

SPORTS 2000 RACING CAR CLUB

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NEWSLETTER 78

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February 24th 2008

2008 SEASON HERE WE COME

The 2008 season is fast approaching and no doubt everything will be left to the last minute so the customary mad panic sets in. It wouldn't be racing if there was no panic, or am I alone on this front??

It was so frustrating this year trying to get a workable calendar. What doesn't help is when you get circuit owners like Donington deciding that as they have had a better offer from a non motorsport event they just bump off the BRSCC into a later date in November!! In the real world you couldn't get away with that but as we all know, motorsport is a law unto itself.

I am already trying to sort out the 2009 calendar now to ensure this does not happen. But like everything there is a trade off, if we go with a high profile meeting to get a summer slot you don't get the garages.

This year we have a new track Anglesey on our tour, not out of choice but nevertheless a fantastic circuit and despite the trek to get there it's a circuit that will guarantee to thrill all those that make the pilgrimage.

With Oulton Park International, Brands Hatch GP, Donington Park and Silverstone GP we will be racing on some fantastic circuits not forgetting our very own UK Nordschleife, Cadwell Park.

I am still very keen to get our European Challenge Cup going for 2009. This would comprise of a 4 round series, 2 in Europe and 2 on GP tracks in the UK. I expect to have sufficient cars next year to be able to run the required 2 European races. If we have good grids for our 2 Endurance races then our mini series of 4 races will be on the cards also for 2009.

SPORTS 2000 DURATEC

April 19th	Oulton Park International
May 2/3rd	Brands Hatch GP
June 14/15th	Cadwell Park
July 19/20th	Anglesea
August 9th	Brands Hatch GP
August 24rd	Snetterton
Sept. 19/20th	Silverstone GP
October 18/19th	Brands Hatch FFF
November 2nd	Donington Park

SPORTS 2000 PINTO

April 19th	Oulton Park International
May 2/3rd	Brands Hatch GP (Invitation only)
June 14/15th	Cadwell Park
July 19/20th	Anglesea
August 9th	Brands Hatch GP
August 23rd	Snetterton
Sept. 19/20th	Silverstone GP
October 18/19th	Brands Hatch FFF
November 2nd	Donington Park

SPORTS 2000 HISTORIC (Pre 83)

April 19th	Oulton Park International
June 14/15th	Cadwell Park
August 24rd	Snetterton
October 18/19th	Brands Hatch FFF

SPORTS 2000 ENDURANCE 1 hr/ Relay

May 31st	Silverstone
August 25th	Snetterton

EUROPEAN RACE

June 28/29th	Dijon
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2008 SRCC Sports 2000 Calendar

RACE REGISTRATION FORM

Along with this newsletter you will find the 2008 race registration form, you need to fill this in along with the registration fee, to enter any of our races. You will also note the race number request box is also on this form. If you want to keep your existing race number you must fill this in and return by the March 15th to secure your number for the 2008 season. All race number requests must be accompanied by the registration fee to be effective. There can be no exceptions this year as with escalating costs we need every penny to ensure we have affordable entry fees. Anyone who can only manage the odd race can pay a race day membership BUT must have filled in the race registration form prior to the race meeting.

SPORTS 2000 30th ANNIVERSARY

D&D 2007 December 1st

30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance December 1st 2007 at the Hilton Hotel, Warwick

Well what a night to remember, it was fantastic to see all those famous names in person. The day started with a tour around the Lola factory, despite the large number all the Lola guys put on a superb, extremely interesting tour and all credit must go to everyone at Lola for making us all welcome.

The Q&A session in the afternoon had on the top table Brian Jones (chair) Howden Ganley, Bob Marston, Divina Galica, Chris Alford, Mike Blanchet, Richard Owen and Mike Ostroumoff. It was extremely enlightening, interesting and amusing couple of hours which could have been extended all evening!!!

The evening D&D saw many ex champions and competitors from the "good old days" as well as those from the mid to late 80's. It was fantastic to meet everyone that you were forever reading about when looking through all the old Sports 2000 literature.

Unfortunately John Webb could not make it in the end due to ill health but it was fantastic to welcome Eric Broadley and listen to Brian Jones talk to Eric, Howden Ganley and Divina Galica in the after dinner speeches. This was a unique experience and the spontaneous standing ovation Eric received was testament to his significant contribution to motorsport and Sports 2000 in particular. It was a privilege to be there!!

Huge thanks to all those that gave items for the auction, your generosity at this time helps enormously and a huge thanks to those that allow themselves to be egged on in the auction!! We finished the auction early as we didn't want to bore our celebs and items that were generously donated to the club will be either kept for the next auction or put on ebay.



Left to Right, Mike Blanchet, Richard Owen, Bob Marston, Brian Jones in full swing, Howden Ganley, Divina Galica and Chris Alford during our Q&A afternoon session.

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ISSUE 9 NEEDS TO BE FILLED!

THE 2007 SRCC SUPPORTERS AWARD



(Peter Richardson left and Alan Hudd right)

I was busy framing the signed picture by all the celebs ready for the auction so I missed giving out this year's award. I must say a few words now as the two recipients deserved all our thanks as they have made a significant contribution to the club, our competitors and the Sports 2000 formula as a whole.

Firstly, we all take the hospitality for granted and many just think it is somewhere to dash to get to the cakes before anyone else!! But actually both Alan and Peter are there putting the awning up and getting all the tables and chairs out for us all to enjoy. And while you make your way home they are there packing it all away again!!

Secondly I have wanted to start a Historic Championship for several years now but have been unable as without a series sponsor the financial risk was too high to embark on that path. However not only did they underwrite the championship for 2 years but also between them they were responsible for organising nearly half the grid!!

I can only do so much, without help like this Sports 2000 would be much poorer and with your help we can do so much more.

SPORTS 2000 DURATEC

It's been a slow development but it has always been a positive expansion and I'm pleased to say the Duratec growth is continuing in 2008. On our stand at the NEC we had the Duratec Lola B07/90 a car that should soon be on the pace and alongside the Lola we had the Duratec MCR of Neil Pine. If all goes according to plan the car should be driven by Chris Yarwood this season. MCR sold several cars at the show and we look forward to seeing the new guys out with us at Oulton Park.

Brian Utt from Carbir showed us his new shape Duratec Sports 2000 car, he is making a batch of 10 with 3 already sold to the US and at least one is making its way to the UK before the end of the season.

By the time you read this the Motus should have had its first shakedown test and it will be a very welcomed sight indeed having Dud out with us in one of his created cars. One thing I will guarantee and that he will be on the pace, that there is no doubt.

During the Winter rebuild Robert Oldershaw discovered his shock absorbers had no gas in them so expect to see the Juno performing as it should this season!

Work on the new Lola continues and John Finch is confident the car will be able to win races during 2008.

Having a ladder system within our formula is great, it keeps everything vibrant and if we can form ties not only with VdeV but also the FIA GT's it can only be beneficial for everyone concerned. To be able to join the Pinto Championship as a novice and make your way up into Duratec and then into VdeV or GT is fantastic. Already we have had several drivers make it into VdeV that would not have been there if it wasn't for Sports 2000.

You will see in the race registration form the new class for Duratec, the "Medicom Derek Bell Trophy Class" this is for drivers 50 or over and I expect it to be hotly contested. I hope to get Derek Bell MBE to present the awards at the end of the season as he is a great supporter of this new class. Huge thanks to Martin Ellis and the Medicom Group who's sponsorship will ensure we have fantastic trophies to present at each round and at the D&D. Entry into this new Class is voluntary and does not effect the overall championship positions. As I mentioned before I hope to get Derek Bell to present the trophies at this years D&D.

We have 3 new manufacturers building a car for 2008/2009 and two of these are well known marques, all we need to do now is to establish the formula in Europe and the US to ensure we can continue this growth of manufacturers and competitors. Closer ties with VdeV will help in Europe and we are working to get the odd race with VdeV for 2009..... as they say keep watching this space

[Finally and saving the best bit for last our tie up with Barwell Motorsport as part of the Mike Bohling Initiative. Barwell Motorsport has now teamed up with Lord Drayson as well as becoming the official Partner Team of Aston Martin Racing. Full details on this exciting development will be in the next newsletter. But what I can say now is both Rick Johnson and Tom Mills will be spending a day testing their 2008 Aston Martin GT car next month!!](#)

SPORTS 2000 PINTO

Another year and another crop of new and novice drivers. I really look forward to welcoming novice drivers as it is great to see them progress to even winning races and moving up to higher formula. The Pinto Championship is all about having fun and learning your race craft, finding your feet and developing your skills. As we have several race instructors in our formula so we are ideally suited to help drivers progress and I hope to get some sort of formal training schemes going to help our novice drivers.

I know some feel in the Pinto Championship that they have been compromised in their qualifying session to help out the Historic Championship guys. Believe me the Historic Championship will get full grids next year and it is these very cars that will then start to supplement the Pinto Championship as many will do both races. I know the Pinto guys have helped out the Duratec guys as their series develops but again the net beneficiaries in the future will be the Pinto competitors. It is fair to say that all our championships are dependent on each other and work best as a team. The interlocking championships will lead to greater stability and open up many more avenues to ensure exciting times ahead despite all the doom and gloom in motorsport outside F1 (as they seem to get 99.99% of all the money thats out there)!!

SPORTS 2000 HISTORIC

This will be our first year as an MSA officially recognised Historic Championship and the final year it will need any assistance as interest is growing at such a rate we will be having full grids next year.

I think everyone must agree the standard of driving at the front has been exemplary and a model for all of us to follow. We had a very close fight between Chris Snowdon, Niklas Johansson and Jonathan Loader with Chris managing to secure the championship on the very last race.

The rumours that I am getting indicates that 2008 will be even busier at the pointy end of the grid. Guaranteed to thrill the spectators!

I hope to get at least one Historic race with the HSCC at one of their high profile meetings during the 2009 season which I am sure will be a great ambassador for the Sports 2000 formula.

New for 2008 in the Historic Championship will be the DEREK BELL CUP CLASS for drivers who's age is 50 or over. With such a large field and narrow age band we could not split the grid on age of the cars so we have done it on age of the driver. This allows more competitors to have something to aim for which is important when you have such a competitive field. The class is voluntary and like all the other classes in our championships does not affect the overall championship standings.

Driving Standards

I must have said it a hundred times but the fact is it is still true now as it was 8 years ago. The top reason for new competitors joining us has been our enforced driving standards. After much discussions with officials the best option for us to control driving standards will be for us as a club to take the initiative. We therefore will be introducing a colour card scheme for 2008, the details are enclosed on the race registration form. Please note that IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF REGISTRATION THAT YOU AGREE TO ABIDE BY OUR DRIVING STANDARDS CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE POLICING OF THE CODE. This means it is a club issue and not an MSA issue. Any misconduct on the track will be dealt with by the MSA officials, we as a club can decide whether such conduct is in the spirit of club racing and outside the ethos of the SRCC. We reserve the right to return a competitor's racing membership. This is important as normally the competitor that drives in such a dangerous way is never likely to win a championship so (as most MSA officials do) excluding that person from the results has little effect on their overall future conduct. They then return to repeat the process often causing thousands of pounds of damage to fellow competitors and it is this that we must eliminate if we are to remain as successful as we are.

WELCOME Mick Mobberley, our new scrutineer for the championship. His expertise will have an immediate effect and all can rest assured that we will have a level playing field. We can now check at the track a whole host of technical items such as limited slip diff, flywheel skimming, carburettor, camshaft, ECU and the list goes on. You will not be queuing up but a few selected cars will be checked at each meeting. Cars will be selected on random basis plus those cars that sound different or perform unexpectedly!!

Please understand if you happen to be picked, with so many engine builders offering extra power especially with the Duratec engine we need to make sure they do not run in our championship.

Finally a huge thanks to John Atkinson who has been our eligibility scrutineer since we first started our championship back in 1999.