

# *slipstream*



John Murray in a startling episode at the  
Witney Motor Club Autocross - August 2010  
(believe the photo to be courtesy of Sam Gratrix)

[www.witneymotorclub](http://www.witneymotorclub)

## March 2011

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Please – when writing to Brian Pegram with a membership (whether it be new or renewal), please make the cheque payable to *Witney Motor Club*, & not to Brian.  
Many thanks – removes the hassle!

# Chairman's Chat

I will start this month with a plea,, the club needs tarmac autotest venues if anyone knows of any possible places let me know.

Thanks to Derek for a good darts night, well done Si and Bri on winning.

I am writing this having just returned from Korea, I was there working doing some training for some customers. They had just purchased our ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance System) test equipment. To test Adaptive cruise control and forward collision warning system. These advanced driver assist systems are getting more popular in today's modern cars.

A few weeks ago I got to have a go in a Volvo test car fitted with ADAS "City Safe" technology – it won't hit anything when driving at 20mph or less. Driving up to an obstacle it automatically stops for you, a weird feeling when the car brakes for you but it did work well.

Also I had a go in the New Nissan Leaf all electric car. It's funny to drive as it sounds just like your rolling down hill with the engine off. It's advanced electronic stability control system was being tested. This involves a steering robot putting pre-defined inputs to the steering to see how it reacts. It's a simulated swerve around an object without spinning the car.

The leaf has a range of around 100 miles but under the test conditions this was reduced to around 40. This meant a 3-phase generator had to be there to charge the battery. The generator was on the back of a 7.5 tonne truck kind of ironic that a CO2 friendly car needed the help of an unfriendly CO2 polluting truck!

*Steve*

## *Social Report*

Cupids Trophy on the 10<sup>th</sup> made a point (sorry), five teams turning up for the darts competition. Not feeling that well I made an early exit so missing most of the action. Brian was playing and recorded the results for me, thanks Brian.

They are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Simon and Brian
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Meg and Will
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Helen and Steve
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jess and Dan
5 <sup>th</sup>	Claire and Craig

Well done to you all, glad you enjoyed it.

**Coming Up: 10<sup>th</sup> March** 10pin bowling, Kassam stadium, Oxford.  
names to me please ASAP.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** Skittles, West Witney Club.  
Food will be available, menu next month.  
Names and numbers to me please.

## *Derrick*

### **Information from Derrick on mobile phones: 2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency**

Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone:

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone.

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone at their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be thousands of miles away and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the boot).

This item 'editor's note': I didn't believe this when I heard about it! I rang my daughter in Sydney from Perth when we went on holiday, she had the spare car key. We tried it out and it unlocked our car, over a mobile phone! Great.

**IF YOU HAVE GIVEN US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS,  
YOU WILL NOW RECEIVE YOUR MAGAZINE BY  
E-MAIL –LET PAM KNOW IF YOU STILL  
REQUIRE A HARD COPY.**

## News of the Autotest & Helmet Art

Before I go any further, must tell you about the following:

There is to be an AUTOTEST MEETING, Sunday, 6 March, and it is to be held at Enstone Airfield. Usual time. This is to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the WMC autotest championship. You will compete for the Jack Wharton Cup. Entry fee is £12.

There is a map on the WMC website, additional directions are as follows: Head on the A44 towards Enstone. Turn right down the B4022 (signposted Great Tew). Follow the road up to a staggered crossroad. Go across (be it to the right a little) and follow the B4022. Around ½ mile further up, there will be a wooden fence. Turn right through the gateway and follow the track round. There should be markers to highlight the way.

We look forward to seeing you there. Map 164, ref 385260.

Over the next few months I plan to do little articles on aspects of Motorsport that interest me. I doubt most will find it interesting but I seem to accumulate vast amounts of facts and sometimes I need an out pouring.

My article this month I will talk about helmets and their continual development.

Drivers in every speed based form of Motorsport share one thing in common: the need to wear a crash helmet. Anyone lucky enough to have been in a Daytona Milton Keynes briefing session will have heard Martin Brundle talking about the old saying, 'If you have a five dollar head get a five dollar lid'. Where this can be the norm for lower-speed karting and road use, once speed builds so does the risk of head injury in the event of an accident.

Manufactures of crash helmets have a wide range of models available but when looking at the top levels of motorsport you find these models have an increased price. The reasons behind this are that these helmets offer far greater protection to the user in the event of the worst happening. Formula 1 now has a mandatory requirement for the helmet to be made of Carbon Fibre rather than the traditional composite Glass Fibre construction. This improvement in materials has seen multiple

drivers survive accidents and incidents that in the past would have resulted in far greater injuries.

Felipe Massa's incident in the 2009 Hungarian Grand Prix showed off the great protection modern helmets provide and the continual development made. A rear suspension spring became detached from Rubens Barrichello's Brawn Mercedes and struck Massa in the head on a high speed part of the circuit. The spring pierced the Carbon shell, cut through the polystyrene inner and struck Massa above his left eye. If Massa had been wearing a normal Glass Fibre helmet there would have been substantially more damage to him as the Carbon Fibre shell absorbed around 8 times the force that a Glass Fibre shell would. As a result of this single incident, all manufacturers of F1 grade helmets increased the protection around the visor area by adding additional carbon strips. Most also altered the visor pivot system to use titanium parts instead of aluminium.

Testing for all helmets is a rigorous affair. Arai's testing regime not only covers impact tests but also thermal and visor testing. Arai's impact testing is an impressive affair (you can view on YouTube). Various weights and spikes are dropped onto the test helmets from great heights yet every helmet comes away with no deformation to the inner lining. Visors are subjected to 500kph ballistic testing and when a temperature of 800 Celsius is applied to the external of the helmet via propane flame, the internal temp must not exceed 70 Celsius.

All this has lead to the top level helmets available being the safest for purpose. These advancements also trickle down through the lower spec helmets that we mere mortals can afford. This means that today, in the event of an incident we have the best chance for coming away with the least injuries. And that, I am thankful for!

*Craig*

## RESULT OF MY PROBING

NAME:	Steve Boyle
POSITION IN CLUB:	Chairman
OCCUPATION:	Support Engineer
DREAM OCCUPATION:	Race/rally team owner
DREAM ROAD CAR:	911 GT3 RS
DREAM COMPETITION CAR:	Ford RS200
FAVOURITE MOTORSPORT DRIVER:	Martin Schanche
'OTHER' HOBBY (apart from motorsport):	Photography

WHAT SUBJECT WOULD HE BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING:

Foreign language

WHAT WOULD HE CHANGE ABOUT HIMSELF:

Lose weight - make the car go faster!

WHAT IMPROVEMENT TO THE MAGAZINE: None, Pam does a great job (oh, I'm blushing!)

*Pam*

## **Farming Club's Karting Challenge at Formula Fast**

Once a year I arrange a 2-hour endurance race for all the Farming Clubs in Oxfordshire. It started about 7 or 8 years ago and has proved quite popular with 9 or 10 teams taking part each time. This year we went to Formula Fast for the first time and strangely enough no one really complained about having to spend a bit more than at our previous venue as I don't know about you but I find farmers quite price sensitive.

As I organise the race as well as organizing Bicester's team I am always a bit aware that if we win every time no one else will turn up after a while, but with the Mighty Machine that is Thame in the frame (that rhymes I'm a poet and don't know it) we know it isn't going to be easy.

Will, Craig and John were part of the winning team last year and had to take a 2-lap penalty but neutralised because they had Megan in the team, each girl has a 2-lap advantage (this will probably go before the European Parliament as sexual inequality!)

I always try and have a team of paid up members or at least with a strong farming connection luckily Michael Cross comes into this bracket and a farmer called Graham and me but the 4<sup>th</sup> person was elusive as the usual ones all seemed to be busy and at 4pm we secured the services of Andrew Slatter one of Witneys regular karters who actually comes from Henley, he was County Chairman of the YFCs so we felt that was in the spirit of the competition.

9 teams took to the grid with some rooky drivers among the pros of Thame and Bicester and of course we don't know all of the other teams so a win is never certain.

I won't bore you with the race except to say that the standard keeps improving and Bicester only got in the lead from Drayton with 5 minutes to go, thanks to Michael fully fit after his knee op' (rumour has it that he really had his right leg slightly lengthened to

apply the power earlier coming out of the corner, a future op' will slightly shorten the left to delay braking into the corner).

Thame finished 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 laps behind the leader with North Banbury 3<sup>rd</sup> and Drayton B 2<sup>nd</sup> and a very jubilant Bicester 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next competition Public debating any volunteers?

## *Jimmy*

### **Jimmy's rant – number 4**

I have never understood the need that some people have to drive fast in Supermarket car parks. With the hazards that may be hidden among all the parked cars, of small children, wayward trolleys and preoccupied parents and old folk, there is a great potential for an accident.

Yet you see them every day, sometimes it is the boy racer showing off with his Drum and Bass competing with his 4 inch exhaust pipe sounding like water going down a drain, accelerating as fast as the 1.2 engine will go, but sometimes it's the young mum who must have suddenly remembered that she has left the kids' tea in the oven and cannot wait for us old fogies to get out of the way. But anyway a lot seem to think that as it is private land there isn't a speed limit.

I try to keep under 10 miles an hour considering how close the parked cars are but often have cars right on my bumper impatient to either get to the shop before the food runs out or home before the ice-cream melts.

I mentioned this topic to someone the other day and to my surprise she told me her mother who is in her 70s had been struck to the ground, in a car park, by a Land Rover just a few months before and although no bones were broken she was unable to drive herself for 6 weeks. The driver of the Land/Rover was a farmer's daughter late for work at the Supermarket.

So please drive like you have put your free range eggs on the bonnet until you get out of the car park, smashing.

Next month 4x4s in the outside lane of the M5 on a Sunday night going quicker than me.

*Jimmy*

## ***Magazine Editor's 'Bit'***

Hello everyone, we do hope you are all well. Also, I hope that we have brought you a varied magazine this month - you can always add your 'spoke' to that 'wheel' by sending me an article, either by e-mail or hand-written, I can cope with either.

Here's a picture of the trophy that you might win this Sunday, the Jack Wharton Cup. WMC have owned this cup since 1964 and it is a much-valued trophy, so I am sure you would like to win it. Here is a picture of it:



***Pam***

# WITNEY MOTOR CLUB

## Membership Application Form

When complete, please return this form with the correct remittance to:

**Brian Pegram**  
**152 Brize Norton Road, Minster Lovell, Witney, OX29 0SH**

To apply for a FULL membership, a FULL driving licence must be held. Make out cheques to WMC.

Family membership covers Husband & Wife (one of whom need not hold a full driving licence) plus children who do not hold a driving licence.

Membership type	Cost	Qty	Total
ADVANCED FAMILY MEMBERSHIP*	£23.00		
ADVANCED SINGLE MEMBERSHIP*	£20.00		
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£15.00		
FULL SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	£12.00		
SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP	£ 5.00		
WMC Windscreen sticker	£ 4.00		
WMC car sticker	£ 2.00		
WMC sweat shirt	£15.00		
WMC tee shirt	£10.00		
	TOTAL		
<b>Your details</b>			
<b>Your full name (please state if new)</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>POSTCODE</b>			
<b>Occupation</b>			
<b>Tel no: Home</b>			
<b>Work</b>			
<b>Mobile</b>			
<b>Email address</b>			
<b>Date</b>			
<b>Signature</b>			
<b>Are you a new member?</b>			

Your details will be held on a database to enable distribution of club information only. Please tick whichever aspects of the club you are interested in.

**\*THIS OPTION IS FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY - INCLUDES FREE ENTRY TO A TREASURE HUNT, AUTOTEST & 12-CAR RALLY.**

<b>Stage rallying</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Autotests</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Autocross</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>12-car rallies</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Treasure Hunts</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Social</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Karting</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>

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