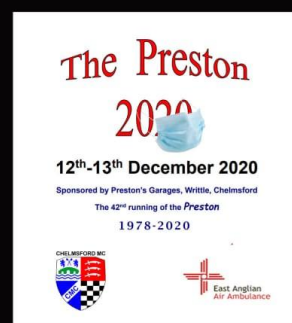


OXFORD MOTOR CLUB



William Johnson on the gruelling Preston Road Rally 2020

December 2020 Magazine



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The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Oxford Motor Club.

OXFORD MOTOR CLUB CONTACTS

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<u>OFFICERS</u>		
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John Blackwell	Points Collator	points@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk
Simon Phillips	Webmaster	webmaster@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk
<u>NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>		
Brain Cammack	Committee Member	
Suze Edean	Committee Member	



**The Committee of Oxford Motor Club wish
all our members a Very Happy Christmas
and Prosperous New Year.**

**Thank you for your continued support as
we look forward to better times.**

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 3rd February 2021.**

Along with others clubs, this year will be a virtual meeting and login details and nomination forms will be sent to members early in the New Year.

Committee numbers have declined over recent years so it is essential for new members to join the Committee to bring renewed enthusiasm and help regenerate the Club.

All Committee positions are available and open to members and hopefully we can recruit some new members to support us and help us take the club forward.

I won't bore you with the pages of information as there is a full list of posts available on the Club web site at oxfordmotorclub.co.uk/committee/

If you want more information please contact the Club Secretary John Blackwell on 07857 403451 or email to secretary@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk.

John Blackwell – Club Secretary

Chairman's Chatter

Well, we've made it to the end of the year. And what a year it's been. Covid seems to have dominated our lives for the past nine months. From a Motorsport perspective, so many events were cancelled and new restrictions imposed on the ones that did run. For clubs and organisers it's been a minefield of constantly shifting guidance and which has made running events even more time consuming than usual. It's been quite a journey.

The lockdown forced us to cancel the Bocardo Autosolo in April and the second running of the Bullnose Targa in June. In an attempt to get a Motorsport fix, a move online saw us run a number of online rally events on Dirt 2.0 which were well supported. While no substitute for the real thing, it kept some of us amused while our cars languished in their garages. Motorsport UK event permits finally became available in early July but we didn't know if people were ready to come out and support our July Grass Autotest. Fortunately, an online survey suggested most people were itching to get back out and compete after the long layoff. The event was very different from previous years. All entries had to be in advance and all documentation provided online. We also trialled the Sapphire online timing system which removed the need for physical timecards. There was also no barbeque, drivers briefing or awards, which gave the event a less sociable feel, but despite this, the event went well. The new timing system worked without a glitch, the weather was good, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. This was of particular relief to me as it was my first time as Clerk of the Course for the event.



Grass Autotest. Photograph courtesy of Motorsport UK

In late August, we held our Akeman 20/20 Rally, starting at Stowe in Buckinghamshire, Clerked by Brian Cammack, it was a daylight navigational event with three special tests on private land. Again, the event was very well supported, with the tests proving to be particularly popular. As a club we started to feel we were really getting to grips with the new Covid safe requirements.



Akeman Start venue: Image Courtesy of Andy Manston

With life seeming to become a little more normal, we held our September club night at Caffeine & Machine in Warwickshire. This was the first time we'd met up since early March and was well supported with around 25 people attending.



Caffeine & Machine. Image courtesy of Richard Austen

Unfortunately, with the Covid situation looking worse again, we felt fortunate to hold our Boanerges Autosolo in October. To add to the difficulties, two weeks before the event the landowner informed us that a large portion of the course had been dug up. A quick site visit and course redesign meant disaster was averted, but the venue is not what it once was and is cutting up in places. We may only have one more year at Finmere so if you know of a venue that might be suitable for an Autosolo, please get in touch.

As a competitor, my year has also had its ups and downs. The year started well with two 12 car wins, followed by winning the Grass Autotest, and ended with me crashing my newly acquired Citroen C2 rally car into a bank at Down Ampney thanks to a malfunctioning power steering rack. Ah the joys of Motorsport..

As I write this we look to be on the brink of another lockdown, so 2021 may well be another challenging year (at least I'll have time to repair the C2). Despite this, we're making plans for next year. In addition to our regular events we are looking to revamp our club nights. We're looking to hold more social events outside at various venues, similar to Caffeine & Machine and also plan to hold a number of Club night Navex's and Scatters if organisers can be found. Keep an eye on the Club Calendar and Social media channels for details.

One major change we're introducing is to the Club Championships. Championship points for competitive events will now only be available for specific championship events. All events will be as local to Oxford as possible. It's hoped that this will see more members out on the same events and encourage friendly competition. These changes have been made to give everyone an equal chance of success based on performance, rather than rewarding members who compete on the most events. Please see later in this edition of the magazine for details of the regulations and the draft list of events.

On behalf of the whole OMC Committee, I'd like to wish you and your families as Happy & Safe a Christmas as possible. Here's to a better 2021.

Simon Phillips

Club Championship

There have been a few events since we were released from lockdown so don't forget to send in your last points claims.

The December spreadsheet is on the web site.

Either send your claims by using the online form on the web site or by email to points@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk

Unfortunately we will be unable to hold the awards ceremony at the AGM but we will look to rectify this later in the year.

In an attempt to rejuvenate interest in the club championships, we've introduced some major changes.

For 2021, instead of claiming points for any event you compete on, we're now defining championships for each major discipline with specific rounds where points can be earned. This will give everyone an equal chance of success based on performance, rather than rewarding members who compete on the most events. We are choosing events relatively close to Oxford to encourage more participation. We are also hoping this will encourage a spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie between members – old and new - who will meet and get to know each other on events and don't forget you also score points for your discipline if you organise an event.

Please note that the events in each championship are chosen in December in the midst of the pandemic so they are a best endeavour choice.

If there are changes to any event they will be updated on the web site as soon as information becomes available **BUT** you are strongly advised to check dates when you can.

This can be seen at

<http://www.oxfordmotorclub.co.uk/championships/> or

<http://www.oxfordmotorclub.co.uk/calendar/>

Should an event not run we will substitute another event wherever possible.

A full explanation of the championship regulations can be found on the web site under Club Championship.

It would be appreciated if competitors would display an Oxford Motor Club sticker when entering events.

These are freely available from the club.

Road Sport Championship – Best 5 from 7 to count

January 29 th	12 Car Rally	Dolphin MC	Newbury Area
February 26 th	Roadsport rally	CMSG	Newbury Area
March 5 th	12 Car Rally	Blackbird AC	Northants Area
April 24 th	20/20 Rally	Devises & DMC	Swindon Area
August	Akeman 20/20 Rally	Oxford MC	Oxford Area
October	12 Car Rally	Oxford MC	Oxford Area
November 5 th	12 Car Rally	Blackbird AC	Northants Area

Targa Rally Championship – Best 5 from 7 to count

February 20 th	Festival Targa Rally	Bath MC	Castle Combe
March	Bramley Targa	Farnborough MC	Bramley
May 9 th	Kemble Targa Rally	Bath MC	Kemble Airfield
August 8 th	Hatsford Targa Rally	Ross MC	Ross on Wye
August 22 nd	Venta Silirium Targa	Forresters CC	MOD Caerwent
November	Rushmore Targa	Farnborough	Rushmoor Arena
November	Bustard Targa	S & S DMC	Shepton Mallett

Autosolo Championship – Best 5 from 7 to count

March 7 th	Kemble Autosolo	Devises & DMC	Kemble Airfield
April 25 th	Bocardo Autosolo	Oxford MC	Finmere Airfield
June 6 th	CAR-nival Autosolo	Dolphin MC	Dalton Barracks, Abingdon
July 11 th	Autosolo	60 & Worcs MC	Defford
August 8 th	Summer Autosolo	Bath MC	Kemble Airfield
October 3 rd	Boanerges Autosolo	Oxford MC	Finmere Airfield
October 17 th	Autosolo	60 & Worcs MC	Cheltenham Racecourse

Tarmac Stage Rally Championship – Best 4 from 6 to count

April 10 th	Get it Sideways Rally	Cheltenham MC	Down Ampney
May 1 st	Corinium Stages Rally	Cirencester MC	Down Ampney
June 6 th	CAR-nival Stages Rally	Team Tempest	Dalton Barracks
June 27 th	Hertfordshire Stages Rally	MCAC	Hertfordshire
September 5 th	3 Shires Stages Rally	Cheltenham MC	Ludlow
November	Challenger Stages Rally	Bournemouth MC	Bovington

Grass Autotest Championship - Best 2 from 3 to count

July 25 th	Twisted Arms Autotest	Oxford MC	Puzey, Witney
August	Grass Autotest	Falcon MC	Sywell, Northants
TBA			

If you have any questions please contact me.

John Blackwell – Points Collator

2021 Events

Events for next year are starting to be announced and as they come in they are being published on the club web site at www.oxfordmotorclub.co.uk/calendar/
Contact details if available are shown but in these troubled times it is best to contact the organising club to confirm they are running

What the future holds for 2021

As we come to the end of 2020 we look forward to a more active year of motorsport – Covid-19 permitting.

Club activities have been in decline for some years but with your help and support we can start to reverse this trend.

What we have confirmed for 2021 are our two **Autosolo and PCAs on April 25th & October 3rd**.

These will run at Finmere but this will probably be the last year we are able to use the venue as it is being developed and what is left is slowly disintegrating.

We desperately need a new venue so any help in sourcing one would be very gratefully received. We haven't been standing still on this search but, so far, we have had no success.

David Smith has also informed us that this will be his last year as Autosolo Clerk of the Course so we will need to find another volunteer to take on this role.

However, if you would like to take on one of these events to see what is involved and to learn the ropes David would be quite happy and your help will be very welcome.

The **Summer Grass Autotest** will, with the permission of Matthew and Tim Green, again run towards the end of July and with luck we will be able to put on the annual **Club Barbeque** as a thank you to members.

We would like to run at least one more grass Autotest this year so, again, any help in sourcing suitable fields would be very gratefully received.

The popular **Akeman 20/20 Road Rally** will hopefully run during August. More details will be available from Brian during the year.

With the Covid-19 restrictions until at least Easter, if the experts are right, we are looking at options for the Club nights including drive outs and visits and we will let

you know as these arise.

Ideas that would interest members would be very welcome and they do not necessarily have to be motorsport related.

That's all the confirmed events so we reminisce on past glories and look to other possibilities for your enjoyment.

In 2019 we ran a successful **Bullnose Targa Rally** based wholly at Finmere. In 2020 we planned to expand this to a multi-venue event but as with most motorsport during 2020 this was shelved.

If it runs again this event will need a dedicated Clerk of the Course and team to organise and run it so if you would like to be involved let me know.

12 Car Rallies are another event that have dropped from our calendar due to lack of organisers although this problem is not unique to Oxford. We used to run four competitions a year in conjunction with Dolphin MC further four and it would be good if we could resurrect a few of these events for members enjoyments.

I regularly see members names on other club's results lists and it would be great to have an Oxford event run again. We have experienced members who are able to give any help and advice necessary.

Our ever=popular **Carfax Stage Rally** has been confined to the history books for a few years now since suitable venues for this size of event appear ever more difficult to find.

Some years ago we ran successful **Scenic Drives—Cars to the Claydons and the Hogmanay—** and with your help we can resurrect these very popular events.

Finally, we used to run several successful **Scatters and NavEx's** but these have been off the calendar for several years as competitor numbers slowly decreased. The last one ran with just two members.

We have the original organiser with all the information needed for willing volunteers to resurrect these enjoyable events.

None of these events can happen without your support and enthusiasm to see OMC succeed so, ever hopeful, we look forward to some positive replies.

John Blackwell – Club Secretary



Dear Oxford Motor Club,

Thank you for your donation of £25.00 to the National Trust to help the area's most in need. We greatly appreciate your support now more than ever, and your donation will help look after these precious places for generations to come.

For 125 years people like you have come together in the belief that nature, beauty and history are for everyone. Although we're now in a changed world, our mission stays the same – to protect and look after places so that people and nature can thrive. With your support we can continue our vital conservation work wherever the need is greatest.

Your gift today helps look after the places you love so that future generations may find the same joy, peace and inspiration that you do.

Thank you for doing your bit to look after nature, beauty and history.

With warmest wishes,
Lydia Lee
National Trust Fundraising Director

OMC Membership Renewal

Hi members, it is that time again to renew your membership for 2021

2021 Membership Fees stay the same at £15 for individual Membership and £2.50 per additional family member. They must be 12 or over and live at the same address as the main applicant.

To make your renewal you have two choices and you can click on the links below.

Complete the [Online Membership Form](#)

or

Download and complete the [Membership Application Form](#) and send with a cheque for the appropriate fee, payable to **Oxford Motor Club** and return to:

Membership Secretary.
14 Matlock Close,
Brownsover,
Warwickshire,
CV21 1LB
Email: membership@oxfordmotorclub.co.uk

Perranporth Sprint

**Spitfire Raceway, Perranporth Airfield
Saturday 19 September 2020**

Lockdown to shakedown: the third day of sprinting at Perranporth Airfield, organised by Truro & District Motor Club, was the ideal opportunity to give our MG ZR its first competitive run-out since a Camel Vale MC Scatter prior to the first lockdown.

Paul had been working hard on the car, fitting a roll cage, seats & harnesses, competition coil-overs, roller top mounts, rear camber plates etc. in order to transform a half-decent road-rally vehicle into a stage car. Finally, with the lockdown easing and the green light given to motorsport, an event just a few miles along the road from Newquay seemed the right time and place to give the MG a few testing, high-speed runs.



Truro MC had been careful to ensure all Covid-19 measures were in place before staging their four-day sprint (15-16 Aug./19-20 Sept.) at a new location: the 'Spitfire Raceway' – so named because in World War II the airfield, made operational in 1941, was utilised by no less than 21 squadrons of Spitfires until its decommission five years later.

Comprising of the usual suspects found in a sprint: single-seaters, rally cars, modified production cars, the event proved a grand day out. Even the expected rain didn't materialise. To be honest I've never competed/marshalled on an airfield that was quite so temperate. There were parachutists too, but no skylarks...

Always a concern that the MG would function properly (including the driver), the practice session went well and Paul was pleased to report to the team manager (me, cuppa in hand) that there had been no glitches. Apart, that is, from a pair of judge-of-fact marshals who'd decided to set up camp at the end of a flat-out straight. Presumably, their orange tabards would keep them from harm!



Photo: 569 Motorsport Media

Shaving 1.24 seconds off the practice lap, the ZR's first timed run was well-up with the field (single-seaters apart), and the next three outings were all within 0.4 of a second – so pretty consistent, and enough to gain second in class, a Toyota Celica being just too quick. FTD was posted by an OMS 2000M (me, neither), a single-seat racer.

All-in-all, it was an enjoyable event – and good to get 'back out there'. We are looking at the Bath MC Targa in February, or following a few extra modifications, a stage rally. When, it seems, I will have to set down my mug and squeeze into the left-hand seat. And I thought I'd retired from active duty...

All the best from the Wild West!

Richard Sumner
OMC Cornwall Correspondent

Hagerty Insurance reminder

With the new year upon us I just wanted to remind you all that we now have a deal with Hagerty insurance for club members to receive a discount of up to 15% on classic car and motorbike policies taken out with them. Modern car cover is also available, as is road cover for rally cars. All you need to do is mention '**Oxford Motor Club**' when you enquire to receive the discount.

As part of this, Hagerty will pay the club an introduction fee which we'll use to fund our events.

Please give them a try when you're due to renew.



HAGERTY
WE MAY SELL
INSURANCE
BUT WE
LIVE
CLASSICS

OUR STORY

Hagerty's roots date back to 1984 when Frank and Louise Hagerty created their own unique specialty insurance program for vintage wooden boats after they couldn't find proper coverage for their own classics. Their idea pioneered a new niche in the insurance world, which completely changed the way collector vehicles were treated by insurance companies. Hagerty is now the world's largest specialty insurance provider, focusing its entire business and expertise on classic vehicles.

As Hagerty has grown into a global company, we have remained a privately-owned, family business built on a love for classic vehicles. Our passion for the hobby, and our firm belief that our clients deserve the best, have kept us innovating every step of the way.

Simon Phillips

Oxford Motor Club Committee Roles

The club committee is essential to the running of the club. If you think you'd like to get involved, take a look at the roles below then email the club secretary. No prior experience is required and we're always keen to welcome new committee members. We will be happy to help ease you into a new role and you can start now!

Chairman - The figurehead of the Club, whose motor sporting experiences and management qualities influences the path the club goes down, instils confidence and guidance in the general membership and is a steadying influence at committee level. The Chairman will have sufficient knowledge of the clubs activities to deliver a report to the assembled membership and will chair the main meetings at committee and will preside over the Annual General Meeting.

Vice-Chairman - The Vice Chairman acts as back up at Committee meetings and the AGM should the Chairman not be able to run the meeting on the night. Vice-Chairman should also have sufficient knowledge of the clubs activities to deliver a report to the assembled membership. Vice-Chairman may also chair sub committees and run special projects or events

Secretary - The official point of contact for people inside and outside the membership of the club; deals with the official paperwork from Companies House, receives most of the correspondence from Motorsport UK (MSUK) and from the Regional Associations, other clubs, the membership and general inquiries from people outside Motor Sport.

He / She records the minutes of the AGM and the full committees, prepares and distribute minutes in good time for the meetings, attends regional meetings where possible, sees to the clubs registration annually with Motorsport UK, answers correspondence and is the custodian of the clubs archive.

Treasurer - Manages the day by day finances of the club and gathers payments from individual event organisers. Receives and banks all the monies and pays the bills either by cash, cheque or direct debit, records all the transactions and maintains the records. Delivers report to the general committees and a final report at the AGM in February.

Executive Committee

Chief Marshal - A point of contact for members and other clubs looking for marshal on events.

With the Motorsport UK licencing of Marshals the Chief Marshal will be responsible for passing on any relevant information to Club Members on all aspects of Licence application, training etc.

The need for marshals is important not just for our clubs event but our friends in other clubs who we also rely on for our events.

Child Safeguarding Officer - This position is now compulsory for all Motorsport UK motor clubs and is an MSA Licensed position. The person appointed will be subject to a CRB [or equivalent] check paid for by the Motorsport UK, be given training by the Motorsport UK and will look after the interests of any person under 18 attending our events.

The role of the Club Safeguarding Officer is crucial in ensuring that the Motorsport UK Safeguarding Policy and Implementation Procedures work in practice.

They act as the first point of contact for anyone in the club (staff, volunteer, parents or children) who has a concern about a child and about poor practice/possible abuse by adults working with children. The Safeguarding Officer therefore needs to be perceived as being approachable and as having a child-focused approach.

Details of our safeguarding policy can be found [here](#)

Competitions Secretary - Is responsible for the Clubs event calendar and is involved with and oversees the motorsport activities of the Club and its members. Is a Club contact for the motor sporting activities. Be a mentor to new event organisers coming up from the general membership.

Magazine Editor

Gathers information from the membership and outside of club for the magazine, collates, compiles and edits articles. Word processing skills are will come in handy!

Media Officer - Responsible for publicising the club, on Social Media sites and other outlets where possible.

Membership Secretary

Records member's detail's and issues membership cards. Attends Committee meetings and reports on the membership details.

Social Secretary - Organises social events, compiles a calendar for the year's social activities, acts as contact point at social events.

Web Master - Maintains the Club website. Like the Magazine Editor, the Web Master gathers reports, tables, photographs and news and converts them to web pages. The site needs to be kept up to date to reflect the current club status.

Points Collator - Although not a specific committee role this position can be filled by any of the Committee or members and consists of compiling the club championship tables throughout the year. The post requires the completion of a pre-programmed spreadsheet and to remind members via email and the magazine to send in the points claims!

Non Portfolio Posts - No official responsibilities but can add their opinion during meetings and learn how motorsport works. The executive is generally for the new comer to the committee to learn the ropes. Their opinions are just as valid as the Chairman's.