

KNOWLDALE CAR CLUB LTD

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

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* E D I T O R I A L *

In this the first Newsletter of 1981 we must first report on the traditional Boxing Day do. The well deserved winner was John Wood in his Escort over tests held at the Horner's, Birch Service Area and Sooty's Yard (R.E. Hamilton Ltd., Royton).

Then came the major event of the Knowldale calendar, with a mass exodus northwards to Tebay for the start of the 1981 Mini-Miglia Rally. Conditions on the night were fairly good apart from the odd smattering of black ice here and there, to sort out the men from the boys.

Eventual winners were Keith Watkinson and Jeff Smith in an Opel, to whom we extend our hearty congratulations. Best K.C.C. crew was John Hardman and Ray Dale whose exploits are included inside. All in all the event was judged to be a great success and a credit to all the organisers and marshals who put in the work. So thanks again to you all and we hope to see you there again next year. The only pity is that we didn't manage to get a full entry.

On the subject of marshalling, anyone wishing to help run a Forest stage on the Lakeland Stages Rally in March, please see inside for more details.

Finally we now have the climax of the Club's social calendar, the Annual Dinner Dance. This will be held on the 7th March and more details are to be found on the back page.

See you there.

MINI-MIGLIA '81 - Personal thoughts.....

When you consider that eight months ago the Mini Miglia almost faded into obscurity as an event altogether, let alone one of the Premier Northern Road Rallys, it speaks well for the determination of the Committee members and Club members who helped once again to promote this unique event. Having been Chief Marshal for three years I knew a certain amount of how the organising of an event such as the Mini Miglia begins, but when I opted for Clerk of the Course for this year's event, I was worried that I would not be able to cope with all the various problems that appeared.

My worries were all in vain, but only because of the help and guidance of some of our more "senior" members. My gratitude must go to John Clegg, Eric Newby and David Bamber for steering me along the right route as far as the paper work and general organising was concerned. Bob and David Pedley for sorting the Marshals, Steve Tweedale for the great deal of work he put in with the entries and insurance, and all the Sector Marshals for their P.R. work before the event.

The night itself seemed to come together very well, yet again, and with very few problems.

We played with words at the Start by asking all competitors to obey an "amendment to the Road Book" which wasn't strictly according to the Blue Book. To their great credit, most people complied with these wishes.

Thanks again to all the Officials, Results Team, Sector Marshals and of course all the Marshals who braved the cold.

It was gratifying to see so many Club members helping on our main event but without your support in the future the event may fade, and after twenty-four years as a Restricted Road Rally that would be a great, great pity.

Simon Ridy

(Clerk of the Course)

W A N T E D !

M A R S H A L S

LAKELAND STAGES RALLY 1981

Saturday, 21st March Starting from the Kendal Showground.

Qualifier for:- Esso/BTRDA Clubman's Rally Championship, Austin Morris Mini Rally Championship, ANE & CCC Stage Rally Championship.

This rally is rapidly becoming a classic for all club rally men in the north. Now of National Status it comprises some of the finest forest mileage available in the Lake District.

For this event Knowldale have been asked to marshal a stage in Comb Forest, and competitors will tackle the stage twice, once in the morning and then again in the afternoon. Past years have proved very enjoyable with plenty of action throughout the day, so anyone interested, please contact:-

Dave Bamber

either on Tuesdays at the Hornets, or Phone Littleborough 78418

CONGRATULATIONS

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To Glin Brennan who was 7th O.A. in the Drivers Section
of the ESSO B.T.R.D.A. CLUBMANS CHAMPIONSHIP

He was duly presented with a little something (?) by Mrs ESSO

Well Done Lad!

KNOWLDALE RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP 1981

More details next Newsletter.

FROM THE LEFT HAND SEAT

Well it was Mini Miglia time again last Saturday, 10th January. John Hardman signed me as his navigator for the night at the last moment as the courts were kind to him and let him keep his licence.

The Start Number of 107 was duly issued by Steve Tweedale which pleased John, at the time, as he said we have only to pass them all to win. We set off for Tebay in plenty of time arriving early enough to be the first car to be scrutineered. Everything was o.k. so we went and had a large helping of EGG, CHIPS & BEANS to help us through the night.

It was getting a bit lonely when we got the route as the first car had already set out when the happy band at the start finally handed over the route. Gasps in amazement!!! I will have to rub the old one off, they are taking us a different way round.

So we potter over to Deryck Pickup at the Start Control. All the other K.C.C. crews had left long ago. A policeman asks John if he was TAIL END CHARLEY. So John replied No, he's known as SHAG 'I' on the C.B. With that we quickly depart.

All's well and John is just getting used to 14 st. in the left seat instead of Brenda's 8 st., when we see the unfortunate Colin Brennan parked at the side of the road with gasket troubles. Hard luck Colin it happens to "FORDS" as well as "SKODAS". Problems by TC4. We were held up with about eight other cars trying to pass a spectator's car stuck on an icy bend.

We potter through Tebay village and continue on our way. We find a very fast Open running at 106 and try to keep with him until we get baulked by more late runners. The baked beans are proving nearly as effective as a turbo as we start to work our way through the field. Between TC10 and TC11 just after the ford disaster strikes, we lose both spots and one main beam headlight in an altercation with the back of "Frank Ward's" newly acquired Escort 1300. Friendly greetings were exchanged by both drivers!! and we carried on our way.

Not long after, the next K.C.C. crew in difficulty is P Lord's Avenger, off on the bend at the top of the white, just south of Soulby. Tan Hill next and boy is it slippery!

Flat out on dipped lights on ice with John Hardman was not something I had experienced before!! Passing various cars we see Frank Ward going off, followed by an Avenger that ran into his boot putting him further off. "He isn't going to get out of there" says John, so another K.C.C. bites the dust.

Alternating between our dipped headlights and one main beam we arrive at the sharp down hill bends near Oxenthwaite. Getting round the first left

hander, we decided to opt for the large hole in the wall on the right hander. Spectators arrived from everywhere and pushed us through into the ploughed field enabling us to regain the road through the gate at the far end of the field. (As did 20 or so other cars - Ed.).

The first petrol and a few seconds to survey the damage. John takes the remains of the two Bosch lamps off the car and away we go. Frank Ward very sportingly sent his two spots down to Petrol for us but we had gone when they arrived. Another K.C.C. crew of J Sharphouse/R Warburton were seen to be retired at Petrol. - 8 -

John charges on as fast as he can pedal, enquiring if we are on the right road as we have not come to "Crabtree's" Control yet. So I assure him we still have that pleasure to come. We chase a big smoker for a while using his lamps to tell us where the road goes. John's rev counter needle was bouncing on its stop in the red. Grinton next and a re-route through Leyburn and down to Thoraby. TC33/TC34 and Crabtree in charge. Greetings of "how art 'e' me bonny lad" are exchanged as we are able to claim ten minutes back off the timing. On over green side to Hawes, and here we really fly down to Ingleton. Apparently there had been police activity around here but by the time we arrive they had gone for a brew.

Petrol again with no time to spare and on to the Brown B6480 at Newby Moor. We were using other peoples lamps again chasing two other cars. They had a bit of a start on us so John was trying hard as we went over the bridge at 'Green Close'. We missed the wall on John's side and headed for the wall on my side. Time to close my eyes I thought as we spun up the road, coming to rest with the back wheels on the grass, no damage so on we go again over Tatham Fell and Gisburn Forest. It was starting to get light so we scraped through to the finish at Paythorne without losing too much more time, and happy to be finishers.

Plenty of fried bread, eggs and bacon and hot coffee were on hand to revive the tired competitors, while the results team went into action. "Eric the Post" and "Daddy Clegg" soon had them posted. The pots and cheques were swiftly distributed by Mike Sutcliffe, our Sponsor.

All pot winners having waited for the prize giving to receive them personally.

Thanks to the organising team for all their hardwork and a great event, and thanks to John Hardman for such a great ride, HARDMAN RULES O.K.

Ray Dale

WHAT'S ON

Tuesday 17th February

FILMS Titles to be announced

Tuesday 21st April

FILMS Titles to be announced

Saturday 7th March

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

This year's dinner dance will be held at the Mount Pleasant Banqueting Hall.

The Speaker will be the Reverend Rupert Jones, fresh from his recent success in the Himalayan Rally.

Tickets: £8.50 per person.

From Eric and Jean Newby

Saturday 21st March

Lakeland Stages Rally (National)

Marshals required for Knowltdale's own stage.

See inside Newsletter for details.
