



Wirral 100 News



The Newsletter of the Wirral Hundred Motor Club.

Volume 58, Issue 6, Dec. 2009

EVENTS CALENDAR 2010

PROVISIONAL SPORTING CALENDAR

Sun 31 Jan _ _ _ _ New Competitor training Course, Warrington.
 Sun 7 March _ _ _ _ New competitor Training Course, Warrington.
 Sat 20 March _ _ _ _ Test Day, Anglesey.
 Sun 21 March _ _ _ _ Anglesey, Club Championship, Round 1
 Sat 10 April _ _ _ _ Oulton Park, Club Championship, Round 2
 BH Mon 31 May _ _ _ _ Anglesey, Club Championship, Round 3
 Sat/Sun 24/25 July _ _ _ _ Anglesey, Club Champ. Rd. 4 & ACU F2 S/C
 Sat/Sun 2/3 Oct. _ _ _ _ Anglesey Grand & Club Champ. Rds. 5 & 6
 Sat 23 Oct. _ _ _ _ Oulton Park, Club Championship, Round 7

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Sat 23 Jan 2010 _ _ _ _ Annual Dinner Dance & Awards Presentation,
 Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE & AWARDS PRESENTATION SATURDAY 23 JANUARY

Once again we are running our Dinner Dance at The Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port on Saturday 23 January, and enclosed with this Newsletter is your application form. Tickets are already selling well and, with Jamie Witham as our Chief Guest, you need to get your applications to Helen as soon as possible. Remember we are limited to 180 guests. All our award winners have already been notified, and we ask that you let Helen know if you will be attending, and how many tickets you require, as soon as possible. If you require overnight accommodation at the Holiday Inn, please book this direct with the hotel.

A.G.M. TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Once again the A.G.M. was held at the Bridge Inn, Port sunlight, with a reasonable turn out of about thirty five members. After the various reports were presented to the meeting, Our treasurer Dave Francis presented the financial report, and was able to propose that the subs remain, (for about the fifth year running), at £10. This was agreed by the A.G.M.. The 2010 Officers & Committee were then announced, with the only change being that Peter Kelly was standing down as Secretary, and Helen Smith was taking over the position. Many thanks Peter, for all your hard work as Secretary, and many thanks to Helen for stepping into the job.

2010 MEMBERSHIP REMAINS AT £10

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your Membership Renewal Form. PLEASE return your renewal to Margy Dewsnap, together with the sum of £10 and a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. IF you want your licence countersigning and sending on to Rugby, then please enclose a stamped addressed envelope to the ACU at Rugby. We will again be sending out regs for Oulton and Anglesey to all our registered racing members with our next Newsletter, hence we hope you will send your membership forms, duly completed (including to tick the 'riders' box) as soon as possible.

COMPETITOR TRAINING COURSES

Another reminder that if anyone knows of someone who is thinking if taking up the sport, or re-joining after more than 3 years absence, to let them know that they would be made very welcome at our CTC at Warrington on Sunday 31 January. Just get them to ring Margy on 01244 813127 for a booking form.

*Seasons Greetings to all our
Members, Families & Friends,
& Best Wishes for the 2010 Season.*

DON'T forget your Membership Renewal!
DON'T forget your Dinner Ticket Application!

2010 - HERE WE COME

Dates

We are reasonably confident that the 2010 calendar shown at the top of this newsletter will now stick (touch wood!). Apologies that it has taken some time to come to fruition, but with the financial failure of the lease-holder of Donington Park and with a good few of our senior officials and marshals involved in BSB and the world championship rounds in the UK, we have had to pause a while waiting for other dates to be confirmed.

Those of you who made a note of the provisional dates we published in the final instructions for Oulton Park in October should note that the only change is to the July date at Anglesey, which is now over the weekend of 24 / 25 July. Provisionally this meeting will again host rounds of the British Formula 2 Sidecar and Suzuki GSX-R Trophy championships.

All in all then a very similar calendar to 2009, and again we have no potential clashes with Oulton, Aintree or Tonfanau. Our rider support this year was excellent; all we need to do next year is repeat it if we can. Please.

Format and classes

There has been an almost deafening silence in response to our suggestions for changes in 2010, so the current plan is to keep things as they were. We were concerned mid-season about the decrease in numbers in our Forgotten Era and Classic classes, but they rebounded impressively for the last Oulton meeting; inevitably sometime we will have to change the age criteria for the Forgotten Era class but it looks as though we are not there yet. The Formula 125, 125ccGP and 250ccGP classes are the main areas of concern, but we have every intention of sticking with them somehow. Conversely we are encouraged that the Minitwins class is gradually growing, and to put an end to the rumours (how do they start?), we have no intention of changing the rules to allow engine performance modifications, although we are currently looking at one or two safety / ancillary areas (eg brakes, forks).

The sidecar classes have bounced back impressively over the last two years, and the quality and quantity of our Powerbikes and Formula 600 classes are the envy of many clubs. We cannot be complacent, however, and will again be endeavouring to run our meetings to as high a standard as possible, to give value for money in these testing times, and to do it all with a smile on our collective face!

In just three months time....

.....we again have our popular start to the season at Anglesey – a test day on Saturday 20 March, and our first race meeting on the Sunday. Obviously the vast majority of those racing on the Sunday also grasp the opportunity to test on the Saturday, but the test day is in fact also open to others, provided they have an ACU road race licence. Make it the first entry in your New Year diary.

TRANSPONDERS, KEEP YOU BATTERIES CHARGED!

Please remember to charge your Transponders every three months, in order to keep the warranty.
We are now able to get your transponder batteries replaced at the price of:-
£60 for the new type; and £40 for the old type. Plus postage.
Contact:- Dave & Pat Barnett, at Wirral Race Timing.
Telephone:- 0151-645 6092

ANGLESEY CIRCUIT NEWS

The circuit-owners are confident that the necessary finance and planning permission will be in place shortly to begin the construction of a race control tower, on the site of the existing two-storey portacabin structure. The plans look good, with separate facilities for race control, the clerk of the course, the timekeepers, the commentator, and the media – and even a groundfloor garage / workshop area and a conjoined first-floor podium area. We cannot yet be absolutely certain of the timing but there is the possibility of some disruption in 2010, when it is likely that the Coastal Circuit start/finish facilities will be unusable for a time, and we will have to revert temporarily to the 'old' start/finish straight, now of course a part of the International Circuit. All-in-all though good news and a further example demonstrating the owners' commitment to the future of the circuit.

ACU LICENCE UPGRADES

The ACU has recently announced changes in its procedures for upgrading road race licences, which should be of interest to our current novice and clubman licence holders. Firstly the 'novice' grade has disappeared, and the entry level is now 'clubman'. Clubmen must now wear orange vests until they have 10 'Satisfactory' signatures on their record card at 3 different circuits; a finish in the top 50% of a championship race where there are more than six finishers is regarded as an 'Upgrade' performance and counts double for this purpose. Clubman competitors may apply to be upgraded to a National licence after having obtained Upgrade signatures (ie finished in the top 50% of a championship race, or class) on at least 10 separate race days at 3 different circuits. This should simplify and accelerate the procedure. Of particular interest to W100 members is that they may now already unwittingly have achieved the criteria for upgrading to National; and going into 2010, Anglesey Coastal and Anglesey International will count as two separate circuits (not as one venue), and the ACU will accept that where there are heats and finals for a championship class (eg our Formula 600 class usually) and the top 50% qualify for the championship final (the 'A' Final), then all of the finishers in the 'A' Final will receive an Upgrade signature. The new rules will of course appear in full in the 2010 ACU Handbook.

1949 - OUR FIRST ROAD RACE MEETING!

That famous Chester-based motor cycle dealer and former top racer, Bill Smith, has kindly forwarded us a copy of an article in 'The Motor Cycle' dated 30 June 1949. It reads:
"A successful road race meeting open to the Cheshire Centre was held last Saturday in perfect weather on a promising new short circuit by the Wirral "100" Motor Club. The track, of which the surface is good concrete 15ft wide and without gradient, lies at Rhydymwyn, near Mold, off the main Mold-Denbigh road. There was a total entry of 73. A crowd, estimated at 2-3,000, most of whom stood inside the circuit, watched the races. It is thought that double the number of spectators could, if necessary, be accommodated. Racing began at 4pm and ended at 9pm; a 4pm starting time was chosen so that those not blessed with a five-day working week could still attend the meeting. The 860 yard circuit consists of a variety of bends – fast, slow, 'S' and hairpin – and four straights, of which the longest is 262 yards. Direction of racing was anti-clockwise. The fast men were lapping at around about 41mph"
A glance at the results show that Bill Smith's dad, Jack, won the 250cc race with Steve Murray's dad third, both on Excelsiors. Our former club photographer, Len Turner, whose work is the basis for our nostalgic club DVD's and videos, was prominent in the sidcar races on his Scott, and the fastest of the 'Superbikes' were the 499cc Rudge of A Bates and the 348cc Velocette of GP Ellison. As a Club we continued running motor cycle race meetings and car sprints at Rhydymwyn until the mid-1960's, and our President, Harold Bowman, is still to this day the class record holder for drivers of saloon cars. As he keeps reminding us!

MARSHALS RECRUITMENT

The Club has over 600 members and is now clearly established as one of the leading regional road race organisers in the UK. It has a solid core of riders, officials and marshals, and whilst we could always do with more of each, it is the marshalling fraternity that we would dearly like to extend. Surely amongst our large membership there are those amongst you who might fancy giving marshalling a try, and maybe you know of friends or relatives who might be interested in giving it a go too. All new marshals, male and female, are properly trained as regards personal safety, incident handling and flagging – and would be welcomed with open arms. There is no pressure to commit to every meeting, but obviously the more often the more we like it. Anyone interested in helping us or requiring further information should contact
Dave Edwards, our Chief Marshal (0151 327 4399).

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VICE CHAIRMAN: Dave Edwards

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