

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP - £1200 PRIZE FUND

Yes it's time to think about going indoors again and getting used to a very different type of track compared to racing outdoors. Some of you may remember that last Winter's Championship had it's fair share of controversy – more on that later – so this year the Touring Car Championship will not commence until the new year to give everyone plenty of time to get used to a tight indoor track. As in previous years we will have a Touring Car and 1/12 Championship with end of series trophies for everyone that has competed in the minimum number of rounds plus a raffle with prizes in excess of **£1200** – our biggest ever prize fund.



This year we are being sponsored by Racing Dome, Milton Keynes newest Model Shop (address and telephone number on page 2) and Schumacher Racing.



1/10 Winter Championships consists of 9 meetings with 5 rounds to score. There will be the usual 4 Formula's so everyone has a chance of competing in their own championship. There is the option of running a Super Stock Championship on the same days as the Stock Championship but we need to be sure of guaranteeing a full heat. A decision to run a Super Stock class will be taken at the AGM. Also at the AGM we will vote upon the format of the championship rounds, qualifying only or 3 qualifying heats and a final. The **control tyre** for this championship will be long lasting **Schumacher Carpet Dragon** tyres (part number U6690) and you have a free choice of rim and insert.

1/12 Winter Championships consists of 6 meetings with 4 rounds to score. Each meeting will have 3 qualifying heats and a final, all of which will be 8 mins in duration. Following the BRCA's lead there will be two 1/12 classes – 4 cell modified / 6 cell stock (note ball-raced stock motors are no longer allowed) and the new 4 cell 19T class. Although at MK both classes will run in the same heat and finals but will score points separately, please let race control know if you are entering the 19T class when booking in. If you thinking of giving 1/12 a go this winter check out many of the 1/12 stockist for some great deals on 1/12 cars at the moment.

Club Meetings. There will also be plenty of club meetings running separately and alongside the 1/12 Championships. At these we will cater for Super-stock and Modified motors and an open tyre choice (as long as they are black in colour and except mini-pins, rally blocks and foams). If there is demand then we will also run a heat of 1/12's at club meetings although depending upon numbers the race length may be reduced to 5 minutes.

AGM

In The club is holding it's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 3rd November at 7.30pm at the Chester Arms Chicheley (just to the east of Milton Keynes on the A422). All current club members are invited.

The purpose of the AGM is for you to hear how the club has been run over the past 12 months, vote in the committee for the coming year and an opportunity to change any of the club rules you think should be changed. You will also be able to decide upon the Winter Champs race format and classes, and set the membership and race fee's for the coming year.

We Need You. For the club to continue to develop and become even more successful than we already are then we need people to join the committee. The committee is responsible for the running of the club, the running of the meetings and organisation of other events such as promotional activities.

We need a number of new people to join the committee to help with the running of the club. The only requirement you need is a willingness to get involved and a little time to spare.

Further details about the AGM and getting involved with the committee is contained at the back of the Newsletter.

Bedford Model Show

MR & ME Models are hosting a model show at Rushmore School, Shakespeare Road, Bedford on Saturday 9th October between 10.00am and 5.00pm. The club will have a promotional stand at the show.

Why not come along for a look, entrance costs are Adults £2.00 and Children / OAP's £1.00, with all proceeds going to the school's PTA.

Trophy's

Starting with this year's Summer Championship, there will be a small change in the trophy's given out. For each of the Stock Formula championship winners and the Super Stock Championship winner, instead of a smallish trophy we now have some large presentation shields. Each shield will have the winners name engraved upon it and formally presented at a suitable event such as the AGM.

The winner will then keep the shield until just before the end of the next championship. So for the stock championship it will be every 6 months, potentially annually for the 19T championship.

As other classes become established then additional shields may be added.

Pre-booking

We usually find that numbers increase in the Winter but our capacity to accommodate everyone reduces because of the time and space limits of the hall. To guarantee your place at each race meeting, even the club ones, it is very important that you pre-book via the on-line system at www.mkrctc.org.uk.

Although we will do everything possible to accommodate you if you don't and just turn up on the day, we can't promise that we will be able to let you race if the meeting is already full.

The limit for 1/10 Winter Championships will be set at 49 drivers per meeting. The numbers available for the 1/12 Winter Champs will depend upon how many 1/12 cars enter. So for all of you planning to race your 1/12, it is especially important that you pre-book early so if necessary we can limit the number of 1/10's.

Meeting Entries. Want to quickly check which meetings you have already pre-booked for then use <http://www.mkrctc.org.uk/entries/entrylist.asp?name=DerekNewbould> replacing Derek Newbould with your own name as used to pre-book with.

Cancelling Entries: Don't forget as well that if you pre-book but subsequently find out that you can't make the dates, to let us know ASAP by replying to the confirmation e-mail. Anyone frequently pre-booking but not turning up will find his or her subsequent entries cancelled.

Moans and Whinging

As suggested elsewhere, the last Winter Champs saw more than it's fair share of controversy with various people thinking that they had been hard done by and only too willing to voice their displeasure.

OK everyone is entitled to his or her say but there times last year when we (the committee) wondered why do we bother to do this.

So if this Winter you think that the whole system is totally unfair because your car suddenly failed scrutineering when it passed in the last heat or that you have been taken out every single lap by the same car so why didn't the Race Director spot it. That the people who are willing to spend a lot of their own time and effort do so to provide you a place to race your toy cars (remember they are only toys). Continually moan at these people and we won't bother any more so everyone loses.

We try to apply the rules as consistently and fairly as possible but there will be times when perceived injustices happen. Either accept that's life or refer to the Club Handbook for how to appeal. If that isn't enough and if you are that keen then maybe you should be on the committee running the meetings.

The decisions and rules made by the committee are not intended to annoy specific drivers but to benefit the majority of racers and/or the club in general. Club racing is not meant to be deadly serious so please treat it in this manner. And if you think you can do better at organising things then come along and join the committee.

However if most weeks there is some aspect that annoys you then maybe it is time for you to find a new club to race at!

New Software

Have you noticed that the club has purchased some new race control software? Apart from being the first step to replacing all of our timing equipment with more modern versions (but this will cost approx. £3000) it does provide automated start order announcement and the race positions every 2 minutes.

This will make life easier for the race director as he can focus on watching the racing rather than calling out the start of the race and race order.

Also listen out for the two different types of beep as cars cross the line. The high pitched beep indicates that a driver is on schedule for an improved qualifying run, a low pitched beep indicates that the driver's predicted time will be slower than their previous best. These can prove useful as you are racing to know if you are on a quick run or not.

Scrutineering

To avoid your car failing scrutineering, please follow these simple guidelines. These rules are in place to help create a levelling across cars and protect our carpet.

- Make sure your complete car meets the minimum weight limit of 1500grms. Note that different batteries and tyres can vary in weight significantly so make sure you weigh your car with the lightest equipment configuration. To be sure, we recommend you use a minimum limit of 1510grms. To make sure our scales are accurate, we now have a set of reference weights.
- Set your ride height (the gap between the bottom of the chassis and the floor) to 6mm. This is from the lowest part of your chassis (Losi drivers take note). Strictly speaking if your chassis rubs the reference bar at any point then it fails although we usually apply a little bit of leniency. However if sliding the bar under the car moves the car then it's a definite fail. Anywhere in-between is down to the discretion of the scrutineer.

Oh-yes we have heard all of the excuses already so please no 'it's was fine before the race', 'but you checked it before and it was OK' and our favourite 'the bar is bent'. Set your car a little bit higher in the first place will stop any of these problems.

Racing Drome

Ever wanted more time to be able to practise or set your car up at an indoor venue without the demands of a race meeting going on? Well now you can at the Racing Drome, Milton Keynes newest model shop.

Combined with a fully stocked model shop is a permanent indoor circuit with a primatrack carpet surface. There is an hourly or daily charge to use the circuit. It is open Monday to Saturday between 10am and 6pm, Wednesday's 12pm to 6pm. Ideal for you to get used to racing on a tight indoor circuit where clipping a barrier can cost you a lot of time.

Racing Drome can be found at 30 Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, MK13 9HA Tel 01908 579797

They are also considering starting up mid-week evening racing – contact them directly for more details.

Summer Racing Review

SOUTH MIDLAND TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP.

The first year of this new championship saw approx.65 drivers at each of the Bedworth and Milton Keynes rounds. Of the MK drivers, particular well done to Philip Newbould, Kyle Treacy and James Newbould for coming 2nd, 3rd and 4th overall in the Stock Class. James Skeen for winning the Super Stock class and Toby Isbister for coming 5th overall. And finally Chris Smith as runner up in the modified class.

Unfortunately Milton Keynes narrowly missed out on the Club Championship by just one point.

The final results were;

Stock

Pos	Name	Club	Best 2	R1	R2
1	Stewart Noble	Bedworth	394	199	195
2	Philip Newbould	M/Keynes	386	192	194
3	Kyle Treacy	M/Keynes	371	176	195
4	James Newbould	M/Keynes	367	179	188
5	James Parker	Bedworth	366	187	179
6	Adam Barker	Bedworth	365	193	172
7	Lee Baldry	M/Keynes	364	188	176
8	Nigel Stark	M/Keynes	362	172	190
9	Steve Dye	Bedworth	357	185	172
10	Dave Treacy	M/Keynes	349	164	185
11	Jenny Webb	M/Keynes	349	165	184
12	Micheal Polson	Bedworth	336	179	157
13	Jason Gibbs	M/Keynes	328	156	172
14	Jez Treacy	M/Keynes	320	166	154
15	Adrian Hall	M/Keynes	318	158	160
16	Martin Webb	M/Keynes	316	150	166
17	Mark Handford Jnr	Bedworth	308	170	138
18	Derek Newbold	M/Keynes	307	140	167
19	Ian Walker	M/Keynes	306	152	154
20	Dean Coupland	Bedworth	295	156	139
21	Ben Hopkinson	M/Keynes	289	145	144
22	Martin Pethurst	M/Keynes	284	133	151
23	Greg Palmer	Bedworth	284	149	135
24	Frank Hopkinson	M/Keynes	278	136	142
25	Richard Coomber	Bedworth	271	151	120
26	Scott Walker	Bedworth	264	142	122
27	James Leslie	M/Keynes	263	137	126
28	Ian Horseman	M/Keynes	258	132	126
29	Clive Baldry	M/Keynes	254	128	126
30	Derek Walker	Bedworth	245	129	116

Super Stock

Pos	Name	Car Make	Best 2	R1	R2
1	James Skeen	M/Keynes	389	196	193
2	Nick Bruty	Bedworth	384	198	186
3	Shane Dye	Bedworth	384	194	190
4	Adi Wright	Bedworth	382	194	188
5	Toby Isbister	M/Keynes	365	180	185
6	Bob Burr	Bedworth	363	186	177
7	Paul Lau	M/Keynes	360	178	182
8	Howard Harrison	Bedworth	354	183	171
9	Paul Burgess	M/Keynes	345	174	171

Modified

Pos	Name	Car Make	Best 2	R1	R2
1	Luke Burr	Bedworth	392	197	195
2	Chris Smith	M/Keynes	389	194	195

Should we run another SMTCC next year? Let us know via the forum and at the AGM.

WEDNESDAY WARRIOR SERIES

Now in it's second year, it saw lots of close racing and a relaxed atmosphere. The final results were;

Stock

	Driver	Total	Best 5
1	Tristan Yeomans	342	251
2	Kyle Treacy	340	249
3	Ian Devonshire	269	233
4	Adrian Hall	227	227
5	David Seamark	338	222
6	Dave Treacy	210	210
7	Martin Pethurst	239	209
8	Noel Bean	240	206
9	Ben Hopkinson	271	203
10	Frank Hopkinson	269	199

Super Stock

	Driver	Total	Best 5
1	Mark Barford	297	250
2	Richard White	287	242
3	Paul Wales	287	242
4	Peter White Jnr	278	234
5	Pete White	315	232

Modified

Unfortunately no drivers competed in enough rounds to count.

SOUTHERN TOURING CLUBMAN CHAMPIONSHIP (STCC)

At the time of writing MK drivers were doing very well in this regional series. With just one round to go Kyle Treacy was 6th in Stock Class, Tom Reynolds 3rd in the Super Stock class and Chris Smith is leading the Modified class.

With numerous other MK drivers also doing well it means that we are currently leading the overall club championship. So well done to everyone so far and good luck for the remaining round.

BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP (BTCC)

At the MK round held in late August, the weather was variable but saw good performances by Kevin Bishop, Adrian Middleton and Toby Isbister to get in the Stock A Final, with Kevin coming 2nd overall. Jason Butterfield and Richard White getting in the Super Stock A Final, with Jason coming 2nd overall. Phil Degavino and Richard Barton in the Modified A final, with Phil taking TQ and Richard taking the overall win.

Wolverton Park Update

You are probably aware that there are plans to build houses on the area currently occupied by our track, the car park and the Bowls Club sometime within the next 3 years. This is part of an overall Wolverton Regeneration Scheme and has been identified as one of the earlier phases with money already set aside for the planning work.

The current situation is that English Partnerships, who are responsible for the regeneration plans, are in discussions with Milton Keynes Council and Network Rail to purchase the whole of Wolverton Park.

We have met with English Partnerships and at the moment they are being supportive regarding our needs to be relocated as part of any development. What is not clear is to where, when and who pays. Until English Partnerships have formally purchased the site then it is unlikely that we will hear any more information and this legal side may not be resolved until next year. The Bowls Club are in the same situation.

Just to add further weight to our cause for relocation, the Wolverton Regeneration Strategy Plan, which feeds into the Milton Keynes Council development plan, includes a recommendation to re-provide Model Car racing facilities after a considerable amount of discussions with all of the relevant bodies.

Subsequently a group have started a 'Save Wolverton Park' campaign. They already have their own web site - www.wolvertonpark.net that contains lots of pictures of Wolverton Park in the past. Quite what they hope to achieve is not clear but they do appear to have instigated the council to put the scaffold up to secure the old Grandstand from collapse.

In the mean time permission for us to use the track is with Milton Keynes Council who issue us with an annual licence. Hence we need to ensure that the track area is kept clean and tidy, and observe any restrictions such as making sure the access gate is locked as part of this licence otherwise it may not be granted next year and we won't be able to use the track.

Watch this space for more information as developments happen

Driver Grading Changes

Before the forthcoming Winter Series, everyone's driver grading will be reviewed based on the computer's ability rating. With the new software the drivers ability is now between 1 to 100 rather than 1 to 15 as before.

The nominal thresholds are;

F1 = Ability rating 100 to 86	(15 to 13 old rating)
F2 = Ability rating 85 to 60	(12 to 9 old rating)
F3 = Ability rating 59 to 26	(8 to 4 old rating)
F4 = Ability rating 25 to 0	(3 to 0 old rating)

However everyone's grading will be reviewed manually in light of relative performances over the last championship. Although everyone who won their respective formula will be automatically promoted.

Club Calendar

Want a recap of what's happening when? All day meetings are designated by an asterisk *. Venue MH = Mill Mead Hall, WP = Wolverton Park

Date	Meeting	Venue
Sun 26 Sep	Summer Series Round 10	WP
Sun 03 Oct	Big 6 Champs Round 9	Club Meeting 1/10 WP
Sun 10 Oct	Summer Series Round 11	WP
Sun 17 Oct		Club Meeting 1/10 WP
Sun 24 Oct		Club Meeting 1/10 WP
Sun 31 Oct		Club Meeting 1/10 WP
Sun 07 Nov		Club Meeting 1/10 WP
Sun 14 Nov	12 Circ Round 1	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 21 Nov		Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 28 Nov	12 Circ Round 2	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 05 Dec		Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 12 Dec	12 Circ Round 3	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 19 Dec	Xmas fun day	MH
Sun 26 Dec	No Racing	
Sun 02 Jan	No Racing	
Sun 09 Jan	12 Circ Round 4	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 16 Jan	Winter Series Round 1	MH
Sun 23 Jan	Winter Series Round 2	MH
Sun 30 Jan	12 Circ Round 5	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 06 Feb	Winter Series Round 3	MH
Sun 13 Feb	12 Circ Round 6	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 20 Feb	Winter Series Round 4	MH
Sun 27 Feb	Winter Series Round 5	MH
Sun 06 Mar	12 Circ Round 7	Club Meeting 1/10 MH
Sun 13 Mar	Winter Series Round 6	MH
Sun 20 Mar	Winter Series Round 7	MH
Sun 27 Mar	No racing?	Easter WP
Sun 03 Apr	Winter Series Round 8	MH
Sun 10 Apr	Winter Series Round 9	12 Circ Round 8 MH *

Don't forget to pre-book via the web site to guarantee your entry as places are limited and demand is always high.

We have an option to race indoors at Mill Mead Hall on 24th and 31st October if the weather is too bad to race outdoors. Note that we are unable to use Mill Mead Hall on 7th November.

27th March racing date will be dependant upon getting the track ready. More details nearer the time.

Forum's

You may have noticed that MKRCTC has a new forum solely for use by club members. You can access it via <http://www.mkrctc.org.uk/forum/> and follow the registration instructions – not that if you are not a club member then your registration will not be accepted.

However club members and non-members are very welcome to still use the original club RC Chat forum at <http://www.rcracechat.com/vb/forumdisplay.php?f=46>.

The forums are only as good as those people contributing to them so please use them for healthy debate, asking for help or using the MKRCTC dedicated one to sell RC items.

Indoor Arrangements.

With thoughts turning to indoor racing again, a quick reminder of a few important considerations;

Start Time. Sorry no more lie-ins, to get all the racing in and accommodate the numbers of drivers the start time will change when we go indoors because of the longer packing away time and other groups use the hall after we finish. Hall access is from 8.00am, racing for all meetings will start at 9.00am and will normally be finished by 1.00pm. Booking in closes at 8.45am.

Pre-booking. As we have a limited pitting space available and a limited time in the hall we strongly recommend that you pre-book your entry to all race meetings (even club meetings) to guarantee your place. Last Winter we unfortunately occasionally had to turn some people away as we did not have any spare spaces.

Power Last year a few problems were experienced with the mains power at Mill Mead. This has means that mains chargers, electrical power supplies and any other item run from the mains **must not be used**. You must provide your own 12V-power supply (as you do outdoors) and it must be in a leak proof container. The only exceptions to this are the equipment needed to run race control, which will be electrically tested. Please note that even if your equipment has been electrically tested, it must not be used.

Packing Away Levy. We expect everyone to help set up and pack away after racing. To provide a little extra encouragement, on top of your usual race fee we will charge you a packing away levy, currently £2. This is refundable if you help pack. Please don't assume that just because you have paid your packing away levy, you can go home early.

Keep tidy. If you use the hall's own tables and work surfaces then please make sure you wipe them down before leaving. Other people have to use them after you have finished as well. Also please use the rubbish bins provided to dispose of all your litter.

Tyres. For those of you who are new to indoor racing, we recommend Schumacher Carpet Dragon or T27 tyres as most outdoor slick tyres will not work on carpet. You may also use tyre additive as per the 1/12 list.

Children. Children are very welcome at MKRCTC but please keep your eye on them at all times. The area opposite the hall's entrance (where the firing range is) is out of bounds, as is the 1st floor of Mill Mead Hall.

Smoking. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in Mill Mead Hall.

For Loan

We have been kindly donated a Fastrack / Integy Car Set Up system which is available for loan by any club member. See Ian D for details. Note that the wheel nuts are metric size so won't be suitable for use with cars what use imperial size wheel nuts, such as the TC3.

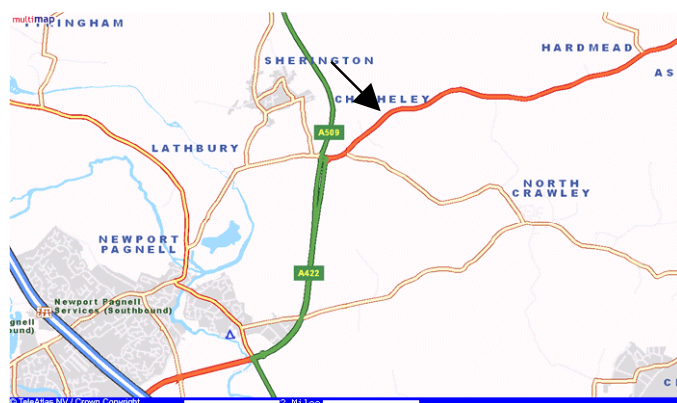
Equipment Sharing

Is there an item that you would like but cannot justify the expense of buying one just for yourself? Then why not use the forum to see if there are any like-minded MKRCTC regulars who would be willing to share the cost and ownership.

If there is a big demand for a particular item then the club could even be persuaded to purchase one and loan it out – although this would depend upon the type of item.

AGM (continued)

A reminder that this years club AGM will take place on Wednesday 3rd November, from 7.30pm, at the Chester Arms in Chicheley. This is a small village on the A422 (Newport Pagnell to Bedford road) just outside of Milton Keynes. See below for a map and further directions or details are available at <http://www.thechesterarms.co.uk/>



Drinks will be provided and the pub is well known for it's good food if you are hungry (but the food will unfortunately be at your expense!).

Please note that non-club members are not eligible to attend the AGM unless they are the parent or guardian of a club member.

One of the main purposes of the AGM is to provide an opportunity for you the racers to propose rule changes which if agreed will form part of next years club handbook. To propose a rule change please submit an e-mail to ian.devonshire@btinternet.com stating the existing rule number (as referenced in the current Club Handbook) and what change you would like to propose.

All club members should have their own copy of the 2004 Club Handbook, although the current version can be downloaded from the web site.

Committee

For the club to continue to thrive it needs a willing band of volunteers to organise and run the events for everyone's benefit, to properly manage the club, and to promote it and the sport when ever we can.

This is where you fit in!

Do you or your children;

- Regularly race at Milton Keynes?
- Would miss the club if it did not exist?
- Have a little bit of time to help?

If the answer to all of these questions is yes then we'd like you to consider getting involved with the committee.

There are several roles we need to fill. None will take up too much of your spare time although the more you put into the role, the more satisfaction you will get out by seeing the club grow. Each of the roles we need to fill is described below. Committee members are also expected to help organise and run the weekly club events.

In return you will get free club membership and some roles will also get free BRCA membership.

If you are interested or willing to get involved with the committee then please speak to Ian D before the AGM. A willingness to get involved is far more important than experience of model car racing. In fact ideally the committee is made up from racers or their parents spanning a range of abilities and ages.

Remember – the club is run by it's members, for it's members. Without people who are prepared to give up a little of their time to organise things, there is no club and no racing. So please put a little of your time back into the club for the benefit of everyone else.

If you don't feel that you can commit to getting involved with the committee then that is fine – there will be plenty of other opportunities where you can occasionally lend a hand.

The posts we need to fill are;

Secretary: Responsible for the general administration of the club, including co-ordinating club and BRCA membership, maintaining club consumables (tape, race numbers, etc.), organising club committee meetings and taking brief notes at these. Will also keep club members informed of the latest news via e-mail broadcasts and newsletters.

Competition Secretary (shared role with Derek): Organises the club's competition calendar, major race events, produces entry forms, receives entries, sends out conformations, organises the trophies and prizes.

General Committee Members: Assist with making decisions that impact upon MKRCTC, help organise larger events (such as BTCC) and represent the racers at MKRCTC. Approx. 5 people

Depending upon the wishes of the existing committee members then Public Relations, Treasurer, Chief Scrutineer and Chairman posts may also be available.

Congratulations

To Kyle Treacy for winning the BRCA Junior Under 14 Stock National Championship during the Summer. David Spashett had better watch out next year.

Rule Changes

In advance of the AGM the committee has made one small rule amendment over the summer. We have banned the use of generators for use track-side and in the pits. Although we have not had a problem with these to date, we know of clubs which have had several people using them instead of a 12V battery or to keep their 12V charged up and this has created a noise problem.

The only exception to this rule will be where a generator is needed for the running of race control or where we have a food outlet present.

Race Wear

Don't forget the MKRCTC Race Wear consisting of polo shirts, caps and fleeces. Both the polo shirts and the fleeces have the MKRCTC logo's embroidered onto them and come in a range of sizes and colours. You even have the option of having your name embroidered onto them.

Polo Shirts - £12 each

Colours: Black, Navy, Red

White

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Name option: additional £8 per item

Cap: £6 each in black only.

Fleeces - £25 each

Colours: Black, Navy, Red

Grey

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Set Up Sheets

Have you found the perfect set up for your RC car at either Wolverton Park or Mill Mead Hall? Then why not share that with everyone else and e-mail your set up sheet to Derek to load onto the Web site: setup@mkrctc.org.uk. You can find the ones submitted to date at <http://www.mkrctc.org.uk/SetupSheets/index.htm>

That's all folks.....

That's it for this edition. Don't forget to visit the web-site on a regular basis for updates and you can get interactive on the forum.