

The Acorn

January 2025



The Magazine of the Sevenoaks and District Motor Club





Sevenoaks and District Motor Club Ltd

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Acorn Magazine, January 2025

The Editor, Committee and Club do not necessarily agree with items and opinions expressed within ACORN Magazine.

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Cover picture: The victorious Williams family at the Christmas Quiz and Social.

Editorial

By Toby Galbraith, Editor



Happy New Year! Welcome to the first Acorn issue of 2025.

I will be working hard to get monthly issues of the magazine out this year, even if they are rather thinner than previously, as I know it is frustrating when there's a big gap between issues. It will be even more obvious when I haven't had much material sent in by club members, so please do keep sending it in ([email](#) works best)!

One new section you will see is a '**Freebies/for sale/wanted**' section, which will be for club members to share unwanted car-related items free to other members, sell, or advertise things that you need. So if for example you have some spare parts for a car you no longer own, have a car to sell, or are looking for something specific locally, please send me photos, a brief description and location/contact details and it will go in the next issue. Of course it's not going to be as instant as an online ad or eBay listing, but it might go to a club member in need...

Although December and January are generally quiet months for motorsport, there are still things going on, especially rallies and trials. We also had the unofficial club track day at Brands Hatch in December, with lots of club members out having fun in the sun. There was a great turnout at the pre-Christmas social/quiz on 19 December too. The second SDMC-organised 12 Car rally was held on 10 Jan and certainly put the cat among the pigeons in terms of the Weald Championship – report later in this issue.

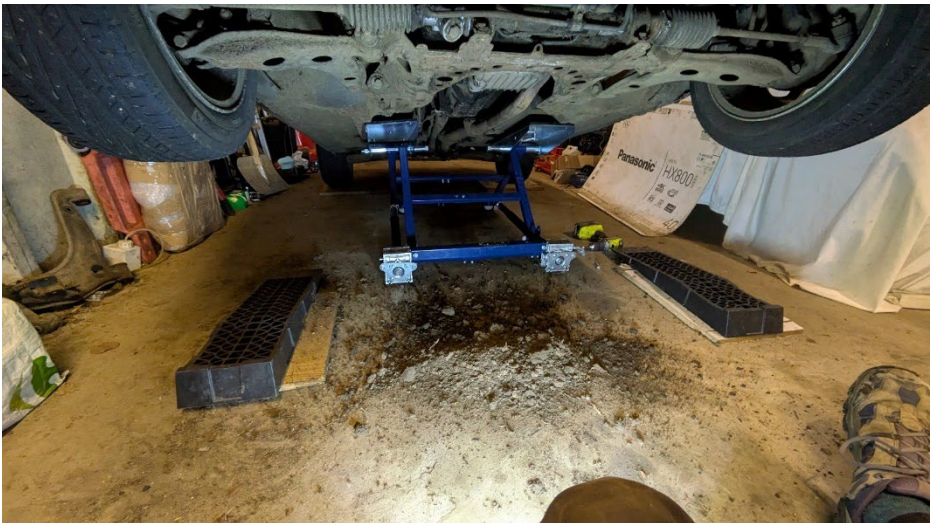
We are looking forward to the annual Awards Evening, at the Kentagon restaurant at Brands Hatch, on Saturday 22 February. It's a great way to catch up with club mates and see who's won which of the many trophies up for grabs for competing, marshalling, organising and even crashing! If you haven't already, please let [Megan Williams](#) know if you'd like to attend so she can work out the catering and seating needs.

The following day, also at Brands Hatch, is the first round of the 2025 Autosolo series, Sunday 23 February. If you're lucky there may still be some entries left – for all the details visit the autosolo site [here](#). Even if you can't compete, it's a great event to watch and the best views go to the marshals, so put your name down to marshal instead!

We can also start preparing for the main competitive series later in the year, whether that's autosolo, autotest, targa rally, sprint or race, and of course the more leisurely summer shows and displays. What have you got hiding in the shed waiting to come out to play?

I've been busy in the garage as usual and despite the cold, though it is less appealing rolling around under a car in an unheated garage when the temperature is in single digits! I did spend some time clearing up a bit, moving broken engines and spare gearboxes around to make space and putting the borrowed engine crane back in the corner – hoping not to need that again in a hurry (let me know when you want it back Phill!).

I found the source of the exhaust noise on the Mazda, which turned out to be a small crack on the manifold. It would be better welded, but for now I've patched over it with some high temperature exhaust putty and it seems to have done the trick. I fitted a sump guard to give a bit of protection on the rough lanes while rallying, and did an oil change while the car was up in the air – I also removed a couple of kilos of dried mud from the front of the car, collected from the muddy lanes:



Due to illness, we won't have a Chairman's message from David Balderson this issue, but hope to have him back for the February magazine. We wish David all the best.

Cheers, Toby

Calendar

[Sevenoaks & DMC](#) organised/promoted events



Date	Event
Fri 10 Jan	12 Car rally
Sat 22 Feb	Awards Evening, Brands Hatch
Sun 23 Feb	Autosolo Series round 1, Brands Hatch
Sat 15 Mar	Autosolo Series round 2, Ashford (run by MMKMC)
Sun 18 May	Valence Festival of Motoring/Autosolo, Valence School
Thu 22 May	Evening round 1, Brands Hatch
Thu 12 Jun	Evening round 2, Brands Hatch
Thu 26 Jun	Evening round 3, Brands Hatch
Sat 5 Jul	Autosolo Series round 3, Brands Hatch
Sat 12 Jul	Sprint, Lydden Hill (with TWMC and B19)
Thu 31 Jul	Evening round 4, Brands Hatch
Thu 28 Aug	Evening round 5, Brands Hatch
Sat 20 Sep	All day round 6, Brands Hatch
Sat 18 Oct	Autosolo Series round 4, Ashford (run by MMKMC)
Fri 14 Nov	12 Car rally
Sun 23 Nov	Autosolo Series round 5, Brands Hatch

A couple more potential speed events are waiting for confirmation.

Please check the [club website calendar](#) for updates, and keep an eye out for announcements for when entries open.



SEVENOAKS AND DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB AWARDS EVENING

The Committee invites you to our informal Awards Evening held at The Kentagon at Brands Hatch Circuit on 22nd February 2025.

Buffet Available and many Awards to be given out

Cost to attend is £10 per person to cover some of the costs and the Club covers the rest

Payments to be made to the Club Bank Account with your Names and Awards as reference
Sort Code 30-97-12 Account No 00565350

Please contact Megan Williams below to confirm attendance

TO BOOK YOUR ATTENDANCE

Proudly Sponsored by



📞 07840 117346

✉️ meganwilliams579@yahoo.co.uk

Autosolo News

From the SDMC Autosolo Organising Team



2025 SDMC Autosolo series



We are thrilled to announce that with just under a month to go, our event has received an overwhelming response, with all entries already complete. It is still worth putting a reserve entry in, as there are usually a few dropouts nearer the event date. We also have six Juniors entered. With over 40% of the entries registered as beginners, our event is a welcoming platform for new participants.



© Colin Shipway

While there will be a learning curve, we are here to support and guide you every step of the way. Any other competitor is usually happy to help, and eight experts have entered. Look at the entry list on the system; they will gladly help and share their knowledge with beginners.



We still need more volunteers for marshalling roles. If you can offer help, please register on the Sapphire entry system. No previous experience is required (and you get a free lunch!).



We look forward to seeing you at the event. To register (as a competitor or marshal) please go to <https://linktr.ee/7oaksAutosolo>

Speed News



70 years of Club Motor Sport

Sevenoaks Speed League
2025



The Sevenoaks & District Motor Club Insite Graphics Speed League Championship 2024 finished with a dramatic climax where the overall crown could have gone to a few people – in the end the consistent leader Alex Peters came away with top spot after a close fought battle with Dave Rayner, and Andy Webber coming up fast in the rear view mirror towards the end of the season.



The overall 2024 championship top ten finished like this:

Position	Name	Total	Best 10 scores
1	Alex Peters	120	115
2	Dave Rayner	118	110
3	Andy Webber	113	98
4	Robert Woods	110	96
5	Brian Knox	96	96
6	Toby Galbraith	61	61
7	David Judge	56	56
8	Jim Giddings	51	51
9	John Rawlins	48	48
10	Adrian Wilkinson	44	44

There are some additional trophies other than the overall Speed League champion, which will awarded as follows:

Historic Trophy	Andy Webber
Hillclimb Trophy	Dave Rayner
Muller Cup	Robert Woods
Kentish Times	Toby Galbraith
Local Trophy	David Judge
Tourist Trophy	Brian Knox

The Best Newcomer and PMJ Trophy had no eligible competitors.

All of these awards will be presented at the Awards Evening on Saturday 22 February at the Kentagon, Brands Hatch.

The 2025 provisional calendar is below:

Rd	Date	Event	Type
1	29/03/2025	Cadwell Park	Sprint
2	13/04/2025	Hethel	Sprint
3	26/04/2025	Regis Sprint – Goodwood	Sprint
4	26/04/2025	Wiscombe Park	Hillclimb
5	27/04/2025	Wiscombe Park	Hillclimb
6	11/05/2025	Debden	Sprint
7	11/05/2025	Dimanche Sprint – Rushmoor	Sprint
8	31/05/2025	Coventry MotoFest	Sprint
9	01/06/2025	Coventry MotoFest	Sprint
10	07/06/2025	Abingdon Motorsport CAR-nival	Sprint
11	14/06/2025	Blyton Park	Sprint
12	15/06/2025	Blyton Park	Sprint
13	21/06/2025	Mallory Park	Sprint
14	22/06/2025	Mallory Park	Sprint
15	12/07/2025	Ray Heal Memorial Sprint – Lydden	Sprint
16	20/07/2025	North Weald	Sprint
17	02/08/2025	Gurston Down	Hillclimb
18	03/08/2025	Gurston Down	Hillclimb
19	23/08/2025	Snetterton	Sprint
20	24/08/2025	Snetterton	Sprint
21	07/09/2025	Hethel	Sprint
22	14/09/2025	North Weald	Sprint
23	20-21/09/2025	Sandown Sprint – Combined result	Sprint
24	27/09/2025	Goodwood	Sprint
25	28/09/2025	Debden	Sprint
26	05/10/2025	Sprint Royale - Eelmoor	Sprint

Lotus Notes 2024 – by Andy Webber

Some of you will know I compete at a 'National' level in a Speed Championship run by the Hill Climb and Sprint Association (HSA), and this has been my competition focus now for several years primarily in my Elan+2. Older readers will also know in this car I've previously had success in the 'Sevenoaks Speed League' and 'Rose and Crown' going back to the 1990/00s.



Whilst more recently notching up 3 overall HSA overall Championship wins in it, I have in the background been trying to get my V8 Europa to also be competitive in its class and thereby try and win the title outright in that.

The 'Europa' dates back to 1975, or to be more correct a few bits of it do, including its 'road identity'. Some of it came from a 1980s ex-competition '750 Motor Club Road Sports' Esprit that was running a twin turbo Rover V8, and some has been fabricated or

added over the last 15 years by me to make it emulate the Types 47D and 62 Europas that Lotus built in the 1960s.

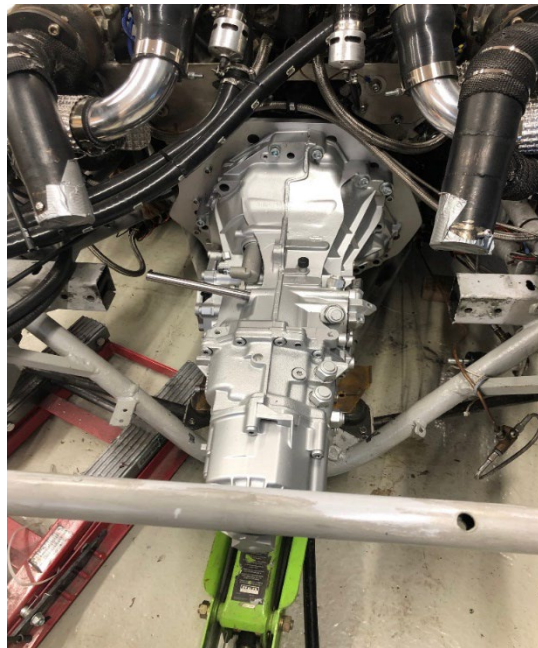
Up until this season, whereas it was reliable on the road and even a few track days, whenever I made a serious attempt at competing with it, major failures occurred, in particular head gaskets and gearboxes! The last gearbox grenaded at Harewood Hill Climb in 2022 and so for over a year a rethink was put into action, with some much-improved

turbo waste gate control and swapping out the Esprit (Citroen-sourced) gearbox for a heavier duty solution.

In some way the obvious upgrade option was the 5 speed Renault UN1 gearbox used in later Esprits including the V8, and many rear engine kit cars such as 'GT40s', but even that could be very marginal with the RV8 torque and big fat sticky hill climb tyres, and good supplies are now becoming difficult to find. So following the trend with the better/later 'GT40' kits I've gone with a 6 speed Getrag box they built for Audi (for 2WD RS4 and RS6 etc.) in the noughties. The advantage over the Porsche box being that it runs the correct way up in my configuration, is cheaper, and still relatively available.

So through 2023 the adaptation to suit the Rover V8, 'Europa, strengthened with Esprit bits' chassis and drive shafts was completed along with conversion to manual stick shift (I wanted to keep the 'period' feel of the Europa) and then some testing ensued at an airstrip, and Curborough late in the year.

This gave sufficient confidence to work over last winter on some rear brakes. The challenge here being that my car, as with the early Esprits, had inboard rear disks with calipers mounted off the Citroen-sourced gearbox (from the Maserati-engined 'Presidential' SM, and to some extent the Peugeot 205 Group B rally T16). So, working with a small very helpful machining operation (who happens to be based next to John Hewitt's motorsports workshop, within sight of the Stoneacre Car trials venue) complex shaped brackets were designed and machined and Toyota GT86 rear disks employed along with Cosworth Sierra rear calipers mounted onto the Esprit uprights and trailing arms....some say my 'Europa' should be renamed an 'Ebitsu'.....





After a fairly cautious first event at Goodwood in May 2024, I managed to go on to break HSA class records at Werrington, Blyton Eastern and Outer, Lydden, Llandow, Aintree and Curborough with it and that was enough to secure the HSA Speed Championship outright for the 4th time (by around 0.4 of a second across the season!) and show the 'Europa' could finally be more reliable in competition.

This winter there will be a little work on the anti-roll bar set up, an original 'cable' speedo connection to the gearbox, and a steering rack change before we (may) try again in 2025. As the HSA Championship scoring is heavily influenced by breaking course records my 2024 results will make 2025 more challenging again as some new, tougher records are in place, but if it was easy we wouldn't enjoy it would we?

Enjoy our sport, Andy



Autotest News



s are a perfect introduction to competitive motorsport, with short tests and relatively simple routes, and many chances to get it right! They are a great way to learn car control in a low speed, low risk environment. Juniors can also compete, with a supervising adult.

The calendar for 2025's series, held in the large grass area behind Brands Hatch, is complete and very similar to last year. Please keep an eye out for entries opening!

<https://linktr.ee/sdmcautotest>

Thursday 22 May (evening)	Round 1, Brands Hatch
Thursday 12 June (evening)	Round 2, Brands Hatch
Thursday 26 June (evening)	Round 3, Brands Hatch
Thursday 31 July (evening)	Round 4, Brands Hatch
Thursday 28 August (evening)	Round 5, Brands Hatch
Saturday 20 September (all day)	Round 6, Brands Hatch

Three local clubs (Sevenoaks, Maidstone&Mid-Kent and Tunbridge Wells) have come together over the winter to align autotest calendars, so there are fewer overlaps on event dates, and fewer 'fallow' weeks with none – in fact the longest gap between autotests is under 2 weeks from May to September!

Calendar: Subject to amendments by the clubs, weather etc, please enter and check before attending:

Date	MMKMC	SDMCs	TWMC
Sun 4 May	HC Taster Day		
Wed 14 May	Otham Evening		
Tue 20 May			Evening
Thu 22 May		Brands Evening	
Wed 28 May	HC Evening		
Wed 4 Jun	Otham Evening		
Thu 12 Jun		Brands Evening	
Wed 17 Jun			Evening
Thu 26 Jun		Brands Evening	
Wed 2 Jul	Otham Evening		
Wed 9 Jul	HC Evening		
Tue 15 Jul			Evening
Sun 27 Jul	HC SUMMER SLALOM		
Thu 31 Jul		Brands Evening	
Wed 6 Aug	Otham Evening		
Tue 12 Aug			Evening
Wed 20 Aug	HC Evening		
Thu 28 Aug		Brands Evening	
Sun 7 Sep	HC ALL DAY AUTOTEST		
Sun 14 Sep			ALL DAY AUTOTEST
Sat 20 Sep		Brands ALL DAY AUTOTEST	

Rally News



Weald 12 Car Rally Championship 2024–25

With an all-new electronic entry system for all rounds, the Weald team have made some changes to the regulations and will provide support to each of the clubs arranging rounds for the championship. The Weald website <https://www.wealdmotor.club> provides all the information including regulations, calendar and links to the entry system for each event, which open around 6 weeks before each round.

Weald 12 Car Rally Championship 2024–25 calendar

Round 1	11 October 2024	Borough 18 Motor Club
Round 2	1 November 2024	Croydon & District Motor Club
Round 3	15 November 2024	Sevenoaks & District Motor Club
Round 4	29 November 2024	Southern Car Club
Round 5	10 January 2025	Sevenoaks & District Motor Club
Round 6	31 January 2025	Maidstone & Mid Kent Motor Club
Round 7	28 February 2025	Weald Motor Club
Round 8	14 March 2025	Bexley Light Car Club
Round 9	28 March 2025	Blackpalfrey Motor Club

Round 5 took place on Friday 10 January, starting and finishing at the White Rock Inn, Underriver, and the persistent freezing temperatures didn't make things easy for anyone!

One crew withdrew the day before the event, and another got stuck with a broken down car, so there were ten starters leaving the first control and heading up into the woods towards Godden Green. An emergency change of route was needed near Seal Chart due to ice, and then crews headed through Ightham and up onto the Downs. Predictably the altitude brought colder temperatures and more persistent ice on the road as the route skirted Culverstone and headed

back down towards West Malling (pictured), before some tricky sections near Mereworth, criss-crossing Seven Mile Lane and then returning



through Shipbourne to the White Rock. None of our crews were caught out by the ice, but one pair did stop to help a member of the public who had slid into a ditch.

As the rallies are timed and there's

only a 30 minute window of 'lateness' before you are out, some crews decided to deliberately miss one or more controls so that they remained within their 30 minutes at the final control – being late there means you are classified as a non-finisher. Only four crews finished within their allotted time and were awarded full points, and there was a triumphant return to the Weald series by expert navigator Richard 'Pash' Pashley, with his novice driver Chris Wickens. We were pleased to catch Pash out with a rare 'fail' where they didn't use the correct route, but they still came out in first with 1 fail 11 minutes, followed closely by Tim Smith and Matt Clark on 1 fail 22 minutes. Third place went to Duncan Brown and Graham Brunton on 7 fails 32 minutes, and fourth were Chas Davies and Barry Shurman on 10 fails 27 minutes. These are high numbers of fails compared to our normal rallies, showing the importance of not giving up while still bearing in mind that you have to get to the finish within the allotted time. The remaining six crews were classified as non-finishers, so will each receive 1 point for starting the event.

The Weald 12 Car Championship has nine rounds, and the best six scores for each competitor are counted in the final table. In order to qualify for an end-of season award, competitors need to marshal or organise on at least one of the events within the series. As you can imagine, the awards tables can change dramatically if someone chooses to marshal on the very last event of the season, so during the season we tend to report the positions along with whether someone has qualified or not. There are also class awards for competitors who aren't the overall champions.

After five events, the leaderboards look like this:

Navigators:

Pos	Name	Class	Points	Qualified
1	Chas Davies	Expert	56	No
2	Bob Stokoe	Expert	47	Yes
3	Andy Mucklow	Semi-expert	42	Yes
4	Si Kellow	Novice	41	No
5	Matt Clark	Semi-expert	35	Yes

Drivers:

Pos	Name	Class	Points	Qualified
1	Barry Shurman	Expert	48	No
2	Wug Utting	Expert	47	Yes
3	Toby Galbraith	Semi-expert	42	Yes
4	Tim Smith	Semi-expert	38	No
5	Derek Arnold	Expert	31	No

Beginners Rally School

For anyone wishing to get started in navigational rallies, the Weald Motor Club team are running a new [Beginners Rally School](#). All you need is an everyday family car – or a driver with one – and a willingness to take on the challenge. The Weald team will provide expert guidance on the basics of working as a team, understanding maps and navigation clues, how events run etc in a comfortable environment (i.e. a pub!). Then we put the learning into practice by completing a few non-competitive sections on the road. At the end of the season there will be a full Beginners rally to see how you get on with the real thing. To register your interest, visit the [Weald Motor Club](#) site.

For sale, wanted, and free!

As a new section in the Acorn, we wanted to give club members a chance to buy, sell or give away motoring-related items, cars, motorbikes (or anything else with wheels). So if you have a pile of classic car magazines, are looking for a particular spare part, or need to sell your pride and joy and want it to go to a good home, this could be the place for you! Please note that the club takes no responsibility (or money) for any trades, we are just facilitating getting you together.

Please send any adverts or wanted posts (with price, location, contact details, and pictures if possible) to toby.galbraith@gmail.com

To start the ball rolling, here is my Subaru Legacy wagon:

2004 Subaru Legacy GT spec.B, 2.0 twinscroll turbo (petrol), £5000



This is a comfortable, fast and spacious car that is equally at home blasting up a twisty B-road as it is lugging a wardrobe to the tip or cruising down the motorway for a family holiday. Price is negotiable and viewings in Borough Green are welcomed.

- Twinscroll turbo EJ20 engine
- Bilstein suspension (hence spec B)
- Remapped ECU, 295bhp/ 355Nm engine (237 whp)
- 6 speed manual gearbox
- Uprated clutch and single-mass flywheel conversion
- Brembo brakes front and rear
- Michelin PS4 tyres, good tread
- New cam belt fitted September 2024, good for 5 years
- CAZ and LEZ exempt (many UK cities), still working on ULEZ!

Marshal Matters



Marshals will always be needed in motorsport and you will not find a cheaper way to get involved – it's free! It is a great way to meet and make friends with likeminded people, find answers to all those missing questions you need to ask to further your interest and in some cases meet the requirements of the club championships you might want to participate in. You will also get some great views of the action!

Your club offers many forms of competition, autotests, autosolos, sprints, trials and road rallies, all of which require marshals. If you would like to join the action, contacting our Chief Marshal Glyn Williams (aka Willie) on wilcat@btinternet.com or call 01622 715018. This will enable him to inform you of any event where there is a request for marshals and details to be given when necessary.

By marshalling you can also earn 'Powerpoints' which can be exchanged for a contribution to your membership fees, event entries etc. Contact Willie for more information!



TRK (Trophy Records Keeper)



Sevenoaks and District Motor club award 41 separate trophies at our annual awards dinner. All of your results in SDMC organised motorsport events are automatically recorded and used to calculate championship points towards these trophies. However, for other events you need to submit your points to the Trophy Records Keeper (TRK). This should be done by the form at the link shown below. No other method will be accepted. You must be an SDMC member at the time of the event for your results to be recorded (if your name is not on the membership list it will not be in the TRK database and therefore it will be impossible to allocate your points). <https://sevenoaksmotorclub.com/membership/>

Please go to this page to enter your results:

<https://sevenoaksmotorclub.com/trk>

All results must be submitted within 21 days of the event or they will not be recorded. All marshalling and event organisation claims will be checked against the event signing on sheets, so make sure you fill them in correctly! Please include a copy of the event results or provide a hyperlink. Don't send in claims for SDMC-organised or Speed League events though – they clog up the TRK mailbox!

Marshalling qualification

In order to qualify for some of the championships, you must carry out marshalling or another event support role at SDMC organised events. The list of qualifying events is shown in the calendar on the [SDMC website](#), Acorn and the Yearbook.

From the 2023 season it will no longer be possible to score marshalling points whilst competing at the same event. This applies to the CE White trophy and for qualification for other championships. The change has been made so people cannot gain an unfair advantage by scoring points in two championships at once.

Marshalling activities are measured in “Chalky White points”, which are the basis for the CE White marshalling trophy and are calculated as follows:

- 1 Chalky White point is required for a rally qualification
- 2 Chalky White points are required for a Speed League qualification
- 3 Chalky White points are required for a Rose & Crown qualification

Chalky White (marshalling) points are earned as follows:

- A half day event such as an evening Autotest or 12 Car Rally will earn you 1 point.
- An all-day event such as an Autosolo, Trial or Sprint will earn you 2 points
- For pre-event work 1 point is awarded for each half day or evening work party under supervision of the Clerk of Course. (Max 3 points per event).
- All marshalling qualifications are taken directly from event signing on sheets automatically, so make sure you fill them out correctly.

Yearbook

You can read about how to win trophies in the 2023 SDMC yearbook at: <http://www.sevenoaksmotorclub.com/yearbook>. Junior birth dates needed!

If you are 21 or under and want to qualify for any of the junior trophies, please send in your name and date of birth to the membership secretary at sdmc.membership@gmail.com (this information was not collected reliably in the past, particularly for family members).

Closing photos by Colin Shipway – from the Valence School Festival of Motoring autosolo event in 2024. This year the event is scheduled for Sunday 18 May.

