

Monthly Newsletter March 2020

Life seems to be going by at quite a pace at the moment, first we had Brexit which seemed to go on forever we then moved into the storm season, each consecutive one seems to have a more indecipherable name than the last one, then before you know it we have a virus sweeping the world, I'm finding it a bit difficult to keep up. So what's all this got to do with motorsport? Well the Launceston trial and a few others became victim of the storms and unless the current virus is containable it too will possibly have an effect, it's a case of keep your fingers crossed and be prepared to adapt, I'm supposedly going on a two wheeled foray to Belgium at the beginning of June but to be honest it's not looking good, it may end up with a tour of the Southwest, not all bad, we have pasties the Belgian's don't.

Friday the 28th of February saw the club and supporters converging on **Trethorne Leisure Centre** for our annual sit down buffet and presentation of awards, thanks go to Nigel in particular for the organising of the event which went very well and the meal seemed to be very good value for money. We seemed to have more than the usual amount of speeches this year but that's probably because as we are celebrating our centenary we feel we have something to shout about.

Lots of awards were given out, in particular it was good to see a couple of junior awards being presented to Ashley and Zak Ruby, always good to encourage youngsters into the sport. After the formalities footage was shown of club events gone by in the fifties and sixties, it was interesting to see the dress code of that period, with the ladies wearing a good variety of head scarves, many of the men in flat caps and wearing a tie, one of my favourite bits of the film was seeing a Messerschmit "Bubble Car" attempting Sims hill, not something you are likely to see again.

And now it's time to hand over to our Club President Robin Moore

Historical notes part 6

I'm sure that in the fullness of time the complete history of Cornish Motor Clubs will be chronicled, for it's a story that needs recording for posterity. The fact that our Lanson club is now involved with celebrating it's centenary has rather galvanised the mind on these matters. Our Launceston Club has always been to the fore in promoting a variety of motorsport competition and has produced some outstanding drivers wearing the club colours, competing nationally as well as in local events. Before the second World War, mainly as a form of advertising car manufacturers were keen for their products to do well in competition, especially so as a team,- sometimes formally entered as a works team, whilst others had generous works support. There was great rivalry between teams such as Austin, MG and Singer. To a lesser extent this practice continued post war.

Entering as a team adds a new dimension with the team captain requiring a certain discipline & tact at times to keep things together, but also the determination to do well. I personally found myself in a different "mindset" when team effort was required and a greater determination to succeed. It adds another dimension, for one doesn't want to let team mates down.

The "Shades of Crackers" team that I was involved with for a number of years was always a mixed team of different makes of car, but one constant was Norman McKee's ex Toulmin Cream Cracker car, the MGTA reg ABL 962, it was always part of the team. Norman was the "joker" in the team and could do a wonderful impersonation of Benny Hill. On the MCC Norman was always "hell bent" on our team beating the Morgan works team on Times in the Special tests. I seem to recall we usually did come out on top!

From time to time some of our club members formed teams of one make cars. In the early 1930's it was Phil Uglow and the Biscombe brothers of Callington who ran a team of Hillman Aero Minx, whilst post war the team of Dellows, - George Edwards, Bob and Mary Parsons were very successful. The team who called themselves the "Union Jacks" was the formidable Morgans of George Edwards, Alin Penhale and Ted Dennis. Painted Red, White and Blue respectively. Ted's car – the Blue one, was a four seater, a plus 4 with the

*Standard Vanguard 2 Litre engine and with his 16 stone ex Navy mechanic and navigator astern they would take some stopping.
Happy days and a lot of fun with many wonderful memories.*

(to be continued) RHTM

Club Regalia. At the awards evening the committee members were all wearing the new club Regalia in colours to reflect our centenary.

Items available :

Beanie Hat	£4.95 + vat
Tee Shirt	£8.95 = vat
Polo Shirt	£12.95 + vat
Sweat shirt	£13.95 + vat

These are all available from the suppliers , Protekt Safety Wear

Telephone 07894 057498 Speak to Mark Doey

E mail protect_safetywear@gmail.com



Once ordered you can either collect from their premises at Callington, or delivered by courier for £7.95 (this fee might possibly include more than one item) speak to Mark.

Forthcoming Events

Launceston Trial 15th of March As mentioned in last month's edition, the team will be out there next week ensuring all is well for the event, if you haven't entered you really need to get in quick.

The Northgate Sporting Trial is on the 29th of March at Ashleigh Lifton.

Both of these events need **Marshals or they will not run** so please contact Mike Wevill on 01566 784451 or e mail j.wevill@btconnect.com

On the **2nd of April** we have our **club AGM** which will be held at the Blue Lion, Lewdown at 8.00pm. Please make an effort to attend , you never know it might actually be interesting especially if our 3 months of centenary plans are divulged.

I have often wondered what is the first thing that people see when they arrive at a motorsport event. Most probably it's an interesting vehicle, or maybe they see someone they haven't seen for a while and a chance to catch up. How many of you see the **Motorsport is Dangerous** sign, let alone give it a second thought, after all it isn't for you is it ! Very few people taking part in our chosen sport give it much thought, most thoughts are either achieving fastest time of the day, or being the only one to clear a particular hill.

Unfortunately accidents do actually happen and it's at that particular moment the mind is suddenly focused on the less attractive side of the sport. Over the years that I have been involved I have been close to or even witnessed an incident when someone has been injured (ok so you are now making a mental

note to avoid me), I know accidents happen in all sports but most likely few people consider it, if they did there would probably be less of us taking part.

This leads me on to wondering how many of you are blood donors, yes the dreaded needle, I can see some of you fainting now. Be honest lots of us need an extra drop of it at some time in our lives, yes the head is burying deeper in the sand. Some people not only donate blood, but platelets and plasma, you know the sort of thing that is sometimes required during transplants, or when blue babies are born. Dare I even mention carrying a donor card, yes morbid isn't it, but real ! I would love to get some feedback but probably I won't, but if you managed to read this to the end it might just set you thinking.

All for this month J.T. e mail billjan299@gmail.com