



Photo: Paul Downs

# THE VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

LOOK AT ST CHRISTOPHER THEN GO ON REASSURED



## V S C C NEWS SHEET



29 October 2020

FINALLY, THE OFFICIAL HALLOWE'EN OF 2020...

It has at times felt like every day of 2020 has been Hallowe'en and it's hard to believe that we are into the last quarter of the year and many will say good riddance to it! Hallowe'en will not be what it usually is (although plenty will say good riddance to that too!) but wherever you are and whatever you are doing we hope you enjoy it safely.

This week, we celebrate the successful completion of the 38th Mille Miglia and remember the legendary victory of Sir Stirling Moss in 1955. We visit the recently renovated Morgan Factory; Donington Historic Festival is a date for the diary in 2021 and we hear Paul Tebbett's account of organising the Welsh - and enjoy some wonderful vintage photos.

### THE VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

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PRESIDENT: Paul Tunnicliffe CLUB SECRETARY: Tania Brown

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# PAUL TEBBETT

## THE WELSH

*Slightly out of synch with reality (but then you could say that about the whole year) as your Editor is not entirely organised we have a slightly late but wonderful account of organising one of the most popular VSCC events of the calendar, the Welsh - plus a wonderful photo archive - from Paul Tebbett*

*The Welsh has been a cornerstone of the VSCC calendar for decades. When did you start organising it and how did you become involved?*

A very good question and one that I am afraid I really don't know the answer to, but it is certainly well over twenty years. I do recall George Shetliffe asking if I would like to join him in setting up some sections, as I happened to own a Landrover(!). In those early days (for me), Neil Murray, Don Grose and Thelma were still much involved and, indeed, they continued to set up Pilleth for a few years.

*Organising an event such as this is complex and challenging. What would you say is the greatest challenge?*

There are many, but one is trying to work out what a potential section will look like in the cold and wet in several months time - having newly discovered something promising during the heat and growth of a June summer.

*And what are the ingredients of a really successful Welsh?*

Simply a great band of enthusiastic, muddy, cheerful competitors and an army of willing marshals alike.



*You must get a great sense of achievement as the cars drive away on Sunday evening full of smiling faces. What is your favourite memory of organising the Welsh?*

To be honest, my greatest pleasure (and, indeed, honour) is derived from simply being involved with such an iconic historic event as the VSCC Welsh, especially since the weekend means so very much to both the VSCC AND the people of Presteigne and the surrounding area. Local generations have grown up with the event and October just doesn't seem right without "those nice, muddy people and their equally muddy silly old cars cluttering up the place". Some members may not know that many of our sections [Badlands, Wernygeufon, Cwm Whitton itself] have come about through the landowners asking US if we would like to go and play on THEIR land. Following the first in 1939, after WW2 the "Welsh" did not miss a year from 1950 until 2019 (the 80th anniversary) which is quite a record in itself. We even managed something, at short notice, in the Foot & Mouth years of 2001 and 2007.



# PAUL TEBBETT

## THE WELSH

*Tell us about the first time you attended the Welsh as a competitor.*

Now here is an odd fact, I have never actually driven as a competitor on The Welsh!! I/We spent many years 'crewing' for Jane Arnold-Forster in her Alvis and then both Graham Rankin and Julian Ghosh in 30/98s - this was all back in the 1980/90s. My first visits to Presteigne were as a marshal in the 60s [before I could drive] and in the early 70s. Latterly, using a variety of tatty transport, I would come down for the weekend from University in Newcastle, returning on the Sunday evening:- a round trip of about 600 miles - young and foolish, whereas now I'm just the latter.



*Clearly, there is a large team of volunteers involved in the organisation; introduce us to them.*

My word, there are so many and I am, seriously, always so impressed by the dedication, skill and sheer tenacity of all of the volunteers. There are really too many to mention, but all the Hill Chiefs [typically numbering ten on the Welsh] play such a vital role, remembering that, on the day, it is impossible for a Clerk/Organiser to be everywhere at once. Then there are the great stalwarts like Martin Jelley, Paul Knill Jones, Paul Connor, Eric Peppercorn who have covered safety and radios for many years in such a professional manner.

*This winter we are hoping to virtually have a poke around in a few members' garages; tell us about your cars, today and in years gone by.*

As the instigator of the "Virtual Homes & Gardens" pilot films, you should be able to see some of the eclectic mix here at Tower House and so, as they say:- "stay tuned - coming soon to this channel folks!". Frankly, I have far too many cars but then, that does seem to be a common "issue" amongst VSCC types. It is interesting how many of us also own and run other things that are not VSCC eligible. For myself, I have always enjoyed variety in my "toys". My first car was a non-eligible Austin 7 van that my brother and I had dragged out of a hedge a few years earlier [it had been serving as a potting shed]. Fitted with a tuned racy engine, this powered me between Newcastle and Birmingham.





# PAUL TEBBETT

## THE WELSH

*Any amusing "Welsh" happenings that you can recall?*

There was the year when George realised, very late on the Saturday evening, that we had both totally forgotten to set up one of the next mornings sections - Forest Wood I believe it was. After dragging me out of the Red Lion, George & I set off back to the Radnor Forest to carry out the deed - it must be the only section that has been set up, in the pitch dark & rain by two cursing, laughing and quite well oiled organisers (we did find a sober driver, I might add). Fortunately, the section didn't seem to look too bad the next day, and no-one seemed to notice.

One Saturday evening in the Radnorshire dining room, a worried member came hurrying in to find me, saying that there was a policeman outside in the street and "...we think that, perhaps, you ought to come out and have word". Descending the steps of the Radnor, I could see clearly that, sure enough, there was a police 'constabule', leaning on that famous wall opposite. But then, amongst all the muddy Barbours, he wasn't really difficult to spot, sporting, as they do, all the regalia & insignia :- helmet, bright jacket, all the equipment hanging off him, squawking radio etc etc .

So I fought my way across the crowded street - past the revellers with pint glasses - avoiding the oil puddles - and stepping deftly over the part-dismantled GN on the pavement (as an aside: I would love to know the answer to something that has often puzzled me: Why does it seem that, in most years, there is someone working on a GN on the pavement on the Saturday evening? Even in years when there isn't one entered.....?).

Anyhow, finally reaching the officer, I introduced myself as the organiser of the event and asking: "... could I be of help at all? " (this while trying not to breathe too many alcohol fumes over him). And he said (with a lovely Welsh accent): "Well, I thought I'd better look in on you all, as we've had a complaint from one of the residents, you see....."

(GULP)....."Oh dear I said ? - it is the drinking in street? - the mud? - or parking on the double yellows - or maybe the oil stains or, or the dismantled GN even?.... I'm awfully sorry and I'll....." "Oh, no, no...." (he interrupted) "Nothing like that...anyway, it's only once a year innit?.." he grinned, continuing: "No, we've had a complaint at the stay-shun that a lady-of-the-night from Hereford has been seen approaching some of your people here in the street .... so my sarge thought I had better come along for a shuft, like" (pause, cough). "Oh" I say, "And, urm.....?" "Nooooo, nothing of that nature that I can see...." he said, looking around.....longer pause - and by now I was also leaning on the wall, but for support.....

*".....Much else happening tonight officer?" (raising my voice above the revelry and trying to ignore the beer and the GN) "Oh no," he said, "...very quiet tonight, very quiet indeed - I'll be on me way 'ome now!". And with that he turned and disappeared, swallowed up in the throngs of muddy, jolly, people....."*





# THE WELSH ARCHIVE

COURTESY OF THE MAX HILL FAMILY COLLECTION





# THE MORGAN FACTORY

*The Morgan Factory Is Entering An Exciting New Chapter In Its History With The Opening Of A Brand New Visitor Facility. Covid Restrictions Posed Some Unusual Logistical Nightmares But Perseverance And Ingenuity Overcame And The Centre Opened This Month To Great Acclaim*

Our Thanks To Chairman And CEO, Steve Morris, Who Has Kindly Taken Time Out Of His Busy Schedule To Tell Us The Story

*The Morgan factory has been a longstanding feature of the Malvern area for a long time and the new, improved version certainly has vision and ambition. Who are the team behind this exciting project?*

We are hugely excited to be reaching the final stages of the new Morgan Experience Centre construction, and the building is now officially open. The core team behind the project consisted of a number of Morgan internal departments, as well as architects,

Hewitt Studios, and principal contractor HB Projects. The new Experience Centre uses the existing shell of the old Visitors Centre, and in true Morgan fashion we have used many local suppliers and been able to celebrate some of the natural materials that are associated with the cars themselves.

*What can visitors look forward to when they visit?*

The new Morgan Experience Centre is home to our ever popular factory tours, hire cars and experience drives. We have also incorporated a new on-site restaurant, The Canteen, and a new museum, The Archive Room. Whether just popping in for a cup of coffee with friends on a Saturday morning, through to taking advantage of all visitor experiences on offer during the week, we've really tried to create a destination suitable for all ages and interests. We are also delighted to have a new dealership, Morgan Works Malvern, here at the Experience Centre. We extend a warm welcome to all VSCC members, and look forward to seeing many of you here in due course.





# THE MORGAN FACTORY

*The build began in 2019 so much of the work must have been undertaken throughout the pandemic. What were the additional challenges that the Covid-19 restrictions imposed?*

We began building work in December 2019, and our initial plan was to have the new building open in Spring/Summer 2020. Like every business, the interruptions of the pandemic have been huge, and continue to prove challenging. From a shortage of materials to limited availability of contractors and challenging COVID-19 regulations, it's fair to say that opening the new facility hasn't been easy. I'm proud to say that Morgan remains as resilient as ever and has most definitely risen to the challenge.

*What measures have been put in place to ensure visitors are safe during the pandemic?*

Welcoming visitors back to Pickersleigh Road during the pandemic has not been something we've approached lightly. We have a number of measures in place to ensure visitor safety. Visitors and staff are required to wear masks in public places, hand sanitiser is readily available throughout every building and we have increased cleaning throughout the site with special attention to high volume areas. The appropriate social distancing measures are also in place and we are pleased to have received a lot of positive feedback from visitors so far. As we look ahead to next year, we have a number of larger events planned for once restrictions begin to reduce.



*What is your personal highlight?*

My personal highlight of the new Experience Centre is the impact that it's already having, and will continue to have, on the local area. Malvern has been home to Morgan for 111 years this year and the two are totally synonymous with each other. To now have a visitor facility that we can proudly and confidently welcome even more UK and international guests to will make a positive impact on Malvern. We are all very proud.

*The Morgan Factory is at:-  
Morgan Motor Company Visitor Centre, Spring Lane, Malvern,  
Worcestershire, WR14 1AJ*

*Click [here](#) for further information on their website.*



# THE SILVER SCREEN

You may recall that last week we put out a call on behalf of MGM Cars for a car suitable for filming a new Colin Firth and Olivia Coleman film.

We are delighted to report that we were successful! Chief Librarian, Ian Ferguson, got in touch with MGM and his 1928/30 Delage DB 8S will be embarking on a new career on the silver screen next Thursday!

Ian promises to write an account of his exploits for a future edition.



Ian's Delage DB 8S - coming to a cinema screen near you!

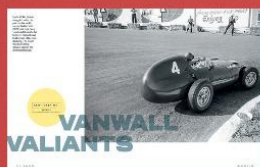




# MAGNETO MAGAZINE

## Exclusive offer to VSCC members:

Sign up for a complimentary copy of Magneto and see why it is the most talked about magazine in the classic car world.



Magneto is produced by the very best, most knowledgeable writers and most creative photographers, printed beautifully on high-quality paper. It features the most important and interesting cars, events and people, serving up unmissable content on a quarterly basis.

If only the best cars will do, then only Magneto will do as your magazine of choice.

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To subscribe visit [www.magnetomagazine.com](http://www.magnetomagazine.com) and use the promo code **VSCC20** and receive 20% off the subscription price.





# WHEN JAGUAR BOUGHT DAIMLER

As promised, our friends at the British Motor Museum have provided a discount code exclusively for VSCC members, valid from tomorrow until the end of 2021. The offer is to receive £2 discount per person upto a maximum of five people (the sixth would pay full price).

This offer can not be used in conjunction with any of our Group, Education, Family, Gift Aid, or other promotional offers. The discounted ticket will be valid for one visit to the Museum.

Currently, all visitors must pre-book their arrival slot online. This is to limit the number of visitors inside the Museum and to comply with the NHS Test and Trace programme. VSCC members should select the 'Promotional Ticket' when booking, which is free of charge to reserve. They should then bring the confirmation of their timed entry, along with their membership card to the Museum and pay their discounted rate on arrival.

## When Jaguar Bought Daimler Exhibition



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 or consign. *Stay safe my friends*



1935 Supercharged MG PB  
great value at only £68,500

[Find out more here](#)





# P U B M E E T

It is very cheering to see photos of pub meets and events and to remember that those days will be back again. Brian Aket wrote in to tell us about his pub meet in Suffolk....

For the past few years I have had the pleasure of co-ordinating the monthly pub meet here in Suffolk which must be one of the most successful within the VSCC family. We meet on the first Saturday each month at lunchtime and we welcome members and visitors from Suffolk and neighbouring North Essex and East Cambridgeshire. We gather in the village of Hawkedon, 8 miles SW of Bury St Edmunds and within some of the most beautiful countryside in East Anglia. Our base is The Queen's Head, a very popular traditional country inn where we are met with friendship and efficiency by Scott, the landlord.

Each month we welcome a wide range of vehicles from expensive exotica to well loved and cherished pre-war family cars and much chat and bonnet-opening surrounds them all.

As experienced at other pub meets, our New Year Gatherings are hugely popular and we may have to consider a different strategy in future to allow a more relaxed event.

Sadly, along with all other pub meets, our monthly meetings are currently on hold until the dangers of the virus subsides. Let us hope that will not be too long delayed. I have an emailing list of over 100 individuals which I use monthly so I shall be able to communicate with everyone as soon as we get the green light.



To join Brian's email list  
for updates on when pub  
meets start up again  
email:-  
[aket@btinternet.com](mailto:aket@btinternet.com)



# TABLE TOP RALLY ANSWERS



## Table Top Rally edition 18: Cheshire Rally

Qs and As

### Section1: *Red and green*

- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| Q1 | What is the first spotheight you go through? | 95    |
| Q2 | How many places of worship within 100m       | Three |

### Section 2: *Over and under*

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| Q3 | Which direction are you heading when going under a railway? | ESE |
| Q4 | How many red diamonds?                                      | Two |

### Section 3: *Clutch test*

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| Q5 | How many times do you cross a County Boundary? | Five |
| Q6 | How many pubs do you pass?                     | Two  |

### Section 4: *Top and bottom*

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| Q7 | How many gradient arrows do you pass through? | Four |
| Q8 | What is the highest spotheight?               | 175  |

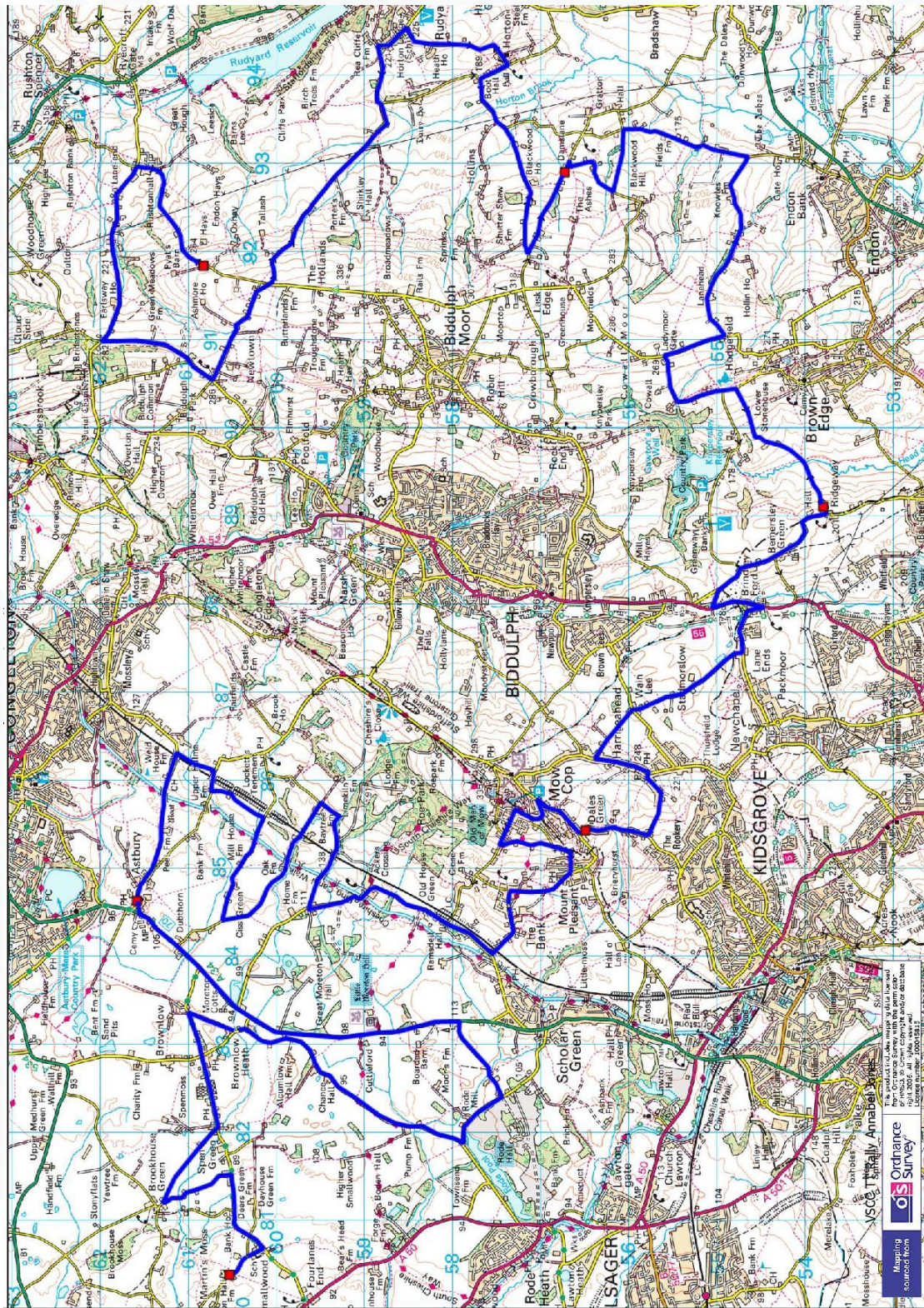
### Section 5: *Ups and downs*

- |     |                                    |      |
|-----|------------------------------------|------|
| Q9  | How many times do you cross an ETL | Four |
| Q10 | How many phones do you pass?       | Two  |





# TABLE TOP RALLY CORRECT ROUTE



For a downloadable, printable version log in to your account  
and go to the [Noticeboard](#)





# DONINGTON HISTORIC FESTIVAL 2021

Looking Forward To 2021, Donington Have Confirmed Dates For Their Historic Festival. Andrew Prestwich And His Family Are Keen Fans Of The Event - And Wonder Why More Of Us Don't Support It!

Donington Park have confirmed the arrangements for their Historic Festival 2021 with the dates set as the weekend of 1st and 2nd May. This will mark the Festival's 10th Anniversary and we are promised a fantastic selection of racing cars from the 1920s through to the 1980s. There will be qualifying and racing on each action-packed day which will barely leave enough time to wander around the car club displays and trade stands - particularly if one wishes to watch the lunchtime parades into the bargain. (I confess that I tend to do my ferreting around the paddock while the 1980s tin tops are playing bumper cars, seemingly seeking to nudge one another off the track - but at least it amuses the children).

Tickets are always extremely good value and I never understand why events at Donington are not better supported by the public. Keep your eye on the unfolding detail by clicking on [www.doningtonhistoric.com](http://www.doningtonhistoric.com).

Festival organiser Richard Grafton says:- "With DHF 2020 having to be cancelled due to the Covid lockdown, we are very much looking forward to the sights and sounds of historic race cars battling it out around Donington Park at DHF 2021. We are already working hard on securing some excellent grids and, like everyone looking to stage an event next year, will do all we can to hold a superb celebration of classic motorsport within whatever Covid restrictions may apply at that time."

There is usually plenty to interest the enthusiastic VSCC member. In past years the 'Mad Jack' for pre-war sports cars, the Nuvolari and Ascari Trophy races for pre-61 racing cars and the Woodcote Trophy for 1950s sports racing cars have been my favourites. And the festival has not become so big as to lose its friendly, almost intimate, atmosphere.

Enjoy looking at these shots from past years and then bring next spring to mind when the depressing winter darkness becomes even bleaker than usual this time around.

*Andrew Prestwich*





# DONINGTON HISTORIC FESTIVAL 2021



Mad Jack Pre-War Sports Car Race  
2018 Photo: Jakob Ebrey



Nuvolari and Ascari Trophy Races 2019  
Photo: Jakob Ebrey



Woodcote Trophy 2016. Photo: Matt Sayle



Mad Jack Pre-War Sports Car Race  
2018 Photo: Jakob Ebrey



Mad Jack Pre-War Sports Car Race  
2016 Photo: Jakob Ebrey

*Donington Historic  
Festival Will Be Held on  
Saturday 1st and Sunday  
2nd May. For further  
information go to the  
[Donington Historic  
Festival Website](#)*



# SIR STIRLING MOSS 1955 MILLE MIGLIA

It was on 12 April 2020 that the world of motor racing lost one of its greatest heroes.

After the week that saw the 38th edition of the classic Mille Miglia, we look back to 1955, when Moss and his navigator, Denis Jenkinson, took the honours in one of the greatest victories in the history of the event.

Sir Stirling Moss Talks About His  
Mille Miglia Win And Denis  
Jenkinson

Mercedes-Benz Perspective On  
Englishman Moss Winning This  
Classic Italian Race In A German Car

Ten Hours, Seven Minutes And Forty-  
Eight Seconds That Defined The  
Mille Miglia In The 1950s

Getty Images - Sir Stirling Moss



Sir Stirling Moss At The Goodwood Festival Of Speed  
Photo: Dreamstock

Mille Miglia 2020





# CAR FACTS DISC

## A Note From Monika Holton at Car Facts Disc.....

*I hope that you have been well since we last spoke, since the clock changed it now feels very autumnal, (I even bought my first Christmas gift the other day).*

*I just want to thank you again for sharing about our Car Facts Discs in your News Sheet with the VSCC members. One of the guys that purchased our disc as a result of the editorial is the owner of a beautiful 1934 Riley TT Racing Six 12/4 Special. He has used the Car Facts Disc to tell the restoration story of his stunning car.*

*He is actually one of your fans from the USA, based in Dallas. With such international appeal I thought it would be great if your members could read about his full personal restoration story.....*



To use, simply switch your smartphone to 'Camera' mode and point at the bar code until your camera registers and downloads the information.



# The VSCC's Merchandise Shop

Great ideas for the perfect gifts



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around the corner**

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Rugby Shirts and  
Waterproof Jackets**

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**Visit our online shop we  
have a great choice of  
VSCC branded Regalia**





## Customers' Favorites

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Navy, Grey and Camel

*And our best seller*

The Navy VSCC or  
Black Formula Vintage  
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badges

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ages

[www.vsccl.co.uk/shop](http://www.vsccl.co.uk/shop)

## This Week's Interesting Links

[Mille Miglia 2020 - The First Day](#)

[Mille Miglia 2020 - 22 October](#)

....And thanks to Steve Nevill for posting this remarkable colour video of '[The Open Road: A Trip From Cornwall Via Wales And Scotland To London In 1926](#)' on the Facebook Members page

*Enjoy!*

