



Image Courtesy Of: Cor Draijer

THE VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

LOOK AT ST CHRISTOPHER THEN GO ON REASSURED



V S C C

NEWS SHEET

17 September 2020

THE RULE OF SIX

As 2020 continues to plot its unruly course it is quite possible that the Club's motto has never been as apt as it was during the dark days of the Second World War, when the Club was in its infancy. At the time of writing, the 'Rule of Six' and the various local lockdowns have not caused any cancellations of events and we await to see what further restrictions we may face. We wish all our members well during this uncertain time.

This week we highlight one of the Club's most iconic cars, R4D. It was this week in 1947 that Raymond Mays powered her to victory in the first British Hillclimbing Championship at Prescott. We also invite you to participate in the Forestry Commission's survey. Bicester is full steam ahead this weekend and we look forward to Prescott Long later in the month.

VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB LTD

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Look At St Christopher And Go On Reassured



TABLE-TOP RALLIES

In a cruel and, I promise, uncharacteristic twist of personality last week I rendered Annabel Jones' already superbly challenging and fiendishly difficult table-top rally absolutely impossible to crack by unintentionally omitting to include the second page of instructions! My apologies to Annabel after all her hard work. For those of you who have been scratching your heads the full set is included again this week. Go to [Table Top Rallies](#) on our Noticeboard for the answers to this and all our other table-top rallies.

“This week’s rally starts and finishes at Nuffield Place; the home of Morris Motor Company’s founder, Lord Nuffield. This is well worth a visit, having been preserved intact by the National Trust - complete with the secret workshop in Lord Nuffield’s bedroom! Unfortunately it’s closed at the moment, so you will have to rely on Ian Dobinson’s rally route for entertainment and postpone the Nuffield Place tour to another day.”

Annabel Jones



TABLE-TOP RALLIES

INSTRUCTIONS (IN FULL!)



Table Top Rally edition 16: William Morris' Test Drive

Coloured Roads Only, except where noted.

Starting from Nuffield Place (worth a visit!) at 677876

Section 1: To drive you dotty

Using two sections of white, each approx. 300m long. Since it is early, no drinking! (So not passing any PH)

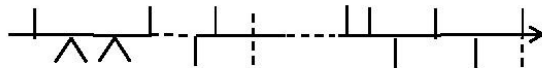
uff 196 198 > 101

Then pass through exactly 14 and 1

To finish *just before* the church by the Maharajah's Well at 677840½ (and therefore the green dot hiding under the church is NOT included in the 14 above.)

Section 2: 'Erring on the side of caution

Not all white roads (dashed lines) are shown, just those to define the route and a couple of others to help:



To just after the Payables Farm Junction at 654824

Section 3: Roughly coloured tulips

White roads are only indicated where they are used.

Tulips are in order, but quite roughly drawn!

For the other directions, Imagine you are standing in the middle of a junction. The first letter is the colour of the road you arrived on. Successive letters are the roads clockwise around the junction. Leave on the road that is highlighted!

YRR RYR RYR BYB

YWWW WWW WYY YBYB BYBY

YBYB BBW WYYY YWY

To end at junction WNW649784



TABLE-TOP RALLIES

INSTRUCTIONS (IN FULL!)

Section 4: On the road again

< ♦ < e ts 121 141 5 ● tr 5 ● ↻ ● + 94 ↻ Bi S > m < 103

To: Bolts Cross junction 711½ 826

Section 5: No NEWS is good NEWS

NOTE: All roads that *touch* an 'A' road are considered viable junctions, even if, from the map, they do not look like you could go that way in practice.

W N E S E N E N W N E S E N W N W S W N W W W N

To finish at SH 191 684871. Make your way back to the start to explore the home of William Morris, Lord Nuffield

Questions

Section 1:

1. What is the place named just north of the western most point?
2. Whose comet do we almost see?

Section 2:

3. How many churches do we pass?
4. How many green dots do we go through?

Section 3:

5. How many times is a B Road used or crossed?
6. How many red diamonds do we go through?

Section 4:

7. What ancient monument does the route pass?
8. Whose Ends do we visit?

Section 5:

9. How many red diamonds does the route go through?
10. Since you are nearly finished, you can have a small drink. How many opportunities are there?

GO TO TABLE-TOP RALLIES FOR
ANSWERS AND CORRECT MAP



Bonhams

AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1793

Goodwood Speedweek

Important Collectors'
Motor Cars and Automobilia

Chichester, Sussex | 17 October 2020



Final call for entries

*The ex-Works T. Wisdom/
Ards TT and D. Froy/Brooklands*
**1931 INVICTA 4½-LITRE
S-TYPE LOW CHASSIS
SPORTS 'SIMPLON'**
Coachwork by Carbodies



The Golden Age of Motoring Sale '1886-1939'

Veteran, Vintage and Post-Vintage Motor Cars

New Bond Street, London | 30 October 2020

Final call for entries

**1933 LAGONDA 4½-LITRE
M45 T7 TOURER**



ENQUIRIES

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THIS WEEKEND!

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THE CLASSIC CAR DRIVE IN
18-20 SEP 2020 | BICESTER HERITAGE *Weekend*



CELEBRATING CLASSIC CARS
ON DISPLAY, ON SALE AND ON-SCREEN

The wait is over and we can finally all get together at one of the most exciting new events for the Season.

Whether you're a buyer, collector or simply an enthusiast, The Classic Car Drive In Weekend is the ultimate, socially distanced outdoor Classic Car event. Taking place at the iconic classic motoring hub at Bicester Heritage on the weekend of 18th – 20th September, the event brings together over 500 Classic Cars for you to admire or buy along with a selection of the most iconic Classic Car Movies at a Drive In Cinema.

PLUS

 <p>Displays from over 25 of the UK's leading Car Clubs</p>	 <p>Bonhams MPH auction</p>	 <p>Drive-in Movies</p>	 <p>Daily track parades and demonstrations</p>	 <p>Over 50 Classic car dealers, restorers and traders</p>
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TICKETS

Drive In Movie Screening: Adult £10 / Child £7.50	Drive In Movie and Exhibition: Adult £25 / Child £15
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We'll be sharing details of a special offer for all full club members in the coming days, so keep an eye out across our social platforms.

supported by:  Bicester Heritage |  Bonhams |  mph

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ERA R4D

FIVE LETTERS, ONE NUMBER

GUARANTEED TO QUICKEN THE PULSE OF ANY
VINTAGE MOTORING ENTHUSIAST

The VSCC is proud to list a number of legendary vintage motor cars on its register and certainly on that list is R4D. Its consistent performance spanning 80 years since it took the first British Hillclimbing Championship at Prescott this week in 1947, under the stewardship of ERA founder, Raymond Mays, has been outstanding. Today, that legacy continues under the ownership of ex-VSCC Treasurer, Brian Fidler and the driving prowess Committee member, Nick Topliss.

'Me in a Bugatti looking up the exhaust pipes or all those ERA greats and dreaming one day of owning the most iconic one of all. Just took me 50 years to get there....slow plodder but determined. If you are going to achieve a dream, go for the best....'

Brian Fidler tells us how it feels to own a legend.

Now an octogenarian, I caught Covid 56 when I had just learned to drive. Vintage motoring is not just a hobby, an obsession, it is a full blown incurable illness....hence the C word. Starting with a 3 litre Bentley whilst still at school, progressing to a GP Bugatti, I appeared in the 1961 Historic car race at Silverstone, alongside a gaggle of ERAs driven by the racing elite of the day, sniffing up the exhaust pipes, trailing far behind. Ah, one day I will own such a dream and ride with the Gods to the Valhalla chequered flag....



Photo: Dennis Rushton



And if you are going to achieve a dream, go for the best: the ex works Raymond Mays' R4D, the fastest ultimate iteration of the high riders. Exactly five years ago I had the opportunity of buying that car from Mac Hulbert, who had owned it for nearly two decades. I made him two promises, one that it would not leave the country and the second that it would be used regularly every season. I foresee this being the case over the next many decades through my son, Benjamin, who currently races a red ERA, and eventually my grandson, Joshua.



ERA R4D



I have only ever driven the car once, very recently at Blyton, it being looked after and raced by our very good friend, Nick Topliss a skilled driver and talented engineer. But for the current virus, it would have been running at Monaco in the Historic where it has won four times previously. Its real talent is as a hill climb car with staggering acceleration (same as a Lister Jaguar to 120) but also timed with a top speed over 160 mph. It is no surprise that Mays held so many FTD in period and post war. Handling has been Tamed by Topliss Talent (TTT) so that its power of over 300 bhp at the rear wheels can be used fully.

Any disappointments? Inevitably, yes. That I am too old and rotund to drive it adequately. That so many of its stellar contemporaries are in other countries, rarely seen, rarely used and seen as investments rather than living history. My pleasure is in seeing a racing car being continuously used for what it was intended....to compete in real action, real anger, not demonstrations.

Brian Fidler

The full history of RD4 prior to it coming into the ownership of Brian Fidler can be find in previous owner, J Mac Hulbert's, publication: 'ERA: The Autobiography of R4D', published by Porter Press

In next week's News Sheet, R4D driver and R4A owner, Nick Topliss, gives his account of competing in these iconic cars.



FORESTRY COMMISSION SURVEY

Forestry England Are Asking For Views On Motorsport In Their Forests

THE VSCC HAVE USED THE FORESTS IN OUR TRIALS SINCE 1952 THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE VSCC AND THE WIDER MOTORSPORT WORLD THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO USE THESE AREAS. THE VSCC ARE PREPARING AND WILL BE SENDING SHORTLY A CLUB RESPONSE BUT WE WOULD ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO EMAIL THE REVIEW EMAIL ADDRESS.

This Week's Interesting Links:-

The stunning photograph of Raymond Mays in R4D is courtesy of Cor Draijer. You can see more similar photographs on his [Flickrriver channel](#)

The ERA story is [here](#)

R4D - The Scariest Car I've Ever Driven is [here](#)

The story of Motor Racing 1935 to 1939 is [here](#)

Enjoy!



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2020 NATIONAL HISTORIC VEHICLE SURVEY

