



THE VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

LOOK AT ST CHRISTOPHER THEN GO ON REASSURED

Barbara Lerigo Photo: Steve Welsh



VSCC NEWS SHEET

1 October 2020

PRESCOTT - AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Prescott Long was brought to life by the power of the internet; no comparison to having spectators present on the day but it was wonderful to read the comments from members around the world as they watched the live stream at every hour of the day and night. R4D did not disappoint, returning to Prescott some 73 years on from victory at the inaugural British Hillclimbing Championship to comfortably take FTD against formidable opposition.

This week we hear from father/daughter team, the Mutschlers, who must hold the record for longest journey to Gotherington on the day! We look forward to Castle Combe but we also have the disappointing news that the Lakeland has been cancelled. We say good-bye to Sally Duckett after fourteen years of service at TOPO who takes early retirement on 15 October. Meanwhile, the latest table-top rally, courtesy of Toby Galbraith, is sure to keep the brain ticking over.

THE VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

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PRESIDENT: Paul Tunnicliffe CLUB SECRETARY: Tania Brown

Bonhams

AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1793



Octane



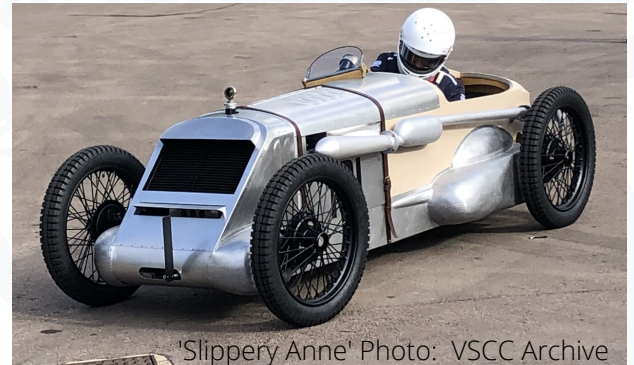
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P R E S C O T T L O N G

Sadly, Covid-19 restrictions meant that spectators were not permitted at this cornerstone event of the VSCC calendar but livestreaming proved a popular way for viewers around the world to enjoy the action. Andrew Tarring looks back at a day of blue skies , sunshine and a very welcome day of vintage motorsport.

This year our friends at the Bugatti Owners Club ran the Long Course meeting on behalf of the VSCC. Sadly, spectators were not allowed due to Covid 19 restrictions but the BOC arranged for the event to be livestreamed enabling members from all over the world to watch, with viewers from France, Minneapolis and Australia enjoying the action. To add to the International flavour, Klaus-Peter Mutschler came over from Germany with his daughter Fabienne who was making her VSCC competition debut in the family Austin 7 Ulster; as with many competing members both Klaus-Peter and Fabienne had entered a number of VSCC events only for them to be cancelled but despite the round distance of 1,200 miles they enjoyed the event. Mark Atkinson, in the famous Austin 7 "Slippery Anne", was enjoying his competition at the end of a long project to get the car finished and out on the track - it looked fantastic. Fastest Time of the Day went to Nick Topliss in Brian Fidler's ERA R4D, keeping the cars truly amazing list of FTDs at Prescott. Richard Gatley had to retire after one run with a nasty noise; fortunately it turned out upon inspection at home to be sheared fly wheel bolts, so not as expensive as it initially sounded. It was great to see and hear ex-President Geoff Smith back behind the wheel in his Piccard-Pictet competing after a three year gap. Despite the keen wind all day and some entrants having to scrape the ice from their windscreens before they arrived it was a great day.



'Slippery Anne' Photo: VSCC Archive



Ex-President, Geoff Smith Photo: Steve Welsh



Mark Atkinson Photo: Steve Welsh

It was a shame that spectators were not allowed and the atmosphere was not what it would normally have been at what was the last hill climb meeting of 2020. It was, however, great to have the live streaming so that the event could be watched all over the world although one of the drawbacks was that the smell of Castrol R does not get transmitted through the ether, perhaps the VSCC could investigate a scratch and sniff option with next year's membership cards? (Note from Membership Coordinator - I am definitely distancing myself from this suggestion!)



P R E S C O T T L O N G

A POSTCARD FROM GERMANY

The Mutschler family are keen VSCC competitors and father, Klaus-Peter and daughter, Fabienne, travelled from their home near Stuttgart to be part of Prescott Long

Originally the Mutschler families plan for 2020 was, that Fabienne and Tiziana would do all VSCC Speed events sharing our Austin 7 Ulster replica plus myself joining in with his Alvis Speed 20. So when it became clear, that VSCC long course will not be cancelled, we all agreed, that at least Fabienne should do it, Tiziana not being able to come, as she is currently at university in Sweden. In due course the trip was organised, which was not as easy as normal. UK governments Corona rules say, that France, Belgium and the Netherlands are risque areas.



Fabienne prepares for the hill Photo: Klaus-Peter Mutschler

So how do you travel with car and trailer to England without driving through one of these countries? It turned out, that driving through is possible, if one does not stop and mix up with other people (= no coffee, no petrol in France, Belgium or the Netherlands). Also using the ferry is only allowed if one accepts going afterwards in 14 days quarantine. So a route was found, which allowed us not to stop in the risque area and then use Eurotunnel from Calais to Folkestone = no quarantine needed. The trip was then much easier than expected. Having completed UKs corona-forms and armed with a dozen of face-masks and a jerry can with petrol to refuel the tow car in France without mixing up with others, Thursday morning we drove from our home near Stuttgart via Saarbruecken 750km to Calais, then through the tunnel and stayed the night in Folkestone. Good friends and fellow VSCC members Jeremy and Sian Brewster offered us to stay at their house before and after the event, an offer we happily accepted. On Friday we did the 320km from Folkestone to Bromsgrove and had a wonderful evening with Sian and Jeremy. Saturday we got up early (scraping ice of the tow cars screen in the morning), then 55km to Prescott, arrived there at 7:30am so that Fabienne could walk the hill before 8am. In our practice runs we both had to adapt to car and track but in the end were quite happy with the outcome in the afternoon runs (although Tiziana was much faster last year). Although socialising with fellow competitors was somewhat handicapped due to the virus, we had a cracking day and a lot of fun helped by superb autumn sunshine. VSCC events and VSCC people are great! Sunday morning we left Bromsgrove and drove home arriving here at a quarter past midnight on Monday. All we travelled approximately 2250km to and back from Prescott. Yes, that is a long way, but well worth the effort. We do hope, that in 2021 we can do more VSCC events.

Very best wishes Klaus-Peter and Fabienne



P R E S C O T T L O N G

P H O T O M O N T A G E



Steve Welsh



Welsh



Steve Welsh



Steve Welsh



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Photo: Phillip Johnson



CASTLE COMBE

The VSCC return to Castle Combe for their Autumn Classic on Sunday 4th October with two races, Owner Driver Mechanic For Standard And Modified Pre-War Cars and an Allcomers Scratch Race. With full grids in both races Patrick Blakeney-Edwards in the Frazer Nash Saloon has to be a favourite in the ODM race.

Marques well supported are MGs with K3, C, F, N, J2, PA, PB, Fiat Balilla and Frazer Nash with six entries amongst others. In the Allcomers Scratch Race For Pre-War Sports And Racing Cars fourteen marques are entered. As the race is not a handicap Archie Waterfield is unlikely to carry on his winning ways from Mallory, but Patrick Blakeney-Edwards is very likely to carry on his winning ways in his Frazer Nash Super Sports.



Castle Combe October 2017 Photo:

Nicholas Williams



RALLIES AND TRIALS UPDATE

Lakeland Trial 14 November- Cancelled

David Rushton took over as Clerk of the Course of the Lakeland Trial in 2019, carrying on the family involvement that goes back to the founding of the trial. With the Forestry Commission confirming that events in the Forest are cancelled until April 2021, David used his local contacts to source some new hills, with great success. However, the new spike of Covid-19 has led to a number of proposed sections being lost; this would have led the trial to be very short on hills. With time not on our side it regretfully has been decided that the Lakeland Trial is cancelled for 2020. We would like to thank David and all the local organising team for their time and perseverance and we fully support the decision that has been made.

Andrew Tarring

C O M M I T T E E

DAVID SWANN RETIRES AS CLUB DIRECTOR

Due to health reasons, David Swann has taken the decision to step back from his role as a Committee member and Director of the Club. All the current directors and staff at the VSCC would like to take this opportunity to thank David for his service and to wish him all the best. We look forward to greeting him at future events.



SALLY DUCKETT

We at TOPO are soon to lose a wonderful colleague and friend as long-term Finance Manager, Sally, takes early retirement in mid-October - for the very best of reasons! Sally has been a firm favourite with the members during her time with the VSCC who will certainly miss her too.

You are one of the longest-serving members of staff the Club has ever had; when did you start work for VSCC and what are your earliest memories of working for the Club?

I started working for the VSCC in May 2006. My earliest memory is being interviewed by Mike Stripe and Steve Allen in the Club's library and thinking what a fantastic resource space it was. The library still is a understated gem within the Club and an asset that needs to be utilised a lot more, something all Club members can have access to.

What would you say is the biggest change you have witnessed in your time here?

Like most things the move to a digitalised work place has been a big change and an on-going challenge. With the majority of people now working from home the internet is a current fixture in all our lives, which will make our events even more important when we get back to 'normal' and can safely mix with all our friends again.

Finance is always a serious business - but there must have been some funny moments! What are your funniest and best memories?

At the first staff meeting being introduced and told (tongue in cheek) that I was doing all the bits that the accountant didn't want to do. Best memory when I got the text message to tell me I had passed AAT Level 4 after four years of evening classes and a lot of hard work.

When you wake up on the morning of 16 October what will you miss most about not coming to work (feel free to say nothing at all if you wish!)?

My colleagues. We have been working from home for the majority of this pandemic and it is the lack of interaction between people I call friends that has been hard.

You have a very special reason for choosing to take early retirement at this particular time, a reason that is sure to take up most of your time! Tell us about that special reason.

My youngest daughter is expecting my first grandchild, a boy, in February and I want to be around to help. Sorry but becoming a grandmother overtakes the VSCC in my priorities now.



Finally - but most importantly - what would you like to say to your colleagues, past and present, and to the members?

Just a very big thank you. It's always felt like a big family and the Club gave me opportunities to train, qualify and have a career at a later stage in my life. My parting advice would be 'When it stops being fun, stop and move on'. Taking lots of memories and friendships with you.



SALLY DUCKETT

Sadly, In The Current Circumstances We Are Unable To Give Sally The Leaving Party She Deserves. Here Are Some Of The Tributes From Those Who Have Had The Pleasure Of Working With Her During Her Fourteen Years At The Club

Steve Allen (Membership Secretary 1997 - 2013): I worked with Sally as Accountant and Membership Secretary for seven years.. She was always a delight to work with, quietly efficient with a great sense of humour. Without her help my job would have been much harder and less fun. I wish her all the best for the future and hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement.

Roger Ballard (President 2008 - 2011): During my time as President Sally looked after many aspects of the Club's accountancy records. She was totally committed to the VSCC, so much so that she took courses to improve her performance and gain appropriate qualifications. This meant that we were delighted that she took on full financial responsibilities when Steve Allen retired. Sally was, as we expected, extremely conscientious and hard working, producing regular information. I know this could be stressful, particularly with the end of year accounts. I always found her to be friendly and helpful; I do remember Sally helping out at various meetings, particularly Silverstone, not always the most congenial venue, where she and her daughter even assisted on the regalia stall at times. I regard her as a friend as well as a colleague and wish her a long and fulfilling retirement.

Gill Batkin (Office Manager): Sally and I have worked together for 14 years and have been through much together both personally and professionally. There have been tears (a few) and laughter (quite a lot!) but throughout this time Sally has always been a constant and a pleasure to work with. I will certainly miss her but I am delighted that she is able to retire and spend time with her dear family which she richly deserves. She will also be a perfect Grandma!

Tania Brown (Club Secretary): Sally has been a fixture of the Club for many years now and it is with sadness we bid her adieu as she moves on to her next great adventure as a Grandmother. I can only thank her for her years of service to the Club and hope that her retirement is as peaceful as a grandchild will allow!

Liz Fox (Membership & Publicity Coordinator): Sally is a mainstay of TOPO and is the most patient and kind colleague imaginable. She has always been there to assist above and beyond with membership queries as I learned the ropes (and am still learning!) and her gentle sense of humour is going to be a huge miss. It's been a pleasure, Sally, and there is going to be one very spoilt and lucky baby boy arriving in February!

Julian Ghosh (President 1999 - 2002): Sally joined our team in the spring of 2006 and brought with her a fresh insight into our accounting system. Mike Stripe was at the helm, of course, and we were heavily involved with the planning of that year's SEE RED meeting at Donington Park, let alone the thirty seven other events on the standard calendar. Sally had to learn quicksmart about SEE RED but I think she saw how the interest in it was great for bonding our staff team.

Normally, one would not have expected our accountant to attend a race meeting but sure enough Sally came to Donington, bringing her daughter, Amy and her friend and stayed for the weekend. So the scene was set and the rest, as they say in the Classics, is history and well done.

Peter Glover (President 2002 - 2005): I am so sad that these troubled times mean it is not really possible to come and say cheerio to Sally before she leaves. She has been a stalwart to the Club and had to deal with some most troubling times. Always helpful to members and committee members alike and I for one will miss her presence when I go in to the office again.

Tim Kneller (President 2014 - 2017): Sally has been a vital part of the organisation for all of the time I have been on Committee. When Steve Allen left Sally stepped up to take on far more responsibility and at the same time studied for an accountancy qualification, which, to her great credit, she got.

I would like to thank Sally for her contribution to the Club and wish her all the very best in her retirement.



SALLY DUCKETT

Jenny Lees (President 2018 - 2019): Sally has often been referred to as the 'glue' that helped hold the VSCC together; that 'glue' was made of kindness, a strong sense of what was right and love for all the many and varied members of the VSCC. Sally I am sure you will miss them all, but have a fabulous retirement and please accept a very personal thank you from me.

Geoff Smith (President 2017 - 2018): I got to know Sally when I was elected as a Director in 2008. I worked alongside her when I took over as treasurer and relied on her when I became President. She has the gift of treating everyone consistently whether in a final audit meeting, taking credit card details over the phone for tickets two days before the meeting or helping with signing on at August Prescott. She deserves the thanks of all the membership for being one of the engines at TOPO that powers our great club.

Tony Stephens (President 2011 - 2014) : Some of you will remember that I took on the Presidency after a period off the Committee, a bit of an unusual circumstance: and in spite of the efforts of my Committee colleagues, and a first-class endeavour from the then Secretary, Mike Stripe, and of course from Gill Batkin, there was still a slight knowledge vacuum on my part about some of the details of what had been going on during my absence. Sally filled this vacuum perfectly, as there is no part of the operation of the Club which is not known to the Finance Manager, and she had a very good eye for the little things which might have seemed unimportant to others. I took advantage of her good nature in this respect quite often and she provided information very uncomplainingly, promptly and in a thoroughly friendly and supportive manner. I was extremely glad to have her on the team. Now Sally has decided to embrace retirement and her family, rather than The Old Post Office, it is time for me to record her service over a number of years to the VSCC, and to thank her, and say how much we have appreciated having her with us.

Well done, Sally, and we hope to see you from time to time at our events: it will be a pleasure to say hello to you. I hope your retirement from work will be a very happy and fulfilling one.

Andrew Tarring (Assistant Competitions Secretary): From the moment I started at the VSCC Sally was a voice of reassurance and calm. As a slow learner she had the patience of a saint explaining time and time again what I needed to do. She will be greatly missed by all of us who have worked alongside her, but I wish her all the best in her next exciting chapter.

Colette Trippick (Events Administrator): Ever since I started at the Club Sally has been a mother hen to me, she is always there for me and other staff. She is a treasure and I will miss her dearly. The Club will not be the same without her.

Paul Tunncliffe (President 2019 - Present): Sally is everyone's friend, simply because she's the person you go to when there is nobody else to get you out of the hole you find yourself in. Desperate to get an entry in just before the deadline, and credit card details not up to date? Not a problem, phone Sally, you can pack the crash hat and overalls in confidence. Her legacy will be one of doing what is always right for the member, putting them first. We can all do worse that replicate that. Thanks Sally, good luck, and enjoy being Grandma.



Image Courtesy Of Sally Duckett

Sally And Colleagues In Her Early Days At TOPO



FORESTRY COMMISSION SURVEY

The Forestry Commission Survey has now closed and the VSCC has prepared its response. Thanks to all the members who participated.



Autumn colours in the fresh air, there's simply nothing better than a pre-war motoring on a sunny autumn day or early evening. Life is all about the memories, make them good ones.

Contact 01200 538866 for more info on how to acquire either of these two. *Stay safe my friends*



1931 MG D type supercharged. £28,000

[Find Out More Here](#)



1925 Amilcar C4 Petit Sport.

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TABLE TOP RALLY

This Week's Table Top Rally Comes To You Courtesy Of Toby Galbraith, Taking Us to One Of The Most Stunning Parts Of the Country, The Devon/Cornwall Border On The Edge Of Dartmoor



Table Top Rally edition 17: On the Border

Start near the wonderfully named Broadwoodwiger, at the Visitor Centre at the edge of Roadford Lake, 424 899. Enjoy winding your way around this area on the Devon/Cornwall border and edge of Dartmoor.

CRO = Coloured Roads Only, CAR = Consider All Roads

Section 1 – unders and overs (CRO)

Using the following instructions, find your way under and over things without crossing a district boundary more than once. Only count river crossings using marked bridges. Leave the start heading East.

Under Over Over Over Over Under Under Over

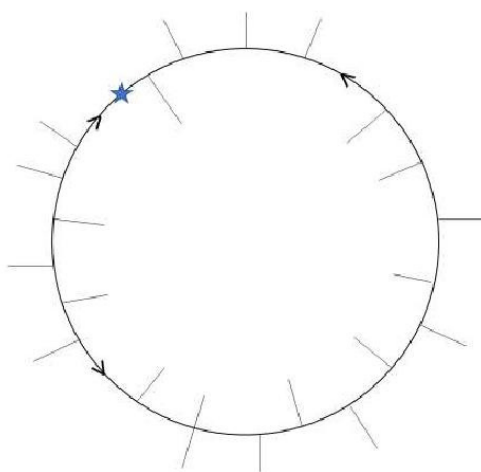
To control at the M of Moonhouse Plantation, NE390841

- Q1 How many times did you cross gridline 87?
Q2 How many times did you cross or use green roads?

Section 2 – round and round we go (CRO)

Start at the star, and ignore any white roads, but consider all yellows even if they are dead ends. The 'arrows' on the circle are map features. No other features are marked.

To end at SH 203, just past the track to Holland, 394802ESE



- Q3 How many places of worship did you pass?
Q4 What is the lowest spot height you pass?



TABLETOP RALLY

Section 3 – tons of towns (CAR)

Visit the following places all with something in common. LWR in 4377 and 4576, use a couple of white roads ~800m and ~200m long.

Mil Abbot (name only) Mil Green Leigh Bar Fm Derri Porting Lamer

To the crossroads at 449772NNE

Q5 How many steep gradients did you drive through?

Q6 How many red dots (not diamonds) did you drive through?

Section 4 – breakfast advice (CAR)

Use ~800m of white road, and go LWR in 4680 and 4582

Eat, Eat, Never, Shredded, Never, Never, Never, Wheat, Shredded, Wheat, Eat, Wheat, Wheat, Shredded, Never, Wheat, Never, Never, Never, Eat, Shredded, Shredded, Never, Shredded, Never, Never, Eat, Eat, Shredded, Eat, Never, Wheat, Eat, Never

To bridge at SH95, heading north

Q7 What 'crosses' did you pass through/near?

Q8 From which direction did you approach SH 173

Section 5 – the very long way home (CAR)

Use the following map features, and approximately 1.5km of whites in total.

BOAT = byway open to all traffic.

⚡ 136 ☎ Le][en 114 travel 2.5km ⚡ M
][][< 176 > BOAT 

To finish at the Pub in Lewdown, W451867, and have a well-earned rest!

Q9 Not including the bridge at the start, how many times did you cross the River Lyd?

Q10 What was the highest spot height you passed?

Clerk of the Course Toby Galbraith



TABLE TOP RALLY



You will find a complete list of all the
Table Top Rallies [HERE](#)



HOLME MOSS

There can be no more stunning backdrop than the Yorkshire/Derbyshire border for a spin in a vintage car or two; James Baxter at Tip-top Engineering explains why this spot is so special - and why young VSCC member, Jack Bond, is such an asset



I thought this was an appropriate picture to share, and relevant in many ways.

Tip Top Engineering were recently asked to do a photo-shoot with a couple of cars, so we chose the top of Holme Moss, which is a local pass over the hills connecting Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Holme Moss hosted a hillclimb up the pass from 1920 to 1924 so the location was highly relevant. Local motoring enthusiasts were planning marking the 100 year anniversary but were thwarted by some virus or other.

For details of next year's event (the 101st anniversary!) click [here](#).

Pictured are the 10 litre Fiat S61, a magnificent Edwardian racing car which we look after, along with what has now become the works Riley ERA.

On the right is Jack Bond who has been with Tip Top now for 18 months.

"Jack is such an asset to the company and I am delighted to have on board a fellow VSCC member who has made a superb addition to the company, primarily because of his staggering passion and enthusiasm for working with vintage cars. He is also developing very fast as a competent driver."

Click here to see Jack at Blyton in the works Riley.

Tip Top Engineering may have space for an apprentice at some point in the future. To fit in at Tip Top Engineering you need to have a passion similar to Jack Bond.

I Believe The VSCC Gave Jack That Passion

If you or someone you know thinks you have that passion and commitment to work at Tip Top Engineering please contact James Baxter at james@tiptopengineering.co.uk



JON FLEMING: LOOKING FOR A PROJECT FOR THE NEXT LOCKDOWN (BUT, OF COURSE, LET'S HOPE IT DOESN'T COME TO THAT....)

"I guess this is like searching for hen's teeth, but am looking for a project for the next lockdown! Ideally an early Chummy, preferably AA, AB, or AC type without external door handles. Body only or kits of bits considered, but a complete car would be better. Would consider a pre-31AD type or early saloon A long abandoned, long-time unused, pushed into the back of the shed some years back and left there car, would be perfect. If you have such, please message me with details of anything suitable you could offer."

If you have a hen's tooth that you think might fit the bill please email planetjon@hotmail.com or mobile number is 0796 1043263.

T H I S W E E K ' S L I N K S

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to watch the Prescott Long Livestream, courtesy of our friends at the Bugatti Owners' Club, click [here](#)

To look back at last year's event click [here](#) and [here](#) - this one introduced by none other than our Club Secretary in orange!

To watch Patrick Blakeney-Edwards at Castle Combe 2012 click [here](#)

Enjoy!

