

# THE MIDDLESEX MAGAZINE



## REVIEW OF 2020 & 2021

Steve & Sam Casey  
on duck dispersal  
deployment at  
Oulton Park, 2020



**INSIDE**



# CLOTHING

Order your club clothing at [www.teamworld.co.uk/mcac](http://www.teamworld.co.uk/mcac)



**T-Shirt**  
100% pre-shrunk  
ring spun cotton.



**Polo Shirt**  
50% polyester  
50% cotton or Piqué  
100% ring spun cotton.



**Contrast Hoodie**  
Double fabric hood with  
contrast inner and flat lace  
drawcords. Pouch pocket.  
Ribbed cuff and hem.



**Beanie**  
100% soft-touch acrylic  
with Thinsulate™ lining.



**Lightweight Windcheater**  
Midseason windbreaker with  
tricot thermo lining. Windproof,  
showerproof. Full zip. Concealed  
hood. 3 pockets. Elasticated cuffs.  
Ergonomic side panels. Adjustable  
bottom hem.



**Lightweight Softshell Jacket**  
Full zip. Zip closing front pockets.  
Chin guard. Micro fleece inner  
provides extra warmth. Elasticated  
bound cuff. Slim fashion fit.



**Winter Parka**  
Fully taped waterproof seams. Long fit.  
Super warm. Quick drying. Fleece lining.  
Concealed 3-panel hood in collar with  
adjuster. Full zip. 3 pockets - fronts are fleece  
lined. Elasticated cuffs with reflective detail.  
Storm flaps. Lower back reflective tape.  
Adjustable bottom hem.

## CLUB NIGHT

Join us at our Club Night on the first Thursday of each month, but do check the website calendar for any late alterations as the venue is subject to change and sometimes it's a Zoom meeting.

Come along or join the virtual meeting for a natter and a general catch up!

**Chairman:**  
**Mike Hurst**

**Vice Presidents:**  
**Katie Anderson**  
**Mike Cawthra**  
**Pete Farmer**  
**Andy Greenland**  
**Adrian L'Estrange**  
**Joe Poxon**  
**Tom Ryan**  
**Graham Samuel**  
**John Williams**

**President:**  
**Tony Phillips**

**Club Secretary:**  
**Steve Casey**  
**Championship Secretary:**  
**Pete Farmer**  
**Membership Secretary:**  
**Brian Catt**  
**Chief Marshal:**  
**Darren Pike**  
**Social Secretaries & Club Calendar:**  
**Chris Comley**  
**Darren Pike**

**Equipment:**  
**Chris & Steve Hedges**  
**Safeguarding Officer:**  
**Paul Duckmanton**  
**Regional Rep:**  
**Andrew Williamson**  
**Historian & Archivist:**  
**Tony Phillips**  
**Website:**  
**Steve Casey**  
**& Chris Comley**  
**Merchandise & Publishing:**  
**Ray Ripper**

# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



*If 2019 was a test of endurance, then surely 2020 was a test of forbearance. With the motorsport calendar decimated, those that did take part in events from January to March were fortunate as lockdown soon followed and ran for the rest of the year with just an autumn sojourn to gather and join again in competition.*

*2021 was a more welcome environment with some restrictions lifted and by June a full schedule of events again became possible, with Covid-19 prevention methods employed along with social distancing.*

*Many members used the hiatus to work to improve their cars and some are featured in this issue, which is a look back at the previous two years as the Review was not published in 2020. My thanks go to those that contributed to this and the other features.*

*We are fortunate in the club to have members that are dedicated to their passion for motorsport, be it competing, organising or marshalling and this dedication doesn't go unnoticed - you can read more about this inside. There's also a new feature - History Makers - that aims to highlight notable past members whose achievements graced a previous era.*

*Looking ahead to 2022, it's important for members to keep the club informed of their motorsport activities. A simple post to the MCAC Facebook page keeps the content current and helps to drive potential members to our Club. And if you have read a member's post, then don't forget to comment on it - a comment is much more effective than just a 'like', as it keeps the Club conversation going and again helps to expand the Club's presence online. If you're using other social media platforms then please do reference the Club somehow.*

*Don't forget to spruce up your wardrobe for 2022 - club merchandise is available at [www.teamworld.co.uk/mcac](http://www.teamworld.co.uk/mcac) - and if there's anything else you think would be useful to add to the garment selection, please get in touch.*

*Shiny side up!*

*Ed.*

**COVID PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWNS IMPOSE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON CLUB ACTIVITY**

**CLUB MEMBERS HONOURED**

**MID-2021 UPTURN PROMISES NORMAL EVENT CALENDAR FOR 2022**



*In the 2020 MSN Circuit Rally Championship, Adam Ripper improved on his 2019 result with a 2nd overall in Class A*

**Check out the latest news on our Facebook page or visit us at [www.mcac.co.uk](http://www.mcac.co.uk)**



2020

Scrutineering the night before, **Adam Ripper / Ray Ripper** gained a podium 2nd in Class A

**Ian Barclay / Will Barclay** tackle the slippery rally school for a 10th in Class D finish



Bathed in brilliant sunshine, **Paul Quinnell / Darren Jackson** finish 27th in Class C

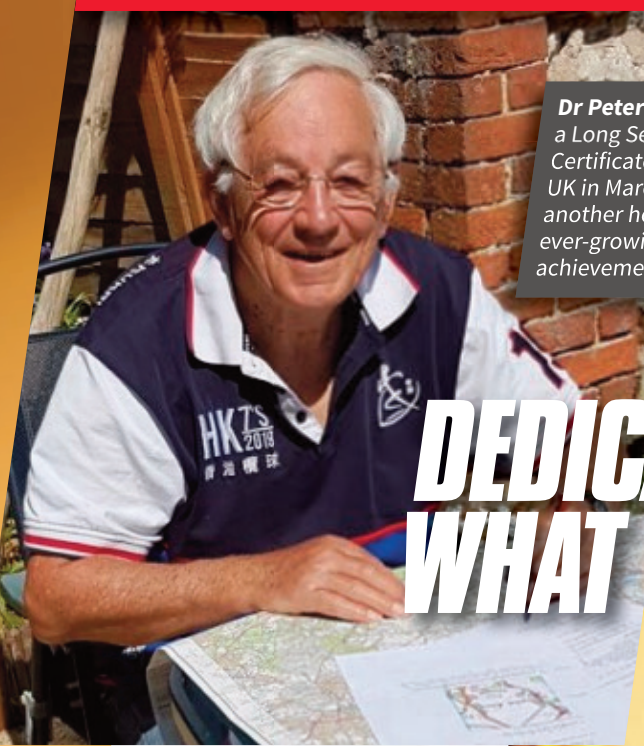
# BRANDS HATCH WINTER STAGES

After a cold and frosty driver's briefing, it was 4th in Class B for **Chris Keys / James Riley** with **Sam Casey / Paul Hopkinson** not far behind, finishing 8th



**Dr Peter Cox** was awarded a Long Service Recognition Certificate by Motorsport UK in March 2020, adding another honour to his ever-growing collection of achievements in motorsport

## DEDICATION IS WHAT YOU NEED...



In February 2020 **Phebe Fletcher** was awarded the Helen Spence Trophy by the British Women's Racing Drivers Club for her marshalling endeavours throughout 2019 (right). In April 2021 was presented with the MCAC 'Leading Lady' trophy at Snetterton, (above) by **David Larkin**, whose mother, **Cecilie Larkin** was elected to the MCAC Council in the 1950s. At the time, the Council meetings were held at the RAC Club, and Cecilie was required to enter by the back stairs; being a progressive club, the MCAC council decided this wasn't appropriate, so moved venue.

# 2020



**Martin Lush and David Taylor** are 'asked to move over' after getting stuck in a rut.

**Andrew Williamson and Paul Jeeves** stay dry in Car 00 whilst the Micra of **Adam and Ray Ripper** make light work of the effects of Storm Dennis for a 2nd in Class A finish



**Chris West & Keith Hounslow** adopt the 'eat my' principle Porsche for a win in the GT class



**Brett & Andrew Murray** enjoy a fine day for this year's 2nd in Class A



# THRUST

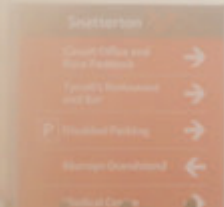
# 2

The new loose surface areas now in use at Snetterton provided different challenges over the past two years.

# DUST

# 2021

Meanwhile, away from the dust **Sam Casey** checks his next time due out



# FLYING FINISH

2020



Moving swiftly through the stage at the Flying Fortress Stages 2020 **Brett** and **Andrew Murray** claimed a 3rd in class. A return visit in 2021 concluded with a 4th in class, but that didn't dampen **Brett's** enthusiasm for the event, Tweeting: "I cannot put into words just how good this event is, or how much I enjoy it!"



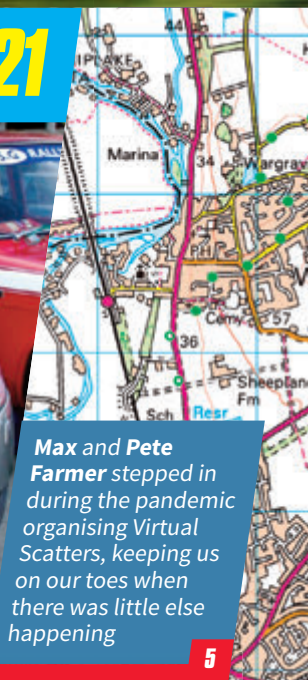
2021



2021

# ACE!

**Max Maxwell's** superb rally support Skoda Yeti on show at the Ace Cafe 2021



**Max and Pete Farmer** stepped in during the pandemic organising Virtual Scatters, keeping us on our toes when there was little else happening

# BUILD BACK BETTER

Despite the pandemic, some of our members have been busy over the past two years with their vehicles. Driven by the desire to either prolong their car's life or to enhance its performance and reliability, here's a short round-up of their interesting and varied activities...



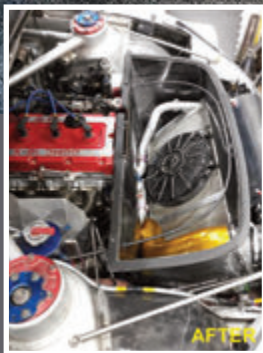
First on the ramp is **Martin Lush** with his Toyota Corolla AE86...



The car, which has been in MCAC since new, first rallied at the RAC Rally in 1986 and Martin has owned it from 1999. With the underneath now 'tired', Martin stripped all the paint/underseal etc. down to bare metal, treated as necessary, primed and painted. A few days work (over a few weeks) and the results look great but more importantly, will see the AE86 through another few decades of motorsport.



Here is **Andrew Costin-Hurley's** rear wheel drive turbo Ford Puma, which he built in 2001 – spot the difference on the bonnet...



The car has been prepared for the Sol Rally in Barbados where 32°C temperatures are common. Andrew designed, made and installed a carbon fibre duct to properly guide hot air from the water radiator (and intercooler) to the large exit vent in the bonnet. This has made a notable difference with the engine running temperature reduced by 4-5°C.

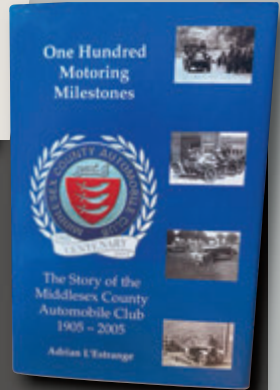
Another modification, this time in the cabin, where Andrew had an idea for a 'head's up display', as he explains...



"I like my eyes glued to the road ahead. To reduce the distraction of looking down I made a device to project both the sequential gear number and shift light onto the windscreen. This required a mirror image of the dash display and a custom mount at the base of the windscreen that carefully positions the reversed digit to reflect onto the windscreen. When looking ahead the gear number is easy to read in peripheral vision, visible in strong sunlight and its intensity automatically dims at dusk."

With hours to fill during the last two years, leaping through the first 100 years of the MCAC, **One Hundred Motoring Milestones** by **Adrian L'Estrange**, has been enlightening. This invaluable, insightful and interesting book is recommended reading for all members. Featured here and later in this Review, are two inspirational and intrepid lady members who graced our club during the "The Golden Age" of the 1920s and 1930s.

Copies of our book are available



# KITTY BRUNELL

**Kitty Brunell**, with her AC Ace in 1933, is the only woman ever to have won her class in the RAC Rally. Kitty's score in 1933 would have won the event outright, except that only class positions were published on the event, right up to the 1950s.



Born in 1911, Kitty had car racing in the blood as her father, Bill Brunell, was a well-known motorsports photographer as well as a keen trials and rally competitor, becoming the first Englishman, navigating for Victor Bruce, to win the Monte Carlo Rally.

Kitty's first recorded race, when just 17, was the 1928 Monte Carlo Rally driving a Delage. She was a competent mechanic and car designer and in 1929, British car maker Talbot was so impressed with Kitty's driving skills they built a coupe named 'Kitty II' especially for her.

A club member from 1929-1936, Kitty's second entry to the RAC Rally was in 1933. A four day event that started from various parts of the country, finished 1,000 miles later in Hastings, Kent, with Kitty winning Class 2 and receiving three awards for her endeavours.

2020

ABINGDON CAR-NIVAL

## OFF THE LEASH

...For many, Abingdon was the first taste of post-lockdown competition and **Ian Barclay** and **Sue Plater** were happy to don their masks on the way to Class C 8th in their Darran...



A strong MCAC contingent with mixed fortunes – **Chris West** and **Keith Hounslow** bagged a 1st in D2, whilst **Guy Anderson** and **Dave Taylor**'s Galant and **David** and **Robert Ginn**'s Chevette HSR both retired with mechanical issues...



...faring better though were **Adam** and **Ray Ripper** who would finish the day 1st in Class A, with **Brett** and **Andrew Murray** not far behind in 4th

# CP RIDES AGAIN

# 2021



Competitors gathered for the Christine Poxon Fun Run, won by **Lara & Mike Cawthra** which concluded with pub grub and £100 raised for the Peace Hospice, Watford. Our thanks to organisers **Pete Farmer** and **Max Maxwell**

# HI-HO SILVER!

The Fun Run was followed by some overdue club awards covering 2019 & 2020. **Tony Phillips** presented some well-deserved silverware to...



**Adam Ripper,**  
Kensington Cup & Taylour Trophy



**Pete Farmer & Max Maxwell,**  
Centenary Cup



**Ray Ripper,** Southgate Cup & Taylour Trophy; **Brett Murray,** Riddell Cup; **Tony Phillips,** Lawson Cup

# ROGER ALBERT CLARK RALLY

2021

# NEARLY



# THERE



The dashing Datsun 1600 SSS of **Alex Waterman** and **Glyn Thomas** was performing admirably until a clutch problem curtailed their rally on the penultimate stage.



Manning the marshal posts were **Chris Comley, Liz Chalmers, Peter Cox, Paul Jeeves, Dave Hull, Mike Frewer** and others.

Riding to the rescue was **Richard Wise**. A quick trip up country saw non-member **David Hopkins'** Talbot Sunbeam TI finish the rally 2nd in Class D and 33rd place overall.



The last club event of 2021 saw a return to the Ace Cafe on the North Circular Road, with some interesting cars.



**Chris Hedges** brought along his stunning white Ford Escort Mk II which sat alongside **Andrew Murray's** equally well presented red version

# BEWARE THE WOLF IN SHEEPIE'S CLOTHING

Most intriguing vehicle of the night was the Freelander of **Ian Linford (Sheepie)**. With a standard K-Series engine at its heart, Ian exuded enthusiasm when recounting his exploits on Stage Rallies, Hill Rallies, the Wales Rally GB, Trackrod and others, but most on show was how much **FUN** he'd had with his extraordinary, and powerful, rally car



The unconventional buttons on **Ian's** steering wheel provided much amusement!



# MARY BRUCE

**Mary Bruce**, indefatigable competitor, broke records on land, water and in the air; this extraordinary woman was an MCAC member from before 1927 to 1930

**Mary Bruce** borrowed an AC Six car and started the 1927 Monte Carlo Rally from John o' Groats. After travelling 1,700 miles in 72 hours without sleep, she finished sixth overall, and won the Coupe des Dames. On 28 January 1927, she departed Monte Carlo on an 8,000-mile endurance trial through Italy, Tunisia, Morocco, Spain and France...

...she then drove the car 1,000 miles around the Montlhéry oval circuit near Paris, then finally returned to England. On 9 July 1927, she departed from London in the same car and drove through northern Europe to Scandinavia, finally planting a Union Jack about 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle; it was farther north than anyone had previously driven, a record that remained until the 21st century.

On 9 December 1927, Mary started a 10-day endurance record in fog at Montlhéry, driving an AC Six fitted with a racing screen but minus roof and lights. The average speed was 68 miles per hour over about 15,000 miles.

However, Mary's motoring exploits continued:

On 6 June 1929, she drove a Bentley 4½ Litre at Montlhéry for 24 hours, to capture the world record for single-handed driving, averaging over 89 miles per hour.

Having set records on both land and water, Mary took to the skies and by July 1930 was the owner of a Blackburn Bluebird IV and prepared to fly solo around the world.

Flying east with stops across Europe and the Middle East,

Mary made it to China, then became the first to fly over the Yellow Sea to Korea and then across to Japan.

Taking a ship to Vancouver, her flight resumed across North America, reaching New York in early February 1931; then Mary sailed the Atlantic to Le Havre, flying from there to Lympne on 19 February 1931.

The next day she was given an aerial escort by Amy Johnson and others to Croydon Airport, where a great reception awaited her.

# MILES OF SMILES

## A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF AN MCAC MARSHAL...



It's been a busy year for new MCAC marshals **Mike and Polina Frewer**, clocking up many miles to the Cotswolds, Wales and Norfolk; their home

base in South Devon made Exmoor a local event! Thank you, our sport couldn't run without such dedicated marshals.

### 7 Woodpecker Stages

Safety Radio

4 SEP

This was the start of a double header weekend for us. We met in the evening and all tried to get to sleep in our cars – difficult as the local bats bumped into my radio aerial every 10 minutes! Morning came and with paperwork in hand, off into the stages we went. With Max looking after the previous post, the only action was when one car decided to choose two gears at the same time on an uphill section before a hairpin right. With whistles and marshals going everywhere, the other cars managed to get past without dropping off the edge! Afternoon, the cars came from our right and took the virtually straight junction at more than flat out.

### 1 Snetterton Stages Rally

Service area marshal

25 APR

Our first job was to guide vehicles to the trailer park or into the service area as required. Later on we had to go round the circuit to check the signage for the stages. The next morning we started the day off again at the entrance to the trailer park, then we made our way to the service area and helped out guiding the cars around to their allotted garages and pit places.

### 8 Three Shires Stages

Stap Timing

5 SEP

After our much needed sleep in Malvern, we headed to our allocated position at the end of stages 2, 6 & 11. Radio crew, safety officer and marshals gathered with us. With 9 cars gone through, there was a gap until the next car. Apparently car 10 had rolled. Radio informed and after about 15 minutes the cars were told to leave the stage just before us. So a total of about 20 cars passed us. Stage 6 went without a hitch, but stage 11 had the cars going through non-competitively. So today was a bit of a non-event really.

### 2 Kemble Targa

Passage control

9 MAY

We were in passage control, which meant that the cars were under full power as they passed us. This opened Polina's eyes as to how fast cars looked when they were going past and we had to make a check sheet of the passing cars as they went by.

### 9 Exmoor Targa Rally

Safety Radio

23 OCT

Although a local event, it was far enough away for us to register as MCAC members. Using the forest just below Minehead we had a great but uneventful day.

### 3 Red Dragon IT Stages

Radio

29 MAY

At Down Ampney, I was on my own and Max Maxwell's radio assistant for the day, doing the check sheet for him while he looked after the radio. Some awesome cars were out on this day with only the one cone to put back in place.

### 4 Presidents 20/20

Time Control

5-6 JUN

We were allocated two time controls to find and man during the night. Not knowing the Oxford area we took our time to find the correct places. The addition of WhatsApp and photos of the marshalling points greatly helped. Nothing much happened other than cars stopping for their times and us getting very tired!

### 6 Hatsford Targa

Passage control

8 AUG

A targa event on grass – interesting to say the least. The early dew made the going tough with quite a few cars paddling away and getting nowhere. Less haste more speed was definitely the order of the morning. The fields had dried out by the afternoon leading to a dusty finish.

### 5 Nicky Grist Stages

Marshal

10 JUL

Our first event in the Welsh forests. An early start with Polina taking a nap on the way. We joined a lovely team and after the necessary safety cars, we had the first of the proper cars. What an eye opener for us both, I had forgotten how much dust could be deposited on my car in a very dry forest. Some R5, R2 and seriously quick cars came through, but only twice. With our car covered in dust, and us feeling dirty, we headed home after a very enjoyable day out.

### 10 Roger Albert Clark Stages

Safety Radio

29 NOV

Arriving the night before afforded very little sleep as marshal activity was full on. An 8 mile drive into the forest presented me with my prime post for a full day's marshalling – even seeing local (to me) car 130, run and serviced by Historic Motorsport SW in Exeter. The last car (115) came past and it was time to break down my post and head for home; on arrival Polina handed me a nice hot cup of coffee.

