored by Erith Haulage, 1999 to Italy/Sardina/Sicily in Oldfields built 1930's Bellini

replica, 2000 – The Welsh in a Puma, 2002 Arras (France) to Kandersteg (Swizt) in his Matra Mureno/Alpha. In 1998 the EEClub event was to Benghazi, Instead I went with Venture Reprieve to Romania as navigator in restored 1953 single-deck London Country bus! Accounts of both the Morocco Rally and Venture Reprieve have previously been published in Highway. We have periodically used Keith LHD Mk11 Escort in Europe in the 2000's.

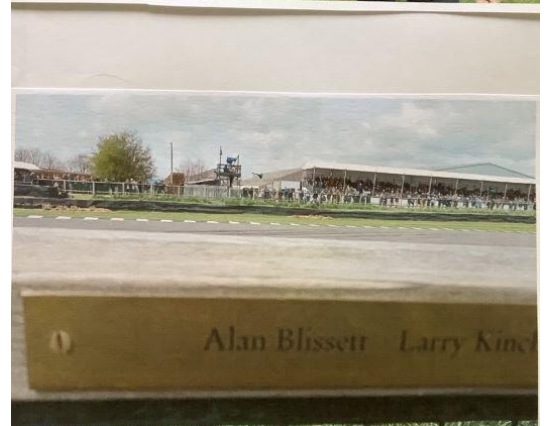


2020 – Current HRCR Road Rally /Tours

With my trusty 50+ year old Historically Registered Minivan, I have embarked on a series of 100+ navigational tours in the South East and Home Counties introducing new (old) colleague Barry Shaw, and son Noel to the skills of navigating. The minivan has also participated in the annual London to Brighton mini-run for the past 10 years and Brands Hatch and Brooklands mini-festivals to name a few.



Myself, as a life member of Goodwood, from 1998, I now have a trackside brass-plaque near the chicane. (see right).



Alan P Blissett (Motorsport UK Lic No.141430)

Dates for your Diary – Kent Events

BPMCK organised/promoted events

Social Events: What's Coming Up?

Thursday 17th October: *Visit to Anning's Race & Restoration*

Heritage Automotive Workshop in Hamstreet, Kent. Blackpalfrey members have been invited for a tour around the workshop along with a chance to discover more about the adventures track-side from Phil Anning himself. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so please email your interest to matt.blackpalfrey@gmail.com. Full details will be sent out to those registered nearer the date.

Wednesday 13th November: *Training and Meet & Greet*

From 7.30pm at Newnham Court Inn, Maidstone. A chance to welcome potential new members, including a training session on regularity speed tables and timing. If you can assist with navigation please contact Dick Athow, dick.blackpalfrey@gmail.com otherwise, please come along to meet with friends old and new!

Wednesday 11th December: *(date and venue tbc): Quiz Night*

Test your motorsport knowledge with a fun quiz and raise a cup of festive cheer...

Wednesday 8th January 2025: *Tabletop Rally*

Peter Boyce has kindly offered to run another of his eagerly awaited tabletop rallies. This will be a great event for everyone, from novice navigators who are learning the ropes, to more experienced navigators who would just like some practice.

Date	Event	Organisers
Sunday 6 th October	Tour of Kent	BPMCK
Friday 11 th October	Weald 12 Car Borough 18 Motor Club	Weald/Borough 18
Thursday 17 th October	Members visit to Annings Race & Restoration	BPMCK
Saturday 19 th October	Autosolo Rnd7, The Ashford Cattle Market	MMKMC
Wednesday 30 th October	Weald Motor Club 12 Car Rally Beginners Training	MMKMC
Friday 1 st November	Weald 12 Car Croydon & District Motor Club	Weald/CDMC
Wednesday 13 th November	Blackpalfrey Club Night: <i>Training and Meet & Greet</i>	BPMCK
Friday 15 th November	Weald 12 Car Sevenoaks & District Motor Club	Weald/SDMC
Saturday 16 th November	Ashford Tarmac Autotest	MMKMC
Sunday 24 th November	Blackpalfrey Sunday Reg Run	BPMCK
Sunday 24 th November	Autosolo Rnd8, Brands Hatch	SDMC
Friday 29 th November	Weald 12 Car Southern Car Club	Weald/SCC
Friday 6 th December	SDMC December Track Day	SDMC
Wednesday 11 th December TBC	Blackpalfrey Club Night: <i>Quiz Night</i>	BPMCK
Wednesday 8 th January 2025	Blackpalfrey Club Night: <i>Tabletop Rally</i>	BPMCK
Friday 10 th January	Weald 12 Car Sevenoaks & District Motor Club	Weald/SDMC
Sunday 19 th January	Blackpalfrey Sunday Reg Run	BPMCK
Friday 31 st January	Weald 12 Car Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club	Weald/MMKMC

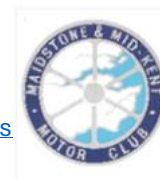


Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent

<https://www.blackpalfrey.club/events-1>

Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club

<https://www.mmkmc.co.uk/index.php/calendars>



Sevenoaks and District Motor Club Ltd

<https://sevenoaksmotorclub.com/calendar/>

Weald Motor Club

<https://www.wealdmotor.club/calendar/>



Other Competition and Rally Events

Date	Event	Area
5 th October	HERO Challenge Three https://www.hero-era.com/rallies/2024/10/hero-challenge-three-2024	Lincolnshire
5 th /6 th October	The Historic Rally Festival https://www.historicrallyfestival.com/site/index.php	Telford, Shropshire
6 th October	Ludlow & the Marches Classic Tour https://www.ludlowcastlemotorclub.co.uk/classic-tour-2024	Shropshire
6 th October	FDMC Spring Royale '24 https://fdmc.org.uk/royale24	Eelmoor, Farnborough
13 th October	FMC David Maitland Memorial Trial https://www.falconmotorclub.com/david_maitland_memorial_trial.html	Bedfordshire
19 th /20 th October	Dansport Historic Rally https://matlockmotorclub.co.uk/dansport-historic-rally-2021/	Matlock, Derbyshire
26 th October	Autumn Leaves Scenic Tour https://www.sceniccartours.uk/	Llandrindod Wells
3 rd November	London to Brighton Veteran Car Run https://www.veterancarrun.com/route-guide	London to Brighton
3 rd November	Malton Forest Rally https://www.maltonmc.co.uk/malton-forest-rally/	Dalby Forest, Scarborough
7 th -10 th November	RAC Rally of the Tests https://www.hero-era.com/rallies/2024/11/rac-rally-of-the-tests-2024	County Durham - Lake District
10 th November	FDMC Rushmoor Targa Rally https://fdmc.org.uk/rushtarga24	Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot
16 th November	Wyedean Rally https://www.wyedeanstages.co.uk/	Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire
23 rd /24 th November	Glyn Memorial Stages https://www.camconline.co.uk/	Caernarfon
23 rd /24 th November	Rally Anglo Caledonian http://racrmc.org/rally-anglo-caledonian/index	Carlisle - Lockerbie
30 th November	John Bloxham Memorial Rally https://www.thebasicroamer.co.uk/john-bloxham-memorial-rally-2024/	Shropshire
14 th /15 th December	CMC The Preston Rally https://chelmsfordmc.co.uk/Preston	Thetford Forest, Norfolk



Car Events for October

Opportunities to show or spectate this month

When?	Where?	What?
5 th October	Fourways Engineering, Maidstone Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, TN15 8JL	Classics & Coffee Fourways Engineering: Cars, bikes and trucks welcome. This vast mix of vehicles always leads to a great atmosphere with an opportunity to learn about the rare and unusual and converse with like-minded enthusiasts. https://whatsoninkent.com/events/2480-classics--coffee-fourways-engineering
12 th & 13 th October	Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, TN30 6HE	Austin Counties Car Rally: There will be a display of Classic Cars over the weekend. A varied display of members and guests' vehicles - some of which have celebrated their centenary. Founded in 1975, the Austin Counties Car Club caters for Austin cars and derived and related commercial vehicles manufactured from 1939 – 54. https://kesr.org.uk/austin-counties-car-rally/
13 th October	Brooklands Museum. Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0SL	Brooklands Autumn Motorsport Celebration Get a double helping of motor action at the Museum's celebration of motorsport. Competition cars from all ages will be put through their paces on the adjacent Mercedes-Benz World circuit and later in the day, Test Hill will be in action. Expect to see a wide variety of competition cars from Formula 1 and GTs to Touring cars and Group B rally cars. As ever, spectators will have the rare opportunity to see and hear competition cars at close quarters. https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/whats-on/autumn-motorsport-day-2024

Weald Motor Club 12 Car Rally Beginners Training

Report on Session One, 11 September 2024 (organised by BPMCK)

The first of Weald Motor Clubs 12 car rally training sessions was very successful with a total of nine potential new competitors making use of the free tutorial.

The evening, which was based at the Newnham Court Inn, Maidstone, started with a brief rundown on what to expect, which was led by Dick Athow, assisted by Steve Thompson. Afterwards, the beginners were each assigned an expert driver and navigator to sit in the car with them as they attempted to navigate a 15-mile circular route on a marked map. The route was non-competitive, untimed, and was designed to give the beginners a 'feel' for what to expect on a competitive event, while building on the aspects of teamwork and communication. All crews successfully made it around the route, visiting four manned controls and two unmanned passage checks en-route, as well as adhering to quiet zones where required.

All crews then returned to the Newnham Court Inn for a debrief followed by a Question-and-Answer session, which proved useful for both the beginners and the organisers, giving us a few ideas to carry forward into the future sessions.

Session 2 is planned to take place on the 30th October 2024 and will be run by Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club. Venue to be confirmed. See page 14 for more information.

Steve Thompson



**WEALD
MOTOR CLUB**



Do you dream of being a rally driver or co-driver but don't know where to start?

Some of Britain's greatest, including Colin McRae, began their careers competing in road rallies with their local motor clubs. Now, we're giving you the opportunity to follow in their footsteps by joining Weald Motor Clubs newcomers

12 car rally training evenings. Running over the next six months, with one session per month (excluding December), we'll prepare you to join the Weald 12 Car Rally Championship as a Novice crew.



What to expect –

- ~~**Session 1:** Drive your own car alongside a seasoned crew and master the art of teamwork and communication (Hosted by Blackpalfrey Motor Club). COMPLETED~~
- **Sessions 2-4:** Learn every aspect of rallying, from navigation to strategy.
- **Session 5:** Compete against your fellow trainees in a full newcomers' 12 car rally in Spring 25. (Sessions 2-5 will be hosted by other Weald clubs)

What you will need as a driver-

- a standard family type car that can take 4 adults. Baby seats, etc should be removed.

What you will need as a navigator-

- Pencils, an eraser and a clipboard.
- A map board made of cardboard or similar (A material that will crush in case of an accident).
- A headtorch.
- A sickbag and/or travel sickness pills.

Cost: FREE for the five initial training evenings!

Spaces Limited: Only 12 cars can join—don't miss your chance to get involved!

Session 2 will be hosted by Maidstone & Mid-Kent Motor Club on behalf of Weald Motor Club, and is due to take place on Wednesday the 30th October – more details to follow.

To register: <https://www.wealdmotor.club/weald-beginners-rally-school/>

Volunteers Needed

Tour of Kent



Are you available on Sunday 6th October?

Would you like to help make this year's Tour of Kent a success?

Are you able to help us raise much needed funds for Demelza House?

We would love to have your help marshalling this year's event.

There's still time to help out if you are available, email: trevor.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

What are you up to on 3rd November?

Volunteers of all kinds needed for the Road, Hill and Special sections as well as the Halfway Halt at Crawley. Visit <https://www.veterancarrun.com/marshal-registration> to register your help.

Note from Dick: Once again we have been asked to marshal the Redhill traffic light area of the route. If you would like to join us, please register as per Barry Guess' note above. Please also e-mail me (dick.blackpalfrey@gmail.com) so that I know how many people we will have on the day.

Please help! We need another pair who can tow entrants up the hill if they are having issues.

Sotheby's
LONDON TO BRIGHTON
VETERAN CAR RUN 2024
SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

MARSHALS NEEDED

Come and be part of the world's oldest motoring event

<https://www.veterancarrun.com/marshal-registration>

*London to Brighton...
There's a place for you somewhere in between!*



Blast from the Past

Some pictorial reminders of previous events



We are starting our gallery this month with some photos shared by Bill Cook.

These are from an evening autotest at West Malling Airfield – probably sometime in the '80's.

Personally, I am happy to see the 'Mini's' out in force!



If you have any pictures or reminisces that you would like to share with club members email sue.blackpalfrey@gmail.com and each month we will feature some – and perhaps jog a few memories!

Follow this way for more gallery shots





Galleries > Brands Hatch - Boxing Day 1958 > Image 3 / 12 (1226 views)

The pictures on this page have been kindly supplied by Alan Blissett and take us way back to the 50s and 60s and complement Alan's article on page 8.

Check out next month's issue for more fantastic archive shots.



Classified Ads

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)

FOLLOW YOUR CLUB

click the icons below to find out more

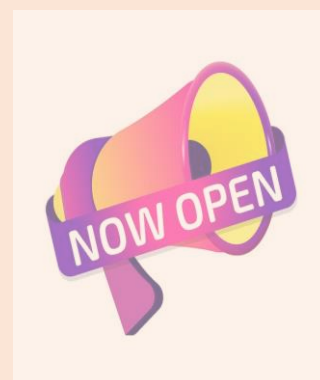


Your Ad Here

If you have something to sell (car related), you're looking to navigate or drive or need a navigator or driver or you have an event to promote, contact Sue,
sue.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

CLUB SHOP

Visit the shiny new club shop managed by 'Logo That Polo'



There are lots of items to choose from with a range of bags and hats alongside the hoodies, polo shirts, t-shirts and other clothing items.

Many items can be personalised and there are a variety of colours to choose from too.

Mugs, brollies and club stickers are also still on offer, and details of how to get your hands on these are available via the Shop page on the website.

Check it out and let us know what you think!

All items can be purchased from the Club Shop
<https://www.blackpalfrey.club/shop>

BPMCK: Officials and Committee

The **Blackpalfrey Motor Club of Kent Ltd (BPMCK)** is recognised by **Motorsport UK** for the organisation of motor sport events and is a member of the Association of South Eastern Motor Clubs (**ASEMC**), the Association of Eastern Motor Clubs (**AEMC**), the Association of Central Southern Motor Clubs (**ACSMC**) and the **Weald Motor Club**.

The Club also supports Motorsport UK's StreetCar initiative.

If you would like to contact a member of the committee, all posts are listed below:

President	Brian Millen	brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk
Chairman	Dick Athow	dick.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Brian Millen	brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk
Treasurer	Brian Millen	brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk
Secretary	Andy Elcomb	andy.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Lee Busbridge	membership.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Competition Secretary	Phil Smith	phil.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Social Team	Matt Davies Jack Stewart Mark Watson	matt.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Highway Editor	Sue Watson	sue.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Chief Marshal	Grahame Standen	grahame.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Equipment Officer	Bob Pilcher	rlpageng1@icloud.com
Safeguarding & Environmental Officer	Lesley Busbridge	Cso.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Web Master	Steve Thompson	streetcar.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Club Shop	Trevor Hawkins	trevor.hawkins@blueyonder.co.uk
Awards Secretary	Peter Boyce	peter.blackpalfrey@gmail.com
Association Representative	Brian Millen	brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk
Committee Members	Dave Hughes Simon Ingarfield	
Directors	Brian Millen Dave Hughes Dick Athow	brian@blackpalfrey.co.uk hughesey44@gmail.com dick.blackpalfrey@gmail.com

If you are not a member of Blackpalfrey and have perhaps come across this edition of HIGHWAY on the website, why don't you join us?

To find out more about BPMCK and what we do, to join or rejoin contact any Committee Member.

You can also check out <https://www.blackpalfrey.club/> for more club info or <https://www.blackpalfrey.club/join> to join online and to find our Privacy Notice and Club Rules



Please remember to send in your ideas, letters, articles and pictures for the next edition by 25th October