



# Yorkshire Centre Report

This year Carol Wride again organised the Awards Dinner Dance, but at a new venue. And what a good choice it was! The Holiday Inn at Clifton, Brighouse was conveniently situated just off the M62 and provided not only a good location, but great food and service too. The entrance and room was adorned with a selection of large framed photographs by whatnonegatives.com showing the venue, marshals and competitors, designed to set the scene for the night.

Tim Wilson, Centre Chairman presented a vast array of awards to drivers, marshals and officials and was ably assisted by Andrew Thorpe of the Cubicle Centre with the Championship awards. Top championship awards went to Karl Jackson, James Blackmore (FTD) and Amy Tomlin (Ladies).

Pat Kenyon was presented with flowers as a thank you on her retirement from running the driving school since its inception. Pat is now taking a well earned rest. The Derek Clark Trophy, which was announced on the night, was awarded to Pat's husband Brian the self appointed critic of the club, drivers and anything that moves (or doesn't) at Harewood. Brian is a school instructor, a former competitor and a regular at Harewood offering advice to anyone who will listen! Well done Pat and Brian. (photo)

There was universal praise for the night, both from regulars and visiting guests alike. I understand that the venue has already been booked for next year!

## CHAMPIONSHIP

At the Awards Presentation Tim Wilson thanked Andrew Thorpe for the Cubicle Centre's generous support of the Championship during the year and looked forward to their support of the MSA weekends in 2008. Tim then announced that he was pleased that the Yorkshire Centre had secured a new sponsor for the

2008 Championship.

Harrogate Audi, which is part of the Sytner Group, will support the Harewood Championship and will enter a car and drivers. Harrogate Audi is based in Knaresborough and operates from its stylish new showroom and service facilities. A competition car is currently being sourced and is expected to be an Audi A3. Drivers from the company are also being selected to compete in the Championship. The deal links a prestigious name to the Harewood Championship and has enabled the club to increase the 2008 prize fund to over £2,500 for what is the most competitive single venue championship in the country. Harrogate Audi and BARC Yorkshire will use the sponsorship as part of their marketing activities to help increase local awareness.

## VENUE UPGRADE

Following the last event of the year a new D road has been laid in the sloping east paddock (photo). This is designed to bring the east paddock up to the same high standard as the west (flat) paddock and avoid muddy conditions in wet weather and as Tim Wilson said at the Awards Dinner, it will allow the single seater drivers to visit without getting their driving boots dirty!

Other work in progress includes the laying of drainage in the main car/trailer park and camping field to take away excess water after heavy down pours. This work is out for quotations and presents some challenges due to the shallowness of the underlying rock.

New permanent timing display pods are nearing completion and will house the digital display boards that were temporarily erected last year in various location around the track to establish the best positions. The new housings will provide a solid background, shade and explanations of the displays to help improve spectator viewing. The multiple

displays will replace the aging single display unit that has done sterling service over the years.

## COMPETITORS FORUM

This annual meeting held in November provides a forum for competitors to air their views to the Chairman and the Comptitions Secretary (Chris Seaman) on the running of events, the venue and the championship. Following a review of 2007, the main discussion focused on improvements to the championship and as a result a number of changes were agreed and will be implemented in 2008. These changes are mainly aimed at improving the entry process, results and the prizes/prize fund.

## MARKETING

Plans are being formulated for the 2007 season to promote Harewood with an aim of increasing spectators and sponsorship income. The initial work has got off to a good start with a new championship sponsor, a number of renewals agreed and some new names coming on board. Ways of increasing awareness to attract even more spectators are also being investigated. New marketing materials and designs are in progress to keep the look fresh.

Finally, Whatnonegatives are stepping down as our photographers after a number of years solid support for Harewood. Hienz Schmidt of Hedward.com will be taking on the challenge from the start of the season with the aim of living up to the high standard set by Stuart and Sally Baines. We thank Sally and Stuart for their dedicated support over the years. Heinz has provided great photos on a number of occasions for Harewood and we look forward to working with him.

Dale Cordingley



Pat and Brian Kenyon take the applause



Steve Foster putting one of his trophies to good use!



Lesley Green delighted with the Tim de Dombal trophy

East paddock's new D road