



# REPORTS, REVIEWS & REFLECTIONS

JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
2023

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

email to: rayr@mcac.co.uk



## LONDON-LISBON 2022 & CLASSIC MARATHON 2023



**Tom Ryan** and **Graham Samuel** do like a long distance rally! After their exploits in the London to Lisbon Rally in the Spring of 2022 and their travails in the Silver Fern in New Zealand later that year, the two decided to contest the Classic Marathon, a week long HERO event. The route took 46 crews along some 2250km through the beautiful scenery of Slovenia, Croatia and Austria. A circuitous affair started at Bled, Slovenia, proceeded south west to Portorož, Croatia, then after a loop around the Istrian peninsula, headed east, then north to the spa town of Terme Olimia, Slovenia; it then continued north into Austria and west to Schladming, through Carinthia and back into Slovenia to its capital Ljubljana, finishing back at Bled. Phew!

*Here is Tom's report from the two European rallies so far undertaken.*

Back in 2005, after almost 45 years of rallying and other forms of motor-sport, I decided to retire from the sport, move to Croatia and take up sailing. That was an excellent decision which I don't regret for one minute. I have sailed the coasts of Croatia, Greece and Turkey these last 17 years and enjoyed every moment of it, and will continue to do so as long as I can. However, in recent years I began to miss the noise and the smell of rally cars; the pre-event build-up and the excitement of competition. I had always liked the British sports cars of the 60's and 70's so I decided to try my hand at classic rallying and purchased a 1962 Triumph TR4 in a lovely Triumph green (not quite BRG but near enough as to be indistinguishable to the uninitiated). It took almost a year to have it totally dismantled, de-rusted and resprayed to a better-than-new standard. It was then fitted with a new engine (standard 2.2 L 100 hp 4-cylinder),

carbs and much else besides. The only items not renewed were the gear-box and axle (not IRS). When re-assembled with new interior, new wire wheels, trip meters and rally clock, and a smart wooden steering wheel, she looked beautiful.

As a first event I decided to tackle the 2022 London-Lisbon Rally organized by the HERO-ERA Club and I asked Graham Samuel if he would co-drive/navigate on the event. These classic car events are run to a regularity formula in which maintaining set speeds and being accurate to 1 second at secret controls, rather than flat-out speed, is the objective. Since neither Graham nor I had done this type of event before there was a lot of learning-on-the-job to be done. There were different types of navigation to be mastered to keep the car to the set speed while, at the same time, keeping the car on the correct route. Not easy for two veteran drivers more used to thrashing a car along special stages at maximum velocity. We had agreed to each driving and navigating on alternate days so we both experienced both disciplines equally throughout the event.

### London to Lisbon, 21 - 30 April 2022

The 45 entrants started from Booklands Motor Museum in Surrey on 21st April 2022 and the first night stop was in Portsmouth where we boarded a ferry for St Malo and spent a comfortable night on board. Next morning we set off south through France into Andorra (where we encountered snow!) and on into Spain. Then across northern Spain into Portugal and the finish in Lisbon on the 30th April 10 days later. Every night was spent in a different location and the accommodation was always of a very high standard. There was no night driving and the roads were 99.5% tarmac. The competing cars were a very varied lot: from a 1917 La France Roadster (with a 14.5 litre engine) to a Datsun 240Z and everything in between. To be eligible for overall honours cars had to be from 1973 or earlier and there were Porsches, Healeys, TRs, MGs, a couple of Cortinas, Mustangs and lots more besides. After 10 days of competition the





winner turned out to be a 1965 Mini Cooper S driven by a father-and-son team of Dick and Harry Baines. We managed to finish in 29th overall and 7th in Class in spite of quite a few navigational boo-boos and lack of experience. The Gala Dinner at the finish in the Palacio in Estoril provided a suitable celebration for our first event and we resolved to do better next time.

### 30th Classic Marathon, 18 – 23 June 2023

Our second event was the 30th Classic Marathon run by the same club and the same organizing team so we felt a little more familiar with the procedure and the people. This rally started in Bled in Slovenia, just next door to



Beautiful Bled

Croatia, so it was rather easy to get the car and myself there. Graham flew into Ljubljana from Greece, where he had been sailing the previous month, and I collected



Rollering along in the TR4



Clear road ahead Graham, at least through my glasses!

him in the TR on my way from Split to Bled. This rally was in a slightly more difficult class than the London-Lisbon event with more gravel roads, a bit more complicated navigation and some higher speeds. The start venue at Lake Bled is a well-known beauty-spot and tourist destination.

The first car was away at 08.30 on the 18th June this year and the route wound its way through the Istrian peninsula to the first night stop at Portorož in Croatia. This was familiar territory to me as I had sailed into this port in previous years. Day 2 was a loop around Istria with the finish of the day back in Portorož. From there the rally route took us to a famous spa and wellness centre at Terme Olimia still in Slovenia for the third night and we took full advantage of the great facilities to swim and sauna. We now left Slovenia to enter Austria among



some wonderful mountainous scenery along excellent roads and on to Schladming, a well-known ski resort. There were quite a lot of good-quality gravel roads in this area and, with some slightly faster set speeds, we had the sensation of being back on a stage-rally. The final day's competition took us back into Slovenia to the finish at Lake Bled, where, once-again, the Gala Dinner provided a memorable way to finish the rally.

Regrettably we didn't improve on our London-Lisbon performance.

**Tom Ryan**



# SUMMER AUTOSOLO, AUTOTEST & PCA – DEBDEN



The event was co-run by MCAC and WSMC with our own **Steve Casey** taking the lead as Organising/Entries Secretary, ably assisted by other MCAC members **Brett Murray** (Assistant Secretary & Online Media), **Deanna Murray** (Safeguarding Officer), **Brian Catt** (Event Steward) with MCAC members **Mike Hurst, Guy Anderson, Andy Murray, Steve Hedges, Chris Hedges, Chris Comley, Max Maxwell, Alan Goodrick** and **Hazel Hughes** marshalling. Max and his trusty Yeti were early arrivers (above), before the sun came out!



On a gloriously dry and generally sunny day @ Debden on Sunday 23rd July 2023, 42 excited competitors across 3 disciplines and 6 classes battled it out across 4 challenging tests, reversing the runs after a short but mandatory lunch break. Results:

## AutoSOLO

### Class A1

1st - Colin Mantle  
2nd - Ian Brooks  
3rd - Robin Lines

### Class A2

1st - Sam Carter  
2nd - Jonathan Stimpson  
3rd - Keilan Doo

### Class B

1st - Martin Styles  
2nd - Rob Rolston  
3rd - Colin Kneebone

## Class C

1st - Keith Pettit  
2nd - Nick Skuse

## AutoTest (Class D)

1st - John Peterson  
2nd - Steve Groom

## PCA (Class E)

1st - Mark Peterson  
2nd - Scott Pezzotta  
3rd - Marc Morvan

## FTD AutoSOLO

Vini Cruz (pictured)

Competitors expressed many compliments via social media, saying it was a well run event and an enjoyable cheap day's motorsport. Well done to the MCAC team for such a prominent role in assisting, however, it would be even better if MCAC members had entered to compete. Debden isn't that far, and many competitors come from further away in other directions. So if you fancy some challenging motorsport at an exclusive venue, keep your eyes out for the date of the next event to be held at Debden. It's well worth the trip! If you fancy having a go, check out the [FB video](#) and posts on the MCAC FB page.



*If you're posting your activities up to your own social media, why not post it onto the MCAC Facebook or Instagram pages as well? It's a great way to keep everyone informed of what you're up to in motor sport and remember to 'like' and 'tag' with references to the MCAC accounts. A little like lingers long online! Tag [middlesexcountyac](#)*

# JOHN OVEREND RALLY



At a windy Melbourne in Yorkshire, **Chris Hedges** and **Phil Russ** continued their quest for rally excitement. When dry, Melbourne is very dusty and always rough. Despite the conditions and a damaged steering rack, Chris and Phil achieved a fantastic 14th overall and 6th in class finish, in the Hedges' prepare Ford Escort Mk I.



# BOVINGTON STAGES

**Chris** and **Phil** were at it again, this time in darkest Dorset at the two day Challenger Stages. This is a tough event and many congratulations to all involved in the Hedges' Team as Chris and Phil recorded a podium 3rd in Class C and a superb 16th overall finish. Our picture shows the delighted crew collecting their well-deserved trophies. Not bad for a 183bhp Mk I Escort!

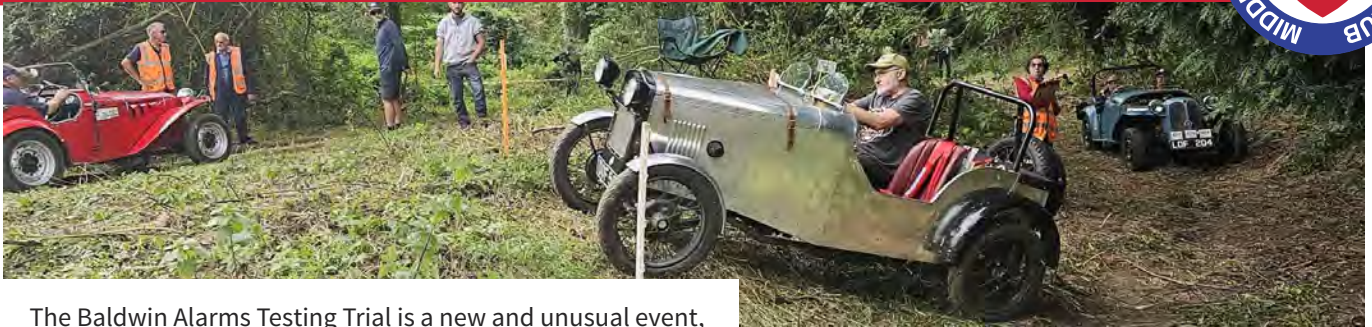
Red cars are clearly the thing as also on site were **Cameron Barclay** and **Richard Farrell** competing in their Mini Cooper. Despite a



small altercation with a bale on the first day (see the fixing, left), the two lads claimed an 11th in class and 48th overall. Things didn't go quite so well for **Ian Barclay** and **Will Barclay**, their Darrian GTR unfortunately retiring at Stage 8 of the event.



# BALDWIN ALARMS TESTING TRIAL



The Baldwin Alarms Testing Trial is a new and unusual event, a bit of hilly trials, with two hills and a grass Autotest, comprising six tests. Embraced by all who took part, the 22 competitors took to the challenges readily and all had smiles on their faces at the end. There was an eclectic mix of cars, the Smart is something you'd not expect to see, a lot of road and competition cars plus trials cars; the trials cars had slight problems with the reversing part on the Autotest as they have separate gearsticks, but they came out best with overall winner David Holmes and Best Novice Dave Saint, both WSMC members. Although being some distance from our usual patch, (the event was held at Sudbury, Suffolk), this inaugural Testing Trial was co-promoted by MCAC and WSMC and organised by **Steve Casey** who of course was in attendance, as was the much-travelled **Max Maxwell**. Reports are that it was a really good idea to combine these disparate disciplines into a single competition. One for the future maybe, either as entrant or perhaps for MCAC to organise closer to home. Anybody know a friendly landowner?



Best Novice, Dave Saint (with the sunnies) and Overall winner, David Holmes

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS & MEMBERSHIP

### Claim your points after your event!

It's very important that your points are claimed after an event and the process is simple to follow from the MCAC website. Our new Championship Secretary, Max Maxwell, is ready and waiting to log your claim and get you up the leaderboard! The points system is under review to make it even simpler and more relevant so watch this space for any future announcements. See where you are at [mcac.co.uk/championships](http://mcac.co.uk/championships)

#### Current category leaders are:

- Off Road Driver: **Sam Mousley (29)**
- Road Rally Driver: **Guy Anderson (2)**
- Road Rally Co-Driver: **Ray Ripper (2)**
- Stage Rally Driver: **Chris Hedges (69)**
- Stage Rally Co-Driver: **Phillip Russ (69)**
- Night Trial Driver: **Andrew Williamson (9)**
- Night Trial Navigator: **Alexandra Williamson (9)**
- Marshal: **Max Maxwell (40)**
- Service: **Steve Hedges (8)**
- Organiser: **Steve Casey/Brett Murray (12)**
- Junior: **vacant**

- Most Active: **Max Maxwell (18)**
- Most Competing: **Richard Wise (6)**
- Best MCAC: **Martin Lush/Dave Taylor (Corbeau)**

**Remember to log your points within 30 days of the completion of an event. There's a sumptuous array of historic cups and trophies just waiting to adorn your sideboard or trophy cabinet!**

Good luck and all the Championship rules can be found at [mcac.co.uk/championships](http://mcac.co.uk/championships)



Recent new member is: Freya Groundsell

A very warm welcome to our new member and a big thank you to those who have renewed.

# CLUB CALENDAR... FOR COMPETITORS AND MARSHALS



2023	Day	Date	Event	Organising Club
October	Thu-Sun	12-15	Mull Rally	Isle of Mull
	Fri-Sat	13-14	Jersey Rally	Channel Islands
	Sunday	15	David Maitland Memorial Car Trial	Falcon MC
	Sunday	15	Bob Budd Memorial Targa Road Rally	Mercia MS
	Saturday	21	Ashford Cattle Market AutoSOLO	Maidstone MKMC
	Sunday	22	Cambrian Stages	Wales
	Friday	27	Options Glazing 12 Car	SCCoN
	Friday	27	Weald 12 Car - Croydon	Croydon & DMC
	Sunday	29	Snetterton AutoSOLO	SCCoN
	Sunday	29	Tyrwhitt Drake Car Trial	Maidstone MKMC
November	Saturday	4	SOCC Targa Rally	South Oxon CC
	Sunday	5	The Opener Slalom	Bournemouth DCC
	Sunday	5	Guy Fawkes Trial	Falcon MC
	Sunday	5	Rushmoor Targa Rally	Farnborough DMC
	Wednesday	8	BMCK Scatter Rally	Blackpalfrey MCK
	Wednesday	15	Scorpio Scatter	Eastwood DMC
	Friday	17	Weald 12 Car - Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks DMC
	Saturday	18	Wyedean Forest Rally	Gloucester
	Saturday	18	Tarmac Autotest	Maidstone MKMC
	Sunday	19	NHMC Cadwell Stages	Louth
	Sunday	19	Lyng Garage Trial	SCCoN
	Sunday	19	BMCK Nov Regularity Run	Blackpalfrey MCK
	Thu-Mon	23-27	Roger Albert Clark Rally	UK
Sunday	26	7Oaks AutoSOLO	Sevenoaks DMC	
December	Friday	1	Weald 12 Car - Southern	Southern CC
	Friday	1	Lyng Garage 12 Car	SCCoN
	Saturday	2	South Downs Stages	Bognor Regis MC, Southsea MC
	Sunday	3	The Christmas Cracker Slalom	Bournemouth DCC
	Sunday	3	Donington Rally	Dukeries MC
	Sunday	10	Nearly Boxing Day Autotest	Farnborough DMC
	Sunday	10	South Yorkshire Stages Rally	Sheffield & H MC
	Sunday	10	BMCK Dec Regularity Run	Blackpalfrey MCK
Saturday	16	The Preston	Chelmsford MC	

These are selected events; a comprehensive list and more details on these events can be found on the AEMC website, [aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming](http://aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming)

**carbonpositivemotorsport**  
**positive**  
about motorsport

**How do we offset your emissions from fuel usage to make a positive difference?**

We use Woodland Carbon Code approved projects which will offset carbon from your fuel usage in a cost effective and easy way, so you can concentrate on enjoying your motorsport activities.

Find out more [carbonpositivemotorsport.com/competitors](http://carbonpositivemotorsport.com/competitors)

## Marshals Urgently Needed!

Saturday 4th November	Multi Venue Targa Rally	South Oxon CC	<a href="#">Sign on here</a>
Sunday 29th October	Tattoo Solo	Farnborough DMC	<a href="#">Sign on here</a>
Sunday 5th November	Rushmoor Targa Rally	Farnborough DMC	<a href="#">Sign on here</a>

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



## REGIONAL AFFILIATED EVENTS

MCAC Members are entitled to enter events run by member clubs of the Regional Associations listed below.

Also, MCAC members are able to enter championships run by these Regional Associations.

Visit the websites below to see events lists and for particular events that may interest you.



**ACSMC – Association of Central Southern Motor Clubs**  
[acsmcsite.wordpress.com/](http://acsmcsite.wordpress.com/)



**AMSC – Anglia Motor Sports Club**  
[aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming](http://aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming)



**AEMC – Association of Eastern Motor Clubs**  
[aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming](http://aemc.org.uk/events/upcoming)



**WAMC – Welsh Association of Motor Clubs**  
[wamc.org.uk](http://wamc.org.uk)



**EMAMC – East Midlands Association of Motor Clubs**  
[emamc.org.uk/dates/index\\_dates\\_2022.html](http://emamc.org.uk/dates/index_dates_2022.html)



## NATIONAL EVENTS

National events throughout the United Kingdom and Eire events and other major international events can be found at [itsmymotorsport.com](http://itsmymotorsport.com)

**ITSMY**  
**its my motorsport**

## LICENCES

Competitive (Not Social) Club level MCAC events now require an RS Clubman Licence for Drivers and Passengers from Motorsport UK: [motorsportuk.org/competitors/rs-clubman-licence/](http://motorsportuk.org/competitors/rs-clubman-licence/)

Under MCAC Family membership rules, a separate MCAC membership is not required.

If you wish to compete in any other event, please view the Competition Licences section for more details about how to apply for a Motorsport UK Competition Licence: [motorsportuk.org/competitors/competition-licences/](http://motorsportuk.org/competitors/competition-licences/)

Competitors need individual MCAC Membership Cards, therefore individual MCAC memberships.

# CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

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



**T-Shirt**  
100% pre-shrunk  
ringspun cotton.



**Polo Shirt**  
50% polyester  
50% cotton or Piqué 100%  
ringspun 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. Elasticised 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.

## OFFICIALS

President:  
**Tony Phillips**

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

Chairman:  
**Mike Hurst**

Club Secretary:  
**VACANT**

Championship  
Secretary:  
**Max Maxwell**

Membership Secretary:  
**Brian Catt**

Competition Secretary:  
**Peter Nathan**

Social Secretaries &  
Club Calendar:  
**Steve Casey**

Chief Marshal:  
**Darren Pike**

Equipment:  
**Chris & Steve Hedges**

Safeguarding Officers:  
**Paul Duckmanton,**  
**Deanna Murray**

Regional Rep:  
**Steve Casey**

Historian & Archivist:  
**Tony Phillips**

Social Media:  
**Brett Murray**

Website:  
**Steve Casey &**  
**Brett Murray**

Merchandise &  
Publishing:  
**Ray Ripper**

## CLUB NIGHT

Join us at our  
Club Nights.  
Check the  
website calendar  
for any late  
alterations.

**NEXT DATE:**  
To be advised  
– check the  
website for  
details.