



Wirral 100 News



The Newsletter of the Wirral Hundred Motor Club.

Volume 58, Issue 4, Sept. 2009

EVENTS CALENDAR 2009

SPORTING CALENDAR

Sat/Sun 1/2 Aug __ __ Anglesey, Club Champ Rd 4 & ACU S/cars
Sat/Sun 3/4 Oct __ __ Anglesey Grand & Club Champ. Rd 5 & 6.
Sat 24 Oct _ _ _ _ _ Oulton Park, Club Championship, Rd 7.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Tue 17 Nov __ __ __ A.G.M., Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight.
Sat 21 Jan 2010 __ __ Dinner Dance, Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port
*** Make a note in your diary for the social event of the year***

COMPETITOR TRAINING COURSES

The Club is again planning to organize CTC's in early 2010 for those wishing to apply for an ACU road race licence for the first time or for those reapplying after being out of the sport for three years or more. The dates have yet to be finalised but the first one is likely to be held on a Sunday in late January or early February in Warrington, a better option for many than having to attend a weekday course in Rugby. Further details will follow in due course.

DAVE BATH

It was with tremendous sadness that we heard of the recent passing of Dave Bath, after a short illness, aged 44. Dave was our most successful racer in recent years, and one of our most accomplished racers of all time – he was our Formula 400 Champion for three years from 2003 to 2005, and our Formula 600 Champion for the next three years from 2006 to 2008. He and the Anglesey circuit seemed to be made for each other. But not only that, he was a lovely bloke, a gentleman and a true sportsman.

The Club thought so highly of Dave, that after hearing of his retirement from racing at the end of 2008, it presented him with a Special Award at our Dinner Dance last January in recognition of his Championship achievements. He was held in similarly high regard by all those involved at Aintree.

The paddock fraternity was strongly represented at his funeral, saddened and all recognising that our sport locally had lost someone special.

The Club sends its sincere condolences to Barbara, to Luke and Kerrie, to Dad Bill, and to all of Dave's relatives and close friends.

OTHER SAD NEWS

Richard Slater - a regular rider with us in recent years, Richard was fatally injured a few weeks ago in an incident endurance racing at Snetterton

Fred Wallis – club stalwarts will remember Fred as one of the top riders when we raced at Rhydymwyn in the 1950's. He recently passed away, aged 89 years.

Again the Club sends its condolences to those closest to Richard and Fred.

GET WELL SOON

Since the last Newsletter two of our biggest paddock characters have managed to injure themselves big-time. Dave Holden had an argument with the woodwork at Aintree and Dom Fenton with the concrete at Anglesey. We are glad to hear that, after long periods of hospitalisation, they are both now on the mend, and we all look forward to seeing them again soon.

THE ANGLESEY GRAND – 3rd & 4th OCTOBER

By the time riders receive this Newsletter, if they have not already done so they should be thinking about sending in their entry forms for the Grand, which is now an iconic part of our year. For our one and only time in 2009 we will be using the 2.1 mile International Circuit. On Saturday there will be our usual decent periods of practice, and then qualifying races to determine grid positions for two rounds of Championship Races, one on Saturday afternoon and the first round of races on the Sunday. Two warm up laps, in lieu of practice periods, will precede the first round of races on Sunday.

The 'Grand' itself will be the usual two-legged affair for invited riders with £1,500 of prize money up for grabs with a special award (a free entry for Oulton) for the best performance by a rider who has competed in all of our previous meetings this year. Following the custom of previous years, the invitations will be based on known ability and 2009 Championship positions – but spaces will be left for other riders impressing on the Saturday. Those riders competing in the 'Grand', and we will primarily be talking about Formula 600 and Powerbike competitors, will not be allowed to ride in the second round of races on the Sunday, thereby enabling some of the usual mid-field runners in those classes to pick up trophies on the day.

This particular meeting has always a special magic to it, and we hope for the same again this year. Not only do we need a good entry to meet the (extra) cost of hiring the longer circuit, but we also need every possible marshal to enable us to man the additional circuit length. Please give us your support.

OULTON PARK – 24th OCTOBER

No sooner will we have put the Anglesey Grand meeting to bed than we will be lining ourselves up for the Club's, and indeed Oulton Park's, final meeting of the year. Obviously Margy will be mad busy in the month or so leading up to this meeting and as mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, it would help her immensely if we had all the entries in by the closing date, ie Saturday 10th October. Hand delivering the entry forms, etc at the 'Grand' would be greatly appreciated. This is a meeting where we are expecting that we will not be able to accommodate all of the late entries. We hate having to reject any entries, especially any from regular riders, so please do your best to help.

We expect that the format of the meeting will be similar to the April meeting, and again all machines will need to be noise-tested before being allowed on circuit – this time we will tweak the arrangements so that machines practicing first will be scheduled to be noise-tested first. Once again we ask for everyone's co-operation over this issue, as it is fundamental to the continuance of our involvement at the circuit.

The entry forms for this meeting were distributed with those for 18th April. If any rider has mislaid them they can be downloaded from our website, or if all else fails give Margy a ring and ask for a copy.

Pit Lane garages will again be available for hire. Anyone interested should again give Margy a ring, As usual they will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Also, the circuit has a test day scheduled for Friday 23rd October – cost £129; bookings via the circuit website or telephone.

And finally a reminder not to dump used tyres or waste oil containers in the paddock – if you do, we will get charged with the disposal costs, and in April it cost the club an unnecessary and unwelcome £138.

ANGLESEY – 1st & 2nd AUGUST

Yet again our entry levels for this meeting exceeded our pre-season expectations and with good weather, no serious interruptions or accidents the vast majority seemed to have enjoyed themselves hugely. The steel-framed 600 boys seemed particularly happy, sharing track-time with the Suzuki GSX-R Trophy competitors and dealing admirably with their two 20-lap races – the standard of their racing throughout the field was great and we were all proud of them! Well done.

The mix of entries a few days after the closing date enabled us to plan a meeting incorporating two 8-lap and one 10-lap race for each of the normal club classes, and this again seemed to be well received by the majority. The downside was that one or two were somewhat miffed that we had combined the 125ccGP, 250ccGP and Forgotten Era classes, and the fact remains that we would not have done this, if the ridiculous number of riders entering in the week after the closing date had sent in their entries, or at least given Margaret a call, one week earlier. Three days after the official closing date we had a total of just five 125cc/250cc entries (hence the decision to 'lose' them with the F/E's), yet in the next three days we received a further nine entries, and we even ended up turning a couple of entries away. When will riders please take on board the need to enter, or if there is a doubt, to at least let us know they intend entering, before the closing date? And this does not only apply to the 125 & 250 competitors. Minor rant over!

With Mark Cronshaw out injured and Ian Mackman and Craig Beggs temporarily bike-less and with John Robb, Craig Sproston, Scott Kelly and Shaun Williams all returning to action with us after various lengths of absence, several of the race results had a rather unpredictable look to them – but it should all add to the fun as we enter the final stages of the season.

As in 2007 and 2008 there is no doubt that the presence of the two ACU Championships, particularly the British F2 Sidecars, gave the meeting an extra buzz – and no doubt contributed to the much larger crowd than normal. Our various visitors obviously enjoyed the weekend, and both the ACU and FSRA have commended the club on its organisation and efforts – so well done to all of the officials and marshals. Well done also to Steve Ramsden and John McWhir, our current F2 Championship leaders, who wild-carded in the ACU Championship races, and over the weekend managed 55 minutes of practice, 5 warm-up laps and 66 racing laps – a fantastic effort.

PLANS FOR 2010

Nowadays well before the end of a season we need to be planning for the next. We have not been idle and have already secured four provisional dates at Anglesey for 2010 and two at Oulton Park. This is exactly the same as 2009 and provided they do not change, they will be on very similar dates to this year, with the season starting with a Test Day at Anglesey on Saturday 20th March, a race day on the Sunday, and a first visit to Oulton on Saturday 10th April.

So long as the last two meetings of 2009 go reasonably to plan, given the levels of circuit hire fees, insurance premiums and medical costs in particular, we will have survived the year pretty well financially, and the reasons for this, we think, are that our entry fees are sensible and that the level of our entries has remained solid. We cannot be complacent, however, and whilst we have always thought that you should not change things if they are not broken, there may now be opportunities to improve things for 2010, and the Club would welcome any ideas from riders.

WIRRAL 100 ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

The positions in the Club's 2009 Road Race Championship, After the first four rounds, are as follows:-

125cc GP		250cc GP	
Connor Behan	45	Paul Brandon	52
Darren Jones	39	Steve Hall	42
Jamie Harris	36	Alec Cottam	29
Rob Hodson	28	Chris Dean	15
Jamie Hodson	26	Shaun Williams	15
Dylan Davies	17	John Francom	13

FORMULA 400		POWERBIKES	
Adrian Kershaw	90	Kiaran Hankin	81
Tim Bradley	74	John Robb	56
Christian Peck	55	Angelo De Rosa	51
Tim Kermod	53	Scott Wilson	47
Andy Whitehead	35	Ian Mackman	36
Alastair Bayley	25	Peter Whiteside	31

FORMULA 600		FORMULA 600-Steel Frame	
Kiaran Hankin	65	Karl Owen	75
Mark Cronshaw	61	Darren Johnson	56
Craig Beggs	56	Matthew Miller	52
Scott Wilson	49	Dave Walker	45
David Jones	47	Ian Craven	39
Chris Mort	36	Alan Dodd	34

F. ERA UP TO 500cc		F. ERA OVER 500cc	
Tim Bradley	45	Phil Hacker	60
Caron Roberts	40	Giles Whiteley	34
Keith Jackson	28	Steve Hutchins	25
Ben Worrall	25	Dennis Sholicar	24
Dave Edwards	13	Steve Cave	20
Steve Ferguson	12	Stephen Munson	20

FORMULA 125		MINITWIN 650	
David Carson	39	Mike Elliott	47
Ceiron Williams	28	Kevin Stitt	46
Joel Donohue	22	Paul Tattersall	27
Harley Rushton	16	Andrew Bright	15
Rhodri Owen	15	Paul Turner	15
Josh Daley	15	Steve Sweetman	15

CLASSICS 125-250		CLASSICS 251 - 500	
Terry Kermod	30	James Coward	45
Robert Owen	25	David Swallow	24
David Brasier	25	Paul Coward	15
Martin Budden	20	Neil Ogden	15
Peter Hall	15	Paul Rushton	14
Bill Butler	12	Will Loder	13

F2 SIDECARS		OPEN SIDECARS	
C Hauxwell/D Beattie	47	D Holden/R Coward	42
S Ramsden/J McWhir	42	C Hauxwell/D Beattie	36
A Molyneux/A Halewood	24	S Ramsden/J McWhir	34
J Shipley/J Shipley	23	D Kruse/M Preston	20
P Alton/M Highton	17	A.Molyneux/A Halewood	16
T Robinson/R/Stewart	15	C Chaplow/D Evanson	15

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