

## DON'T FORGET THE WINTER SERIES - £1200 PRIZE FUND

Kindly sponsored by the Racing Drome 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 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** which has already started and consists of 8 meetings with 5 rounds to score. Each meeting will have 2 qualifying heats and two leg finals (but see below), 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.



**Teams.** Don't forget that if you want to take part in the team championships, register your teams with race control by end January. Teams consist of 2 drivers and there will be separate team championships for stock & 1/12.

## AGM

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It was very well attended with a healthy debate . The full notes of the meeting can be found on the forum or ask Ian D if you would like a paper copy. However a summary of the key changes are;

**Overview.** The highlights was paying off the loan for the outdoor track, hosting rounds of the STCC and BTCC, and instigating the inaugural South Midland TC Championship with Bedford. Major PR events included the 2 day Bedford River Festival, Bedford Model Show and Olney Young Farmers. The lowlights was the news of the planned development of Wolverton Park and the flack being dished out by a small number of people during last years Winter Champs, both of these have been well documented previously.

**Committee.** We welcome Frank Hopkinson, Toby Isbister and James Skeen onto the committee. The committee is now;  
Chairman: Ian Devonshire Secretary: Ian Devonshire  
Treasurer: Dave Treacy Web Master: Derek Newbould  
PRO: Frank Hopkinson Scrutineer: Bob Dove  
Comp Sec: Derek Newbould & James Newbould  
General Committee: James Newbould (with special responsibility for computing), Nigel Stark, Toby Isbister & James Skeen

**Race & Membership Fee's.** Unfortunately these have increased by £1 per meeting for both adult and junior race fee's, and adult membership is increased by £5 per year, junior rates are unchanged. More about this later.

**Rule Changes.** The main rule change voted in was to adopt a 2 qualifying heats and 2 leg final format for ½ day meetings. This has caused some controversy and we will review in the new year, see elsewhere for details of when and how. There are also rules regarding leaving the rostrum mid race and not being at your marshalling point in time will result in the loss of your best qualifying time / final result.

## Christmas Charity Meeting

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December will be a fun meeting consisting of;

**Trailer racing** – build a trailer to fit behind a normal touring car – note it must be articulated (like a caravan is attached to a car) and not as an extension of the car. Place a normal touring car onto it and race. The car on the trailer must not be secured to the trailer and if it comes off then it must be paced back on before the continuing aloud the track.

**Endurance racing** – 2 hour team endurance race. Race control will sort you into teams to try and keep everything fairly even. Please make sure we have an accurate list of all the radio crystals you have and bring as many charged battery packs as you can.

This year we are inviting everyone who takes part in the Endurance race to get sponsored for their team either by the lap or a set amount. All money raised will go towards KidsOut, a local charity based which helps disadvantaged children by providing fun activities or respite care for their parents and carers. For information about KidsOut please visit <http://www.kidsout.org.uk/default.asp>

A sponsorship form and further details are attached to this newsletter. Please make the effort to get some sponsorship from your friends, family, work and/or school colleagues and help raise money for this good cause. Collect your money by 23<sup>rd</sup> January and let us have it to send off to KidsOut

**Last man standing** – 1 track, 1 pack of batteries per car, 40 cars all racing at the same time. The objective is to be the last person going around the track. If you crash and can't get going again you are out, and just to spice things up a little gentle contact is allowed between cars.

There are festive prizes for all the winners of each of the above competitions.

## Membership Renewal

Yes it is that time again. All current club members membership expire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. If you renew your membership by 20<sup>th</sup> December you will receive £5 worth of raffle tickets for free. If you have not renewed your membership by the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in the New Year then you will have to pay non-member rates.

If you are not a current club member then you can join now for the same rates and potentially get 13 months membership for the price of 12.

The membership rates are;

Club & BRCA		Club only *	
Adult	£35	Adult	£25
Junior	£30	Junior	£20

\* BRCA membership proof will be required

If you are a MKRCTC regular then you can save up to 40% by taking out an annual season ticket which covers all your race fee's at MKRCTC events, club and BRCA membership. The annual season ticket rates are;

Adult: £215      Junior £170

Can't afford a full season ticket but still want to save money then why not take up our offer of a quarterly season ticket offer. This excludes your club and BRCA membership but does cover all of your race fee's between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30 April. The quarterly season ticket rates are;

Adult: £50      Junior £40

Note Season Tickets exclude any packing away levy.

A membership form is attached with this Newsletter.

## 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
<b>Sun 05 Dec</b>		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		
<b>Sun 02 Jan</b>	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
<b>Sun 06 Feb</b>	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
<b>Sun 06 Mar</b>	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
<b>Sun 03 Apr</b>	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 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October if the weather is too bad to race outdoors.

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

## We Are The Champions

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the STCC championship which saw MKRCTC take the overall club championship.

Especially well done to Tom Reynolds, Chris Smith, Pete White Jnr, Richard White, and Kyle, Dave and Jez Treacy for some excellent performances in their respective classes.

To celebrate the club will be arranging some special fleeces to be given to those who made a big contribution.

## Race & Membership Fee's

So why should the race fee's be increased? Last year saw the club's income decrease by approx. 20% but costs increased slightly. This decrease is mainly due to fewer memberships, slightly lower attendance to the summer meetings and holding fewer race meetings. The club's only source of income is through club memberships and race fees.

To increase our revenue we will look to increase our club membership and race entries in the summer through increased PR (there is little scope for increase in numbers during the winter).

Looking to the future we know that we have some bills coming our way. We need to replace our AMB lap counting and computing system and will have to replace the outdoor track. As of the AGM the club's bank balance stood at just £800.

Whilst we are hoping that a fully functioning new track will be reprovided as part of the Wolverton Park development, it is equally likely that the club will either have to fully fund it or pay a significant amount towards the finishing touches. We are not expecting to generate enough funds for a totally new track but we need more than £800 in the bank. Even projecting the likely bank balance forward it is likely we would have a problem without increasing our income beyond getting a few extra racers in the summer.

Hence if we wish to continue with an outdoor track then the only option we have is to increase our race and membership fees. It won't give us all of the money we need but will mean our chances of funding any redevelopment will be greatly enhanced.

This increase is the first time race fee's increase in over 2 years and compared to other clubs and hobby's they still represent good value for money.

To recap, the race fee's as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 will be;

Club Meetings	
Junior	£4
Adult	£5

Championship Meetings		
Junior	£5	(£1 goes towards prize fund)
Adult	£6	(£1 goes towards prize fund)

Non-members pay £1 in addition to the above

Indoor meetings will have a refundable £2 packing away levy applied – this is refunded if you help pack away at the end of a meeting.

Or save money by taking out one of the Season Ticket.

## Race Format

As reported earlier, at the AGM it was agreed to change the race format for the ½ day meetings to 2 qualifying heats and 2 leg finals. This has caused a lot of debate between you and we will put this to a wider club vote in the new year after it has had a good chance to be tested.

A vote will be cast across all 1/12 racers at the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan meeting and all 1/10 racers at the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan meeting to either keep the 2+2 format or revert back to the 3+1 format. The results will be added together and the format will either be retained or changed for Round 1 of the 1/10 Championship.

## Raffle Tickets

To help you not to lose your raffle tickets ahead of the main prize raffle, we won't be giving out raffle tickets when booking in. Instead we will keep a tally of how many meetings you attend and then on the day of the prize raffle you will be given the corresponding number of raffle tickets. No excuse to lose them.

However you may still trade your packing away levy for raffle tickets, buy additional raffle tickets or get your free raffle tickets for renewing your membership early but you will need to look after these until the big day.

## 1/12 Tourers

Running at non-1/10 championship meetings we will be catering for 1/12 Touring Cars. If numbers allow then dedicated heats will be run, otherwise they will be integrated into normal 1/10 heats.

These cars will run to the same ride height and tyre rules as their 1/10 equivalents although modified motors are allowed (and recommended) which gives roughly the same performance as a stock motor in a 1/10 car.

So if you fancy something a little different then why not give them a go?

## 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.

## 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. Visit the web site for the proposed changes to see if you are affected. If you have any concerns speak to Derek or James.

## 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.

## Modified Motors

In line with the BRCA ruling, we will be adopting a no motor limit at MK where modified class is catered for – good luck!

## Indoor Arrangements.

A quick reminder of a few important considerations whilst racing at Mill Mead Hall;

**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.** 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.

**12V Batteries.** All 12V-power supplies it must be in a leak proof container.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Mill Mead Hall.

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

**Parking.** Please ensure there is access all around the building for emergency vehicles and don't block emergency access points of the other buildings within the Mill Mead complex.

**Soldering.** Soldering is not permitted in the carpeted area.

## Forum's

You may have noticed that MKRCTC has a new forum solely for use by club members or those that regularly race at the club. 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.

## 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 then just keep the following in mind. 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!

## Website

We are changing servers for our Website during December. Whilst hopefully the change over will be seamless there is a risk of some downtime or functions not working properly. Please bear with us whilst if we encounter these problems. However once one the new server then hopefully we should see less downtime.

## 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.

This will be the last newsletter published before Christmas so from everyone at MKRCTC have a very merry festive season and a trophy filled New Year.