

“REVS” News Letter

October 2025



May. Ernest Owen Trial gets 26 car entry + sunshine.

A day out in a Scoobie for REVS Editor AB, Woodpecker Report.

The passing of Ray Smith a valued member of the old AGBO team.

Sprint gets 90 car entry and great weather.

Lots of Marshaling action by the OMC orange army.

Classic section continues to grow and attending some great shows including Canwell.

OMC invited to a fantastic day out at the Oulton Park “Gold Cup” Meeting which included the 75th Anniversary of BRM F1 with some 25 + BRM racers attending,

Regs & Entries Grass Auto Test on OMC Web Pages. Sunday 26th Oct. Manorial Farm, Sutton Coldfield B75 5QW



Club Contact Information. °

HQ at: Aldridge Conservative & Unionist Club, 62 Portland Rd, Walsall WS9 8NS

OS map Ref, 139/ 057 006, GPS 52.6030° N / 1.9169° W

Club Meet Every Wednesday @ 8.00pm.

Committee Meet First Wednesday of Month @ 8.00pm

Club contacts and club event responsibilities as follows:

President - David Owen OBE

Chairman - Michael Ward ... michael_ward70@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman - Dan Lister.....dan-lister@hotmail.co.uk....

AGBO Rally & OMC Rallies Archive, REVS *Editor*, Club Event Pictures Archive - Anton Bird..... antonbird@talktalk.net

Club Sec - Roger Tolley.... r.tolley@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer - Michael Ward ... michael_ward70@btinternet.com

Committee members:

Competition Sec - Derrick Wallbank.....dwallbank59@gmail.com

AGBO Rally, Social Sec. Child Protection Officer - Clare Jennings
clarejennings22@outlook.com

Equipment Office - Committee Members

Trophies Officer - Ruth Langford ...pinkfairy66@hotmail.co.uk

AGBO Rally - Dan Lister dan-lister@hotmail.co.uk

Championship scorer, Classic Section assistant - Melvyn Cox....
melvyn.cox@blueyonder.co.uk.

Classic Section Coordinator - Martin Parkes ... classicowenmc@gmail.com

Chief Marshal - Dean Forrestscouts8th@hotmail.co.uk

Other Contact details.

Lynn Whittick - Graham Hill Sprint, Club Archives - lynnwhittick@live.co.uk

Hilary Bird Membership Sec - hilarybird1@hotmail.co.uk



Motorsport UK was saddened to learn of the death of Ray Smith in May

A long serving member of Owen Motoring Club and Cannock & District Car Club. Ray was a well respected member of the club and has been attributed to helping many other members get started in rallying.

As an active rally fan, Ray was involved in the World Rally Championship in the UK from 1963 to 2015 covering various roles, ranging from Stage Commander of Sutton Park, through to Police Liaison Officer for the entire event in his later years.

Ray was seconded to Reliant in 1985, working in the Lynn Lane factory, Shenstone, to produce the bodyshell and to assemble 200 road-going examples of the Ford RS200 four-wheel-drive, mid-engined rally car. This meant that Ray had his own personal 'company car' for a while, and it often appeared at club events.

Ray held a Motorsport Steward license since 2002 and has been noted as "a pleasure to work with, and always reliable". You could count on Ray for a range of disciplines as a Motorsport UK Steward, and he was a great mentor.

There are many among the motorsport community who have fond memories of Ray, and Motorsport UK sends its condolences to all who knew him.



RS200 at home with the Smith family

A very valued member of the AGBO Rally Team, our Clerk of the Course many times, Ray was a great fixer, never any problems with him around.



His last visit to the event was 2025, a big effort for him but we were all delighted he made it. Seen right, with Dan Lister & Mike Ward at the AGBO a few years ago. Ray became Dans rally mentor and guided him through his apprenticeship to his MSUK Clerk of the Course License. I think we all know he did a tremendous job, I don't think you will find a more competent person than Dan in his MSUK Clerks position which he now holds.

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NECCCLASSICMOTORSHOW.COM

The **OMC Ernest Owen Trial** at Apley Park near Telford, a great venue attracted a very credible 26 car entry, this is a quality venue for this part of motor sport. Won by Philip Buckle in A Citroën Saxo, seen below receiving the winners trophy from Mike Ward, Club Chairman.



The **OMC Graham Hill Sprint** in June attracted a quality car entry, no report received, few pictures by the editor are shown below.



HRCR Clubman's Road Rally Championship 2025...*Dean Forrest*

Having decided not to compete in the 2024 championship I set out to develop the MG, replacing the engine and gearbox, removing front and rear suspension replacing it with Spax adjustable shocks and uprated rear springs.

With the engine and gearbox removed the engine bay was easier to tidy up. With the help of Martin Parkes (the old wiring in the engine bay and inside the car was in poor condition) so was removed and changed for new or put into a safe condition, an electrical system cut off switch and fuses were also added.

The big day arrived, and the new engine and gearbox were joined together and lowered into position. Everything was bolted back in place on the engine and a check of the timing before starting up for the first time. The MG was running and ready for 2025 season.

The new season started with the tour of Cheshire in March, unfortunately it was not the start we were hoping for, an oil leak had developed from the high pressure hose between the engine and oil filter.

A new pipe was fitted and tested, eventually we traveled to Glastonbury for the Palladwr rally. A two-day event with two sessions on Saturday, one in the afternoon then out for an evening session. Early start on Sunday morning with over 150 miles of road sections across the two days. Worthy Farm was used over the weekend for a number of tests. A good weekend resulting in a first in class.

In May a trip to Wales for the Gremlin Rally another two day event starting late Saturday afternoon. With a combination of long road sections and tests through the Welsh forests in hot and dusty weather resulting in a 3rd in class.

June took us to Bury St Edmonds and the East Anglia Rally. Once again, a two day event starting Saturday afternoon going into the early evening. Sunday another early start with more long road sections traveling through some very nice villages with the weather being very hot again, inside the car was above 38c. Test sites were spread across farm land and industrial sites finishing back in Bury St. Edmonds mid Sunday afternoon. With a 4th in class, the season is going well for us. We traveled to Chepstow on 4th October for the Hero Challenge 3 and round 5 HRCR championship, hopefully our good fortune will continue.



OMC Grass Auto Test, all forward, Manorial Farm Sutton Coldfield, B75 5QW on Sunday 26th Oct. **Regs and Entries on OMC web site.**

Just a Little Different From my usual rally excursions !!!..... Anton Bird

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a rally mate, he asks can I help him out with Co Driving duties for a friend of his with a secured entry at the now crazy Forest costings on the Woodpecker Stages in mid Wales but he had no co driver and time was getting tight.

Having not done an event in the woods since the Rally GB National in 2015, I thought why not, even more why not when he tells me its in a Subaru, full forest spec. This car was originally built by Prodrive with a tarmac specification, its build quality is incredible, from new it won "The Rally of Mull" two years on the trot. Converted to full forest spec eight years ago by Prodrive for new owner Keith Gapper, from South Wales, it's a beast, my first outing in lets say a little bit more modern car than usual was a real eye opener for me.

All 4WD cars being put at the back of the pack means a late start time 11.19 am Saturday which means we actually get time for breakfast, not a normal occurrence on rally day, 8 stages, (44 Miles in total) 3 in Hafren and 1 in Tarrenig, two passes of each.

On starting the first stage It does not take long to notice why these cars have such a reputation, they have it all, terrific torque in all gears, immaculate road holding, tremendous suspension and just built to go over anything. A good first loop of 4 to service, all stages in relatively good nick considering the entire 100 car entry had already passed over, (Carnage seen in most stages, some big off's) but some decent stage times came our way and no moments on the treacherously greasy surface and pouring rain.

Stages on second loop a little time dropped due to badly cut up corners and hairpins, although hardly noticeable in this car. A disgustingly late stat time of 7pm for us on SS8 the last stage, we finish 38th o/all, not a bad result I suppose considering I had never met Keith until Friday morning. After the last stage in Tarrenig, a long road section back to Newtown left me with a journey home starting back at 8.15pm a long day.



Next years date now fixed, **Sunday March 22nd 2026.**

Planning will start very soon. We thank Oliver Davies proprietor of Land & Estate Maintenance for their continued and very valued support for this event.



Above. Best Car in the 2024 AGBO & a great picture.



Left.. Another Weston Ford Crossing aborted at AGBO 2024, Any Captions for this one ?

“Yes mate exhausts still on”

OMC Classic Section News...*Martin Parkes*

As the end of the year is approaching the classic car gatherings are becoming fewer and a lot of classic car enthusiasts are getting ready for the NEC Show in November and OMC are no exception, more about that later.

Following our stand at the March NEC Restoration Show we next made an appearance in May at a little local village fete at Newborough which is just off the A515 before Draycott in the Clay. This again was well attended with good weather and a lot of interest in our cars.

Next up came our display at the 'Graham Hill Sprint' which Derrick & Dean organised. We saw a welcome return of the Rover 200 BRM's to our display as well as a great turnout of other classic cars. There was excellent competition on the track along with good weather.

Derrick organised a new show for us which was the local Walsall Arboretum Classic Car Show on Sunday 13th July. Another good turnout by Owen members who did us proud by winning the Best Club Stand, Derrick's lovely Ford Cortina 1600E also won the Individual Club Car award.

Owen members were invited, by Nick Owen, to the opening of the Rubery Owen Gallery at Gaydon Motor Museum on Thursday 17th July. This is a brand-new exhibition space and thanks to the generous support of Rubery Owen Holdings and the Owen Family, Gaydon have nearly doubled the feature exhibition space. As one of Britain's original automotive supply chain companies, Rubery Owen's heritage and legacy is intertwined throughout the Museum. It is almost impossible to walk through the collection without bumping into cars that have a Rubery Owen component. The relationship between the Museum and Rubery Owen, which has been in place for many years, is underpinned by this shared heritage. The centre piece of the current exhibition was a white 1965 Rolls Royce Phantom V which was once owned by John Lennon and appeared in the Beatles film, Let It Be.

Then came the first of two large Owen displays. The first one took place at the Oulton Park Race Circuit at the end of July. This Gold Cup meeting showcased the 75th Anniversary of BRM. We were given a prime location near the circuit and put on an excellent display of classic cars including four Rover BRMs, one of which belongs to David Owen and was brought along by his son Nick who'd done all the original groundwork enabling us to appear at this wonderful celebration meeting. We have since heard that we have been invited back for the 2026 'Gold Cup Meeting' for two days next year.

Two weeks later came our second main show of 2025 which was the Centenary Canwell Show in Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. I was tasked with not only organising our Owen Club Stand but to administer all classic car entries leading up to the day. Myself, Dean & Derrick visited the venue on the Friday to view final arrangements and chat with the organiser.

We had 35 classic cars on display, 18 of which were OMC members. Initially for this year we were due to display in the adjacent field by the stage but due to the fact the organisers decided to have lots of free craft stalls etc. they decided to put us back on the main entrance road again which meant everyone had to walk ...CONTINUED

past us along with easier parking of the cars in the morning, thanks to Derrick, Melvyn & Dean who did a sterling job. A huge thank you to everyone who brought along cars, and I hope you all enjoyed the day, and we hope to be back there again next year.

August Bank Holiday saw us back at New Hall Mill for our annual showing which Trevor arranged. Included on our stand were four Rover 200 BRM's, which created a lot of interest, plus we were joined in the meadow by Club Triumph and the Austin Seven Club. Congratulations go to father & daughter Antony & Amelia Parsons for winning the best car in show, judged by Nick Owen, for their immaculate Rover BRM.

By the time you read this we will have displayed at our final outdoor & indoor shows. Himley Hall, organised by Derrick & Pete Hubball, followed by the NEC Classic Car Show in November. After an initial email from the NEC to say we hadn't got a stand this year (our 25th year), we breathed a huge sigh of relief when Alison Judge (NEC Club Co-ordinator) later emailed me with the good news that a stand had become available. I wasted no time in accepting it and we are in Hall 4 again with a stand slightly longer than last year so we shall have five cars on display with a little more room in between them.

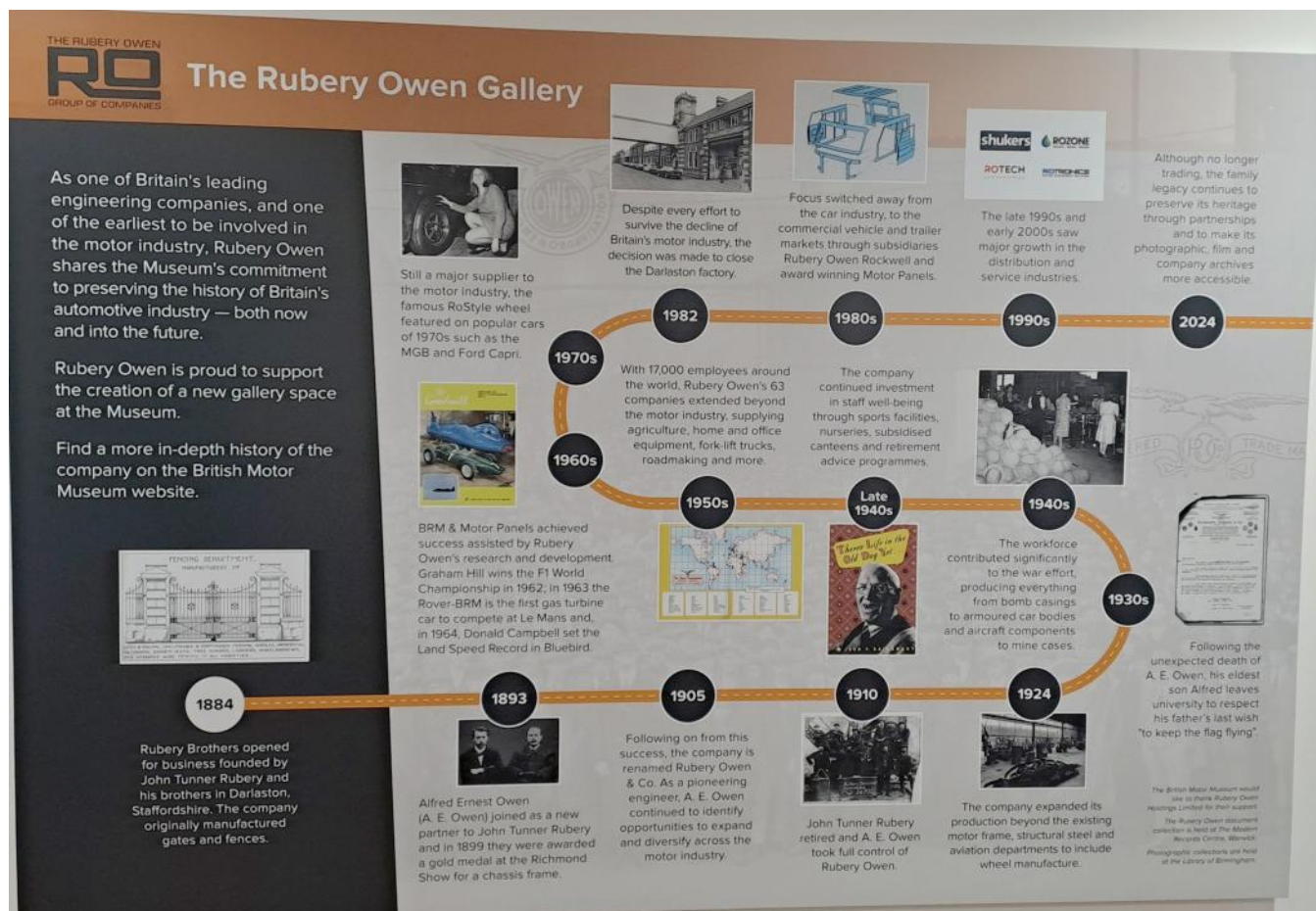
Looking ahead to 2026 we won't be having a repeat showing at the NEC Restoration Show due to the dates clashing with our annual AGBO Rally at Weston Park where we need as much help as possible in setting up and breaking down.

Finally thank you to everyone who has contributed to another successful Owen Classic Car year and if you didn't already know, we now have an Owen Classic Car WhatsApp group for up-to-date information.

If you would like to be added to this group or would like to receive my monthly Classic Car Newsletter, then please get in touch.



**A Few Pics fom recent Classic outings
Canwell Show & Oulton Park Gold Cup**



Above something different, a "time line" of the Rubery Owen Manufacturing Company, this is where our car club originated in 1959 through a number of its employees.

HRCR Mini Cup & HRCR Cat 1 Cup 2025, AB Little success this year three events only, with two DNF's (Dixies ~ Clive & Warcop ~ Craig) then a reasonable run on the Argyll Rally, a double scoring round, 3rd Saturday night and 1st on Sunday, some new very fast stages included this year. We were not on the pace on Friday night, rusty I think, but Saturday normal service was resumed taking fastest Mini on all stages ending up 49th o/all, 2nd in class. Next up at the end of September The Tour of Epynt, two days this year with four stages on Saturday afternoon, then 4 x 13 milers on Sunday. Followed by, unusual for us a forest event, The Wye Dean Stages then Trac Mon a two day event on Anglesey in November to finish off. I have to fit another 2 day event in being Rally History Festival Stages, running on Bulth Wells show ground the first week in October, this will be with Tim Ashton in his beautiful Lancia Fulvia. (Left Below. Argyll Stages)



OMC Orange Army.

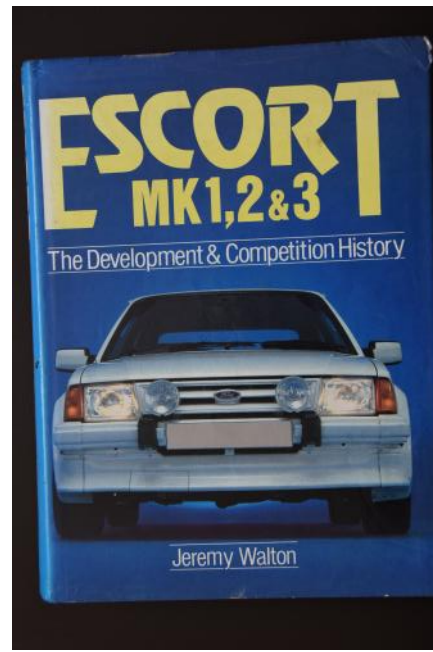
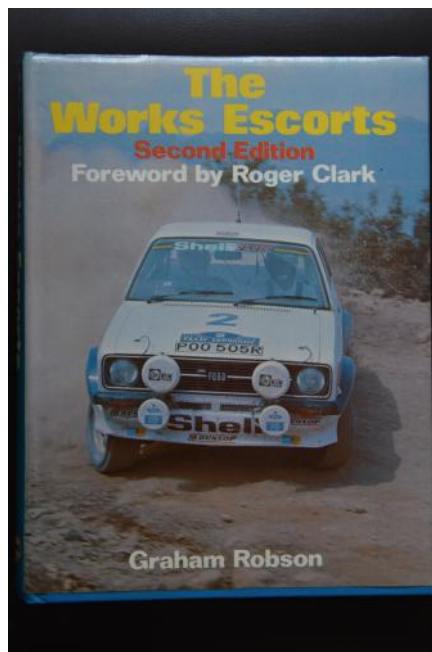
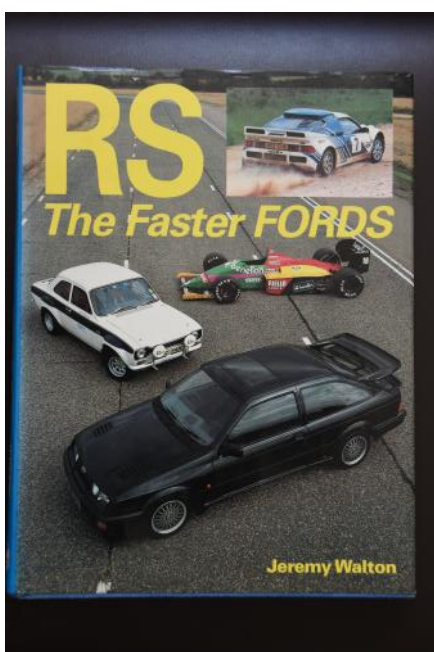
Plenty of activity so far this year and an apprentice Chef to help our Chef Marshal Paul Langford, meet Luigi, no specialities yet but plenty of banter. Seen below with his mentor at the Hero Event our marshalling team officiated on in August near Chesterfield.



OMC Orange Army action 2025, **So far**. Clee Hill Trial, AGBO Rally, Ernest Owen Trial, OMC Sprint, HRCR Trial. **To come**, OMC Grass A/Test, Bloxham Rally, Le Jog Test Seighford. Could be more.

For Sale. Books below at £20 each, all good condition.

Contact : antonbird@talktalk.net



OMC Classic Section, have been busy this year attending:

NEC Restoration Show

Newborough Show

Graham Hill Sprint

Walsall Show

Oulton Park Gold Cup BRM 75th Anniversary

Canwell Show, big turn out on this one from OMC

New Hall Mill

Himley Hall, OMC win second best stand in show well done.

NEC Classic Car Show— to come in November, stand now Secured

The Alfa Romeo 2000 Berlina (**below left**) is Boycee Wallbank's latest purchase all the way from Scotland and his pristine Ford Cortina 1600E (**below right**) could now be up for grabs at the right offer. (I know which one I would keep).

His Mk2 Cortina Rally Car (great car this one beautifully built by Bob Gibbons a number of years ago) has now been sold. Whats next Dek? - Finding me a MK2 Mexico, might be a good option. *Ed*



Left. An Escort Van at a classic show? Don't let that stop you taking a closer look. Every conceivable extra and there were a lot of options left in the Halewood stock before the van production line closed down, most of which went into this van. It has an amazing spec. and in pristine condition. Owned by OMC Classic member, Bob Hudson



New Regalia IN STOCK.

Quality Baseball / Rally caps AGBO or OMC £6, Polo Shirts, L & XL £12



We still have a few

Popular, Sweat Shirt, great quality, £16



2024 Graham Hill Sprint 60th mementos.



OMC Club Regalia....2025

Polo Shirt Navy Blue

Lamb's Wool Jumper "V neck"

Lamb's Wool Jumper "Round neck" ..

Sweat Shirt

Fleece (Soft) Zip Front

"T" Shirt

Soft-Shell Jacket, Zip front

Baseball Cap

Wooley Hat

Snood (Neck Scarf)

Marshals Coats Day-Glo Orange, **Short** with club logo on rear.

Marshals Coats Day-Glo Orange, **Long** with Club logo on rear.

60th Anniversary Pin Badge...FOC ask.

All items **are to order** prices through Clare Jennings ...

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All garments are Navy Blue, available S.M.L.XL.XXL and **include the **standard** club logo embroidered in Yellow. Other OMC Logo's at extra cost.**

Standard Club Logo (in required colour) embroidered to **own garments**...£8.00

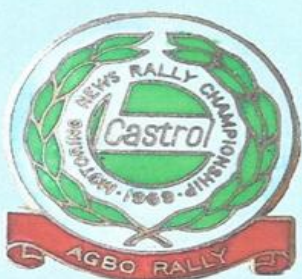
OMC car Stickers various, please ask.



Owen Motoring Club Rally History



Start 1968 AGBO Rally



Researched & Compiled by Anton Bird

Six years research to dig out the history of many of the rallies organised by OMC. Events covered from 1960 through to our years at Weston Park. The main focus being on the club's road rallies including all 10 Motoring News Championship offerings. 75 pages of history plus many pictures in B&W and Colour, some believed never published before.

Copies of the book available through the author @ £10.00 per copy,
Postage Rates: Second Class only....£3.50

Enquiries to, antonbird@talktalk.net

eBay Item No. 133583415879