

A Year in Review – 2003

It all started this time last year with the advent of a totally different venue and a newly appointed committee with Ian May at its helm. Things at the Ansty Cross pub started well with a 'touchy feely competition' to keep us all guessing, except for a few lentils that cascaded to the floor. We were really lucky not to be turfed out there and then with all the mess that we made. February was a slight let down, as our plans for a video night didn't materialise as the landlord forgotten to mention he didn't have a licence to hold such an event. Perhaps we should of guessed that this was a warning sign that all we had been promised in the beginning might not turn out to be true. However un-deterred the committee soon rallied round and a quiz made up from trying to guess the car from an obscure clipping soon had everyone rattling their brains. Consolation came in the form of a raffle something that was to make a popular comeback and success throughout the rest of the year.

March saw the 'SDG Mastermind competition'. Teams of three battled it out in the qualifying stages answering questions on both motoring and general knowledge trivia. Some of which I think were exceptionally hard and so I promise there will be a review for 2004. In the end Sue Mowbray, Roy Hunnisett and Chris Spear were crowned champions and were rewarded with a small trophy marking the occasion.

April saw a slight break from the quizzes by moving onto a speaker who was invited to talk to the group about Continental car tours. Unfortunately this did not dampen our spirits instead we arranged two tours of our own this year thanks to Paul Cannon and Roy Hunnisett. First being our ever popular Cannonball run in June across the northern parts of Sussex and a Mid summer saunter at the beginning of July ending up at Filching Manor.



Unfortunately our own shows calendar this year got off to a slow start as the first two shows were cancelled including the Bexhill 100 to the dismay of many. So the Kent weekender in June was the first outing but I believe not much driving took place, instead partying was the order of the day. This is now the fourth year that SDG has supported the Kent group's weekender and it has always been very successful and in return it is very nice to see some of their contingent sharing our evenings too. So followed four more shows in the coming three weeks including two new events the Argus Motor Show at Brighton Racecourse and the Friday Ad Motor Show at Bentley Wildfowl.

July saw the SDG return back to the 'Five Bells at Chailey', not an easy decision but necessary as things had not worked out as planned at Ansty. It also saw the start of our 'Best presented TR' competition which would span the next three months. The quality of entries and care taken over these vehicles was outstanding and made the judges lives very hard. However they finally announced the winner in September as John Hopkins with his lovely red TR3.



The International, also took place towards the end of July, something that my husband may want to forget, as arriving on a pickup truck was not the way to arrive. After a few drinks all was forgotten and we set about having a good time, unfortunately so did some others who were extremely noisy and we think our reputation has been blighted. Perhaps if we go in costumes next year no-one will notice? August saw the hottest day of the year and we were attending Battle at the time and I must admit the heat was pretty unbearable, but the beer tent seemed to be doing a roaring trade. The bank holiday at the end of August saw two shows, which clashed together. Shoreham airshow was the more successful of the two partly due to the better event organisation and the brilliant turnout of 10 cars, best ever yet. Hellingly will need to do better next year if we are to return.

The Brighton Speed Trials saw one of our own Gregg, enter Ian's Pantera into the quarter mile dash. Others not so brave helped out again for the fourth year in a row marshalling or assisting in the paddock. The club night in the following month followed on quite well from this. John and Arthur kindly gave us a very informative talk on their experiences in racing their own TRs. Fascinating stuff. Thanks very much for doing this for us. We plan to keep you updated of their progress in the championship throughout the year and if you can pop along to one of the events for support I'm sure they would appreciate it.



October also saw a return to a joint event with the Good wood group. First of all we challenged them to a skittles match. Which interestingly I haven't heard yet what the outcome was. Perhaps that's not a very good sign anyway after the match Roy had organised a visit to see the notorious 'Spitfire Car' with the Merlin engine. Which is what we all came for.

November was a busy time for SDG. We tried something new this year involving the London to Brighton run. Roy and Penny annually go along to Staplefield Green and watch the cars pass by and this year they asked us to join them. Plans soon involved a breakfast barbeque. Unfortunately the weather was not kind and we spent most of the morning huddled over a stove under tarpaulin in the pouring rain. At least we had cover unlike the poor passengers in the majority of vintage vehicles that went past. Despite the weather in turned out to be a really good social gathering and we are very likely to repeat it again next year. Thanks must go to Roy and Penny for helping to make this possible.

AGM was the next to follow. Reports were received from all committee members and details of the clubs finances this year look much healthier with a balance of £180.77, which will be used to support the club in it's endeavors like the purchase of a gazebo to provide a focus point at the shows. All committee member except Chris Worsfold who stood down as events co-ordinator were voted back in for another term plus Gregg May who takes over the vacant post. Thanks must go to Chris who over the last four years has put a lot of effort into organising the events calendar and we also wish Gregg all the best in his new post. The full minutes of the other items discussed on the agenda can be obtained from the web or any committee members. Rounding off November the club night continued the racing theme but this time in miniature as Chris Worsfold gave us a talk and a little insight into his other hobby. Thankfully a little less expensive than his bigger TR.

Finally our annual Christmas Dinner and Trophy night dawned. Over 30 people were able to join us and the food was excellent as always. Thanks must go to Graeme for organising this event, as it is no easy feat. Four trophies were awarded this year the first being to Richard Hunt for the most mileage recorded on his TR in the last 12 months. The second, the Group Leaders shield went to Clive Brindle. The trier's trophy this year was awarded to John Hopkins who unlike previous owners of this award was not given it because he had problems with his car but as in his first year he had tried to attend almost everything on our calendar. Quite an achievement, well done John. Lastly the 'Clubman of the Year award was given to Ian May, much to his surprise. The committee members had kept it a secret from him but felt he really deserved the award as his input and enthusiasm has turned the club around. Long may it continue.

New Year New look

Yeap, you've noticed it. The format of the newsletter has changed. We decided it needed a face lift. I hope you like it. For 2004 we are increasing the numbers of times we are producing the newsletter to firstly bi-monthly with a view to monthly in 2005. We feel that it is essential to keep you informed of what's happening by having the most up to date information in sections that will be easily identifiable. These will include the Events Calendar, references to up and coming events/club nights, for sale section, articles from readers, photos etc. Unfortunately it will mean a slight increase in the annual subscription, which is due in April to about £3.00, but those of you who have access to the internet we can e-mail to you for **free**. Just let us know. If possible we would prefer to not to charge any subscription for this valuable service but our club funds presently do not cover the cost of producing it. So we hope you won't mind.

Eight bits of motoring trivia that you possibly never knew!

1. The Porsche 911 was originally badged as a 901 until a disagreement with Peugeot who were using the '0' in their model numbering
2. The AA originated from the Brighton Motor Road Patrol which kept watch on the Brighton Road to warn motorists of speed traps.
3. The Worlds longest traffic hold-up was 110 miles long, between Paris and Lyon on the French Autoroute in 1980. A more recent contender for the title was a 100 mile long traffic Jam, near Hamburg in Germany in 1993
4. The most powerful piston engine car is 'Quad A1', designed and built in 1964 by Jim Lytle. It features four Alison V12 aircraft engines with an engine size of 112.1 Litres and can put out 12,000 BHP, it has 4 wheel drive, 8 wheels, 96 exhaust pipes, and weighs 2958 Kg!
5. A Danish man has been banned for drunk driving, after being spotted overtaking a car at 20 mph on his lawnmower, just after leaving the pub.
6. The fastest time for removing a car engine, and replacing it is 42 seconds for a Ford Escort, on 21 November 1985.
7. The 'A Mars a day helps you work rest and play' slogan was first coined by the Famous British Formula 1 Commentator Murray Walker.
8. The car with the highest MPG is the Team 1200 with 9,427 MPG. It could drive around the equator (24,902 miles) on only 2.5 gallons of petrol!!

Have you got a story to share perhaps a restoration project or an event you have attended or even if you want to sell a few items. Then we love to hear from you.

Please send articles to me: Jane Worsfold
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Publication dates for the newsletter
9th Jan, 9th March, 9th May, 9th July, 9th Sept, 9th Nov, 9th Jan 05



South Downs

Events 2004

Jan 13th Club Night

'What's in the bag competition'

Feb 10th Club Night

Guest Speaker / Video Night

March 9th Club Night

'SDG Mastermind competition'

April 13th Club Night

Guest Speaker / Video Night

May 11th Club Night

Visit to a Vineyard

May 16th

Kent Group Rally / Treasure Hunt and Picnic

May 22nd – 23rd

Brands Hatch Classic Festival

May 29th – 31st

Kent Weekender

June 9th Club Night

Cannonball Run

July 11th

Argus Motor Show Brighton Racecourse Date
TBC

July 13th Club Night

Best presented TR round One

July 17th and 18th

Friday Ad Bentley Wildfowl Motor Show

July 23rd and 25th July

International

August 8th

Battle Abbey – date TBC

August 10th – Club Night

Summer BBQ at Five Bells possibly in
association with a Jazz evening.

August 28th and 29th

Shoreham Airshow

September 11th

Brighton Speed trials

September 11th and 12th

Laughton Show

September 14th Club Night

Best presented TR round Two

September 18th - 20th

**Continental Car Tours Compiegne Tour,
France in conjunction with SDG.**

October 12th – Club Night

November 1st TBC

**London to Brighton veteran Car Run
breakfast BBQ**

November 9th – Club Night

AGM

Name the car Competition

December 14th – Club Night

Xmas Dinner

**OTHER EVENTS YET TO BE
CONFIRMED**

Skittles Challenge. TBC

Summer Saunter. TBC

**DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT THE WEB SITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PHOTOS, FOR SALE
SECTION AND SO MUCH MORE**

**** Please Note ****

The shows that are included in the calendar are the ones that we have chosen as a club to focus on. If members feel that they wish to attend other shows within our local area not mentioned on the list please feel free to do so and if you want to take a banner and or some bunting then you just need to ask.

All dates and events correct at the time of going to press. Maybe subject to change for the most up to date refer to the SDG web-site.