

Yorkshire Centre Report



2009 will see 12 competitive events at Harewood (including Practice Day) over eight weekends, including a new event in early August (The Yorkshire Speed Hillclimb). The Harewood Championship will consist of eight rounds with the best six scores to count. The event dates can be found in the last edition of Startline, on the Harewood website, in the Regulations booklet and in the Yorkshire Centre Times magazine.

Even though there is no competition over the winter period, our team of back room boys, Wattle and Daub, is still very busy making sure everything is in place for the new season. Unfortunately the weather can make their plans a little unpredictable (much to their frustration), but they are hoping to have the Quarry gravel trap re-profiled before the start of the season so that it will be more effective at slowing down wayward cars. The other two main projects are the drainage of the main car park and the land drain below the Barn, perversely both are held up because the ground is too wet! At the Committee meetings we always seem to discuss new grass cutting equipment, which is guaranteed to bring a smile to all our faces as we must now be close to cornering the mower market in our region. Mike Shorley tells me that the latest addition is a ZT220 D machine which sounds quite GTish, so we will expect to see go faster stripes on the grass in 2009!

The new marketing team – Chris Brooks, Leanne Fahy, James Kerr, David Kirk, Craig Senior, Andy Sherratt and Richard Vaughan are making plans for the 2009 season. A number of new sponsors have been secured, but if your company or any company you know would be prepared to support your club, please get in touch. If you are looking for a cost effective way to entertain your customers or staff we can tailor a weekend to suit you at a very reasonable cost. Your company becomes the weekend sponsor and we work with you on the level of hospitality you require to provide a totally enjoyable and unique day for you and your guests. Simply contact any of the marketing team directly or via the website. We even

have a superb new promotional DVD that has been produced by Matt Vaughan, son of Richard, which helps give a flavour of what it's all about.

A new website is being developed and should go live before the season starts. In the meantime, the old site will have the minimum changes necessary to keep it up to date. The new site will cater more for the spectators and general public than the old site, which was mainly aimed at members and competitors. When completed, it will be a more modern 'magazine' style site with plenty of videos and images, as well as up to date information. The website address will still be www.harewoodhill.co.uk.

A new 'brand' image has been created for Harewood Hillclimb by Chris Brooks and his team and this will be used across all materials and the website. The aim is to make it clearer what Harewood Hillclimb is and create the image of speed, rather than a trial, which is what many of the public think Hillclimbing is about. The new logo introduces a clearer image of a race car, the digital timing clock and new colours that address the issue of the previous logo, where the yellow did not work on a light background and the blue part didn't work on a dark background. The first new style items that members will have seen by the time you read this are the 2009 Regulations and Entries form booklet (this will also be available from the website) and the new look Yorkshire Centre Times. Images of the new style are shown here.

The Harewood driving school has two new tutors for 2009 in the form of David Sturdy and James Kerr, both top scorers in the 2008 Harewood Championship. A special Ladies day in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care will be run on 13 August. This will be a great day out for the ladies and will raise funds for a good cause. If you are not a lady or you need to brush up on your technique sooner, then why not book one of the other school days, it could knock seconds off your run time! Contact Jackie Wilson via school@harewood-hill.co.uk for more details.

A new split time is being investigated by



David Clay to break up the long run from the 64ft point to Country. This would create a split somewhere around the entry to the Esses and would be a real benefit to see where time is being gained or lost. We are also looking at adding a 'failed run' notification board after the finish line, to offer quicker notification to the driver.

Chris Seaman confirms that there will be no changes to the Harewood classes for the 2009 season, although there will be some clarifications. See the Regulations booklet or website for full details.

Finally, the BARC Yorkshire Centre AGM will be held at the Parkway Hotel at Bramhope near Leeds on Monday 2 March at 7.30 and all members are welcome.

Dale Cordingley. (BARC Yorkshire)