

BMC Comp Sec Annual Report - 2015

The first event of the competitive year was the "NAM" 12 car in memory of Nick Arden who was a long standing BMC member and Treasurer of the Club. Glynn and Chris organised a no-nonsense event that was based on a route and navigation that Nick had designed which felt very fitting. A strong 10 car entry started the event with Colin Woodhouse and Chris Moore tied with Jace and Tim Warburton for the win on zero fails and zero minutes, the top eight crews had at least one BMC member in the car which was a great tribute to Nick.

In 2015 our first 12 car was the 100 mile Papyrus in February organised by Jeff and David which ran with a full entry which included 7 beginners and novices to take on the 100 mile challenge. The event included 20 controls which were all manned which was a great achievement for our club. We had entries from FMDC, Dolphin, Southsea and Guildford which was great to see with Chris Pratt and Pash finishing first with a convincing win over 2nd placed Robbie Clarke and Derek Looker.

12 crews lined up for the start of BMC's 'Tour of Hampshire', a sixty mile cruise around Northern Hampshire in May. A good crop of Novices and Newbies led the field on marked maps. Congratulations to Colin Woodhouse and Chris Moore on another fine win. A spirited drive and Chris' precision meant no time penalties and only one board down. Second and top novice were Alan Smith and Paul Stephens whose steady drive in the Morris Minor lost 18 minutes but only one board. Many thanks to Glynn Hayward for organising yet another fine BMC event.

Following on close behind the Tour was the Monster Mulch Grass Autotest. A quality entry preceded a terrific day with organiser Chris Martin designing a series of fast tests which was really well received by both spectators and competitors alike in glorious sunshine. A good entry of over 25 drivers which included a number of under 17 junior drivers which was great to see these young club members tackle competitive motorsport and have a great time.

A new summer event for 2015 run as an experiment was the "Crossborder" organised by Chris Martin, The event was a great success with a quality entry, again we had a good spread of entries in all the classes and the event was won by Chris and Glynn on a tie break. With the route being spread far and wide the marshals did a fantastic job of manning all the controls, most had to cover two TC's which was no mean feat given the distance between the controls.

The Summer Tour was slightly different this year due to a change of organisers from Jace to Jeff. A really good turnout of seventeen cars left the start at Popham Airfield, to follow a spectacular route through some of Hampshire and West Berkshire's most beautiful villages and historical hotspots. Jeff's road book was like a mobile history lesson full of facts and figures which kept the navigators busy reading throughout the route which was well received by all the participants

The second grass autotest of the year "GRASSHOPPER" organised by Roy Cuthbert was rewarded for all his hard work with a really good class entry. The Popham Airfield venue was a little different this time, as the test-site was moved to a new location deeper into the complex. The furthest traveller competing was Rod Shaw, all the way from Victoria, Australia. As a regular Mini pilot on Grass Autotests in Oz, Rod showed us all how it's done down under in a Rover 25 kindly let to him by Jace. FTD went to Ben Shawley who had strong competition from Tim Pratt and Aston Bell.

Our last event of the Club season was the Norseman, another capacity entry beforehand with a couple of non-starters lined up for a challenging 100 mile route with even more challenging navigation. Unfortunately organiser Jace fell ill with a bad back so Tim Warburton and Ben Shawley took over the reins. The navigation was difficult from the first section with crews going in all directions looking for the correct route. Eventually all the crews made it back to McDonalds with Chris and Glynn being declared the winners after a trying night for most of the entrants. Thanks again for our stalwart marshals who again provided excellent support manning controls well past midnight.

Throughout the year BMC members have competed successfully in many Stage Rallies, Road Rallies both in the Welsh, Midlands and South West Championships, Endurance Rallies, 12 Car's, Auto Solo's and Autotests organised by our neighbouring clubs.

I feel that BMC has had a fantastic competitive year and we punch well above our weight when it comes to organising well run events with a fun and friendly atmosphere. The committee really appreciate all the support we have had from the membership to come out and compete but more importantly marshal at all our rallies and auto tests as we couldn't run these event without you.

If any members need any help with advice or support in getting started in any discipline of motorsport then please contact me and we will do our best to support and encourage you. BMC are now members of the Cotswold Motorsport Association so make sure you keep up to date with the club website for new events we are now eligible to attend.

Mike Hall is co-ordinating marshalling teams for local events so please look out for emails with details and sign up wherever you can as I am sure you will have a great day supporting our nearest stage rallies.

Finally please keep an eye on the website for the club championships which will be presented at the Christmas Dinner on the 2nd of December and before that we have the second running of the NAM on the 20th of November organised by Glynn.

Here are the dates for next year's events :-

19th Feb – Papyrus - 12 car
22nd April – Tour of Hampshire - 12 car
15th May – Monster Mulch Autotest
24th June – Cross Borders - 12 car
17th July – BMC Tour
11th September - Grasshopper Autotest
23rd September - The Norseman - 12 Car
18th November - NAM 12 car

John Considine