



YORKSHIRE CENTRE TIMES

Feb 1987



EDITORIAL

Well here we are, into a New Year and the speed hillclimb season is fast approaching. With this edition of The Times you will find enclosed the Harewood Regulations Booklet for the forthcoming season. I am sure that I don't need to remind competitors of the healthy situation of this particular branch of motorsport at the end of 1986. Speed hillclimbing and sprinting is attracting a most amazing response, to such an extent that in the last month I have received, from all corners of the country, no less than thirty letters from people who wish to start hillclimbing and sprinting, many with everyday road cars initially.

This is of course most encouraging, but also a little worrying. As you well know, the entries situation last year, not just at Harewood, but at most of the major speed hillclimbs in particular, was getting rather desperate. This is a situation which does not look like improving as more and more people chase entries. In harsh reality it means that some competitors will be disappointed in 1987, but there are ways to bolster your chances of getting accepted at the oversubscribed events. The first priority must be to enter the meeting as soon as possible, the earlier your entry arrives, the better the chance of being accepted. A second worthwhile tip could well be, take a little extra time and care in completing the entry form and also read the regulations. You would be amazed at the number of entry forms which I have seen which are barely legible. In addition, far too many competitors enter the wrong class. It is no use grabbing an entry form and filling it in as you did last year. The Club might well have changed the class structures or numbering. If you enter the same class number as last year without reading the new regulations, you cause the Secretary of the Meeting more than a little heartache. With applications for entries now grossly exceeding the number of competitors which can be accommodated it stands to reason that

the Secretary of the Meeting and the selection panel will not look kindly at those entry forms which are a minor holocaust. Please help yourself and aid the job of our overworked officials by taking a couple of extra minutes to complete your entry form fully and correctly, it will be of great advantage to everyone.

Incorporated within this edition of The Times you will find a calendar of events for 1987. It must be said that one or two of the dates on the social side in particular are provisional and may be subject to slight change either way. We will however keep you informed in subsequent editions. As you can see, your Committee have been working hard to schedule a varied and interesting selection of Club activities, both competitive and social. Please try and support the events, particularly those of a social nature. They are great fun and there can be nothing more demoralising than working to stage a Club evening, only to find that it is poorly supported. We look forward to seeing you at the Yorkshire Centre Superstars Competition at the Queens Arms, Harrogate Road, Chapletown, Leeds on February 11th. Let's kick off the Centre's Year with a good turn out for what should be a good fun evening.

This edition of the Times comes complete with many extras, including details of the Centre's Annual Competitions. Remember, these contests are well worth winning, so why not register now by return of post? Also included, as mentioned elsewhere, is the Marshals Availability Form. Without these dedicated enthusiasts we cannot run such competitive events as Harewood. If you can help, even if it is only at one event, please let us know by returning the form as soon as possible. It would also be most helpful if you could persuade one of your friends to assist. To run an event such as Harewood really is a gigantic task, we can't do it without help, your club needs **YOU**, please help if you can.

Robin Boucher

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Member,

Into 1987 now and plans are taking shape for the new season.

Firstly though, those of us who attended the Annual Dinner Dance at the Parkway Hotel at the beginning of December should thank Social Secretary Tim Thomson for an excellent evening, on what was his maiden effort.

The only blot on the evening was the behaviour of a few thoughtless idiots who made a nuisance of themselves during the short awards presentation. I fail to understand why they can't curb their high spirits for those few minutes which may mark the highlight of someone else's year. They are no longer welcome.

Your committee has been laying plans for this year and beyond. Firstly, the question of entry fees for the Harewood Hillclimbs has caused much head scratching. It has finally been decided that these must rise by £4.00 for this season. Before picking up your pens or telephones, you should be aware that of this £4.00 rise, £3.50 will go to the R.A.C.M.S.A. to pay the increased insurance premiums imposed by the motor sport underwriters, this being based upon their recent claims experience.

The other contentious issue on which a provisional decision has been made is the question of whether the Top Ten runs should be continued at Harewood. I am personally pleased that they are to remain, for the 1987 season at least. However, I would point out to those competitors concerned that the debate only began because of the protracted affair into which this aspect of speed hillclimbing has developed. In the time it now takes to give two additional runs to the fastest ten drivers, almost the whole entry could have a third timed run.

So, I appeal to the "Top Tanners" to please bear this in mind and co-

operate with the marshals in readying yourselves as quickly as possible, especially between the two runs. We have all seen the prima donna tactics of several drivers. The worst of these managed, without fail, to complete his six or seven pre-start burns, only to stall the engine on the line. This necessitated his removal from the start line and a repeat of the burn procedure. In the time he took, four competitors could have taken a run. This very selfish behaviour is one of the factors which may spell an end to the Top Ten.

The paying spectators certainly don't appreciate the charisma of the top flight hillclimbers - they can be seen leaving in droves immediately after the completion of the class runs. So, come on lads, please play the game and help us all.

The calendar of events for 1987 is prominently displayed in this issue of The Times and your support of the events, especially the monthly Club Nights, will be most welcome. So too will your ideas and views on our programme.

Yours Sincerely
Jim Johnstone

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Robin,

I am writing in response to the stop press leaflet that was enclosed with the last Yorkshire Centre Times, in which it was proposed that Top Ten run-offs should be discontinued.

Straight away, let me say that I disagree with this suggestion. Already I can hear cries of "Well he would, wouldn't he!" so let me say why I disagree.

The reason for this proposal, it is said, is that it would allow the organisers to accept more entries. It is sad when competitors are disappointed and all possible encouragement should be given to new people wanting to start, but doing it this way represents too high a price to pay. However, there is another way to help solve the problem.

Harewood has rightly established itself as one of the leading venues in the country, hosting a popular round

(two last year) of the Guyson USA British Hillclimb Championship, plus its' own very successful championship, not to mention rounds of the Longton series etc. If Top Tens were discontinued at "Club" events then I believe the standing of Harewood amongst competitors and spectators would suffer and it would become just another Baiting's Dam or Scammonden for all but the R.A.C. Championship round.

Is that what is wanted? The public want fast, close, competitive racing without having to travel to a circuit to see "real" racing cars. I believe many competitors in Clubmans chassis (they don't come more competitive than those) and single seaters see Harewood as providing them with the opportunity of two extra runs at several meetings, when they don't normally have the opportunity of qualifying for a top ten (twelve) run-off at National Championship events. If the Top Ten runs were discontinued at the Harewood "Club" events, a lot of these people would question the value of a trip from the Westcountry, the South-East of England, Scotland or even closer. The spectators too only need to be disappointed once and they will stay away for good - and warn their friends!

Acknowledging the problem, what is the alternative? Unfortunately the rise in insurance rates and the subsequent escalation of entry fees will in itself help to reduce entries. For those that are left, why not accept the first fifty (or whatever) on a first come, first served basis (having publicised same) and seed the rest after the closing date according to past competitive performance and spectator value, giving priority to championship entrants. At this point I would ask - Why accept entrants from the Maestro Challenge at the expense of true hillclimbers? Accepting entries in the way suggested above would ensure that new people had a chance. A competitive and exciting entry would be guaranteed and there would be even more converts to the Chris Seaman Fan Club!

Yours Sincerely,
Charles Wardle
Woodborough

Dear Editor,

I am writing regarding the proposed rule changes. It's good news to see a road going award next year.

The proposal to merge the Touring Cars with the Marque Sports Cars should also give us a new challenge, especially to Brian Kenyon. I do have one point I wish to make though.

I potter up Harewood in a 1500cc Midget and would like to remain in the Midget class. I think the 1500cc limit is a good one as it splits the less sophisticated cars from the Lotus's. I think that it would also work well for the Touring Cars, as Minis would still be the cars to beat. With sports cars, it allows a wider variety of cars to be potential winners, which must be good, for me anyhow.

See you next season,

Phil Gilbert
Cleveland

P.S. What is the plural of Lotus, or has someone asked this question before?

Frequently and the area is still a little cloudy. The general opinion seems to be that it should be Loti, but I am sure there are plenty of our members who would probably disagree. The good old English Language stikes again (Confused Ed.).

The letter below was received by our Chairman Jim Johnstone.

Dear Jim,

How very kind, and yet indeed typical of you, to write and thank me for being Stage Commander at Harewood.

Any thanks must go to the key people that supported me, and as there were so many, I would not wish to name them, but this year in particular I was extremely proud to receive such fantastic support in both expertise and numerical sense from so many members of the Yorkshire Centre.

This truly was a BARC Yorkshire Centre stage. Even the stalwarts who were going to be busy with other duties on the Monday morning turned up to give tremendous support on Sunday, and here I include a large number of the Yorkshire Centre Committee.

Since I am, compared to Harry and Chippy, a relative newcomer to the Centre, having only been a member for

24 years, this really was a very happy and satisfying day for me. Once again thanks to everyone involved.

Yours Sincerely,
Peter Griffin
Leeds.

WE NEED YOU

Dear Official,

May I thank you for your support at Harewood during the 1986 season, for without your help the running of the events would have been very difficult indeed.

Enclosed within this edition of The Times you will find the 1987 Marshals Availability Form. I would be most pleased if those of you who will be able to help and support us during the season could return the form at the earliest opportunity, as we are of course already formulating plans for our first event at Harewood, which is not too far away now. If you would like me to forward copies of the form to some of your friends who may also be able to help us during the year, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you all shortly. Best wishes for 1987.

Yours Sincerely,
David Dalrymple
Chief Marshal

WELL DONE

Most of our members will, I am sure, have seen reports of the unfortunate air crash at the Donington race circuit a few weeks ago. It was widely reported that the first arrivals upon the scene were a group of motorsport enthusiasts who had been taking part in a rescue training day. These included Jim Murdoch who of course attends all our Harewood events. Jim was amongst the first to arrive at the stricken Fokker which we believe was on a training flight and mercifully contained just three crew members. Jim said "There was smoke billowing from one engine and fuel running off the wing, our main fear was that the plane would blow-up".

Thankfully no such problems arose, but it was perhaps fortunate that such a skilled rescue team was on hand within seconds of the crash. Congratulations to Jim and his team

on a magnificent effort which surely must have placed the motorsporting world in high esteem, particularly in the eyes of the general public.

SNIPPETS

As is reported elsewhere within The Times, the debate over Top Ten runs at Harewood events (with the exception of the Guyson USA Hillclimb Championship event in May) has been resolved with the decision that these climbs will continue during 1987. The situation will be monitored during the year and will be subject to review at the end of the season.

Team Guyson's Tim Thomson will be trying something new at the Harewood Practice Day. It is reported that Tim's car will not be ready at this stage of the season, but he has very kindly agreed to act as Clerk of the Course at the event. Tim cannot of course undertake such a position during the season due to his racing commitments, but it is pleasing to see a "Top class" competitor giving up his time to assist. It is a fairly rare occurrence and most appreciated by the "Grass roots club competitor" in particular I am sure. Tim has been taking his task extremely seriously and we have received reports of him investigating the problems at first hand by walking Harewood in sub-zero temperatures, although one hopes he, the competitors and marshals, will not have to undergo such conditions at the Practice Day.

On the subject of Harewood, it has been decided that at each event there will be awards for the fastest road cars. Full details will be published shortly, but we understand that these vehicles will need to be road legal, run on road tyres and be taxed, insured and if necessary M.O.T'd. The cars we believe will not run in a separate roadgoing class, but the instigation of the new awards is aimed at encouraging newcomers to the sport and also rewarding the many regular competitors who do compete on a very limited budget and cannot be expected to challenge the race prepared machines.

Following the success of the special class for Maestro Challenge contenders at last September's meeting it has been announced that the series

will again be returning to Harewood in 1987.

BOOK REVIEW

How To Get Sponsorship For Motorsport
by
June Laird
A Foulis Motoring Book
Price £7.95

There can be no doubt that one of the most successful of sponsorship chasers in the speed hillclimb world within the last few years has been June Laird. June's secrets of success are now available to everyone with the publication of a new 101 page hardbacked book which details her approach to this extremely difficult subject.

Anyone who has tried to find a sponsor will know just what a difficult task it is and there is no doubt that many useful hints can be found in this latest publication. Throughout, the book is enhanced by many of Frank Hall's excellent photographs, several of which were taken at Harewood. The photographs are in the main designed to show the effects of sponsorship upon the racing machine and also the benefits which can be achieved by the backers of such equipment.

It appears as though Harewood regular Bill Wood provided one of the catalysts for the book when he enquired if the proliferation of decals upon June's Lancia was there to represent the sponsors or merely hold the car together. I must admit that in this area I am on Bill's side, but June has made multi-sponsors work and consistently over the years too.

There can be no doubt that this book is not the total answer to finding sponsorship, if there were such a beast it would be an immediate best seller and the author wouldn't have to bother about finding a backer again. There are tips, many of which are sure to guide you in the right direction. Many are common sense rules, but these are the very ones which are so often overlooked by sponsorship hunters. No-one, including Derek Bell who wrote the foreward to June's book, finds sponsorship hunting easy. A little help is now available, but it is hard work and there is no substitute for that.

**B.A.R.C. (YORKSHIRE) CENTRE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1987**

MARCH

Committee meeting
Club Annual General Meeting - London
Centre Annual General Meeting - Parkway Hotel
Harewood practice day and marshals training day

APRIL

Committee meeting
Club night - visit to Peter Black's Museum
Spring National Hillclimb - Harewood
Committee dinner

MAY

Committee meeting
R.A.C. Championship Hillclimb - Harewood
Club night - Clay pigeon shooting
Novices hillclimb - Harewood
Members hillclimb - Harewood.

JUNE

Committee meeting
Club night - Autotests

JULY

Committee meeting
Club night - Production car trial
Championship hillclimb - Harewood

AUGUST

Committee meeting
Club night
Restricted hillclimb - Harewood

SEPTEMBER

Committee meeting
Club night
Championship finals hillclimb - Harewood

OCTOBER

Committee meeting
Club night

NOVEMBER

Committee meeting
Club night

DECEMBER

Annual Dinner Dance
Committee meeting

**FEBRUARY CLUB NIGHT
THE YORKSHIRE CENTRE
"SUPERSTARS" CONTEST**

**AN EVENING OF OF NON-
PHYSICAL CONTESTS.**

**TRY YOUR LUCK AT
DARTS,
MODEL CAR RACING
THE CENTRE QUIZ
AND
MODEL CAR AUTOTESTS**

at
**THE QUEENS ARMS,
HARROGATE ROAD,
CHAPELTOWN,
LEEDS 7.**

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 11th**

at
7.30p.m.

*A bar and bar snacks will be
available in the room*

**ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the B.A.R.C. Yorkshire Centre will be held on Tuesday the 24th of March 1987 at 8p.m. in the Linton Suite of the Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds.

By Order of the Committee.

Signed
J.M. English (Hon. Sec)