SEPTEMBER 2026

SPOTLAMP

Official Newsletter of the Plymouth Motor Club



RALLY NIGHTS

DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY

Club stories - Motorsport - Community

Contents

1. Renault Cup 12 Car
2. Local events
3. Chair’s chat
4. Five Clubs Wiscombe 2026
5. Chief Marshal’s report
6. Membership renewal
7. September’s trophy trivia
8. Four seasons — one day
9. Westcountry Rescue
10. 2027 membership
11. Contribute to Spotlamp
12. Safeguarding and social media policies

Renault Cup 12 Car

Event details	Information
Date	25 September 2026
Map and route	Map 201 / 50 miles
Start venue	The Crooked Inn, Saltash
Signing on	From 19.30
Finish venue	The Crooked Inn, Saltash

Local events

Date	Event
25th September	Renault 12 Car, Map 201
27th September	Clay Pigeon ASWMC Sprint B&DCC
2nd October	Scatter CVMC
3rd/4th October	Tregrehan ASWMC Hillclimb T&DMC
3rd/4th October	Harvest Rally SHMC
7th October	PMC Committee meeting, Miners Arms, 7.30pm

Date	Event
10th October	Castle Combe ASWMC Sprint BMC
11th October	Tamar Classic ASWMC Trial L&NCMC
24th October	Exmoor Targa
30th October	12 Car Plymouth MC
31st October	Castle Combe ASWMC Sprint BPMC
1st November	Slalom Autotest B&DCC
1st November	Exmoor Clouds Classic ASWMC Trial
13th November	Scatter CVMC
14th/15th November	Challenger Stages ASWMC Rally B&DCC
4th December	Scatter CVMC
6th December	Slalom Autotest B&DCC
6th December	Camel Classic ASWMC Trial

Details of all these events can be found on the respective websites and Facebook pages of the appropriate club. As with any event, clubs welcome entries from competitors, but also need the help from the marshals who make the events happen. Especially the Championship Speed events and the Classic Trials which attract nearly 100 cars at these events and the stage rally in November has well over 90 entries currently.

CVMC Camel Vale Motor Club SHMC South Hams Motor Club B&DCC Bournemouth and District Car Club L&NCMC Launceston and North Cornwall Motor Club BMC Bristol Motor Club BPMC Bristol Pegasus Motor Club

Chair’s chat

Hi All, Welcome back to another month - it has been rather a busy one for us, given schools returned at the beginning of the month! Always a crazy time of year and no idea how I thought the week we had planned during the first week back was a good idea, but there we go. The aforesaid first week back culminated in the 5 Clubs Wiscombe Hillclimb. I'm rather hopeful that Dad and Richard have provided some more information on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

All I wish to say is thank you to all who attended the event, in whatever capacity you were there, from organising, marshalling, competing and spectating. Oh and, Happy Birthday Mum! It was Mum's birthday on the Saturday and we managed (just, or maybe just forgot) to avoid putting balloons and banners on her this year. Other than another Saturday at Wiscombe, a week later, we haven't been to any other motorsport events.

As I write this, it is the eve of finding out who the Speed Hillclimb Champion will be for this year - only a little jealous of those who are attending the weekend at Prescott and will see final play out live in front of them. It's a nail biting end to the season with 3 people fighting to take the championship win! Looking forward, we still have the September 12 Car to run. Please, come and support the event, whether that is entering it, or coming along to marshal.

I am sure more details are elsewhere in this newsletter. Our next committee meeting is on Wednesday 7th October and we look forward to seeing you there. Remember - with the change to an 'open' committee meeting format, all members of the club are welcome to come and join us and share ideas on how we can improve the club and it's activities. That's all for now,

Jennie, Chair, Plymouth Motor Club

Five Clubs Wiscombe 2026

50th anniversary event

When I arrived at Wiscombe for the Five Clubs Hillclimb I thought that we were in for a damp – but not too wet – weekend. Par for the course in September I suppose. However, the weather gods thought otherwise and after a grey chilly Friday, Saturday and Sunday were warm and sunny. Saturday was a really strange day. Warm and dry weather and full of incidents and accidents like it was a wet day.

So many incidents that the Clerks decided that at nearly 17:00 and another complete run to go it was time to stop and declare the meeting finished. Brave call, but everyone agreed it was the right one. Once the awards presentation was completed it was time for the 50th Anniversary celebrations began. Free food (noodles, meat or veg, and trimmings) for the drivers who had registered and for any marshals or officials who stayed plus subsidised food for others.

In total the caterer served up over 120 meals in quick time and everyone sat around eating & chatting. The bar was open serving drinks in the celebration “glasses” that the drinker could take away with them and, at the end, Linda’s famous cakes! An evening to remember! Sunday, after the celebrations, should have felt a bit flat. Instead, it was a great day with good times and competition and a relatively early finish.

The Five Clubs organising team and all those who attended send their thanks to Dave Pearce who was the driving force behind the Saturday celebrations. Congratulations also to all the award winners and thanks for staying to join in the awards presentation and collect your awards. See you all next year



Peter Locke, Event Chairman

Chief Marshal’s report

Five Clubs weekend

Hi all, Biblical rain curtailed the 2025 event and continued for the rest of the year, 2026's "summer of the heat" made us all wonder if there was going to be any green grass left at Wiscombe that helps make the 'valley' such a stunning venue. I was pleasantly surprised by how green it was - especially under the trees. Five Clubs is an event run by a team made of members from Four Clubs - I mean, thats just obvious...right? The long standing tradition is that PMC run the bottom paddock.

Again this year, Wayne Grimshaw and Paul White took on this job for both days, with extra help on one day from Rhea, The first job of the Bottom Paddock is to get the first batch of competitors ready for the due start time of 0830. This is always a challenge, as competitors tend to be trying to drink coffee and get breakfast at that point having been scrutineered, and many forget they are needed early on.

I'm pleased to say that Saturday, usually the hardest day to "get going", that the "hill" and the competitors were ready EARLY. Huge thank you to the marshals from me. Saturday suffered with competitor induced delays - an example of this being the first competitor on the hill broke a CV/Driveshaft on the start line and didn't even make the first corner - which ultimately led to an early finish after the second timed run.

Sunday started near enough on time and with less competitors throwing themselves at the scenery it got all four runs in for a reasonable finish time. New faces are starting to appear on the hillclimb marshalling scene, which is encouraging, but I do feel that many PMC members dont realise quite what a great venue Wiscombe is, and how esaily rewarding the marshalling is there.

Rich Brooks, PMC Chief Marshal & Vice Chair

Membership renewal

Now that the summer is over and we move into the Autumn our thoughts turn to Christmas, the New Year and beyond. The New Year means that your membership of Plymouth Motor Club will be up for renewal. The good news is that with our new membership system you can beat the Christmas rush and renew your membership now ready for 2027 season. So why not take advantage of the Competition lull and renew your Membership now ready for next year?

Membership	**Price**
Single — one member	£12.00
Couple / family — two people at the same address	£19.00
Each additional person, up to five people total	£3.00

There are a couple of ways to renew your Membership: Follow the link below and sign in with your email address: https://membermojo.co.uk/plymouthmotorclub/renew or visit the membership page on the Website: https://plymouthmotorclub.co.uk/membership/

membership@plymouthmotorclub.co.uk

James Ellison, PMC Membership Secretary

September’s trophy trivia

The Hillman Challenge Cup

(donated by Messrs M.Thomas(Motors)Ltd 1946) Originally for the best performance by a Hillman car on the Presidential Rally, from 1955 on the Plymouth Rally. In 1985 it was re-allocated to the winning crew on the February 12 Car. The first recipient was P.Slade in 1946 From 1947 until 1950 no records exist of it being presented. A well known name around Plymouth won it in 1953 R.H.Ham I might be mistaken, but possibly the only Sir to win one our clubs awards was in 1956 by a SIR C KIMBLER.







A quick google and some not that interesting info about this gent comes to light, but it is also noted that he entered the Monte Carlo Rally as a privateer but no specific date is recorded. 1964 until 1976 was another period when the trophy was not presented. 1986 saw P.Perkin and M.Tuppen win the trophy, the first time it was presented for a 12 Car. More Trophy Trivia next month

Wayne Grimshaw

Four seasons — one day

Another MGA adventure: Portreath Sprint, 29–30 August 2026

At last after what seemed like a long summer break it was time to return to 'action' at Portreath Sprint, with the weather forecast being changeable the hard top was bolted to the car, ear plugs put in place and off into Cornwall I went. I was pleasantly surprised to pull up in the dry and the added bonus of no wind, quickly unloading the car and chatting to my fellow 'class mates' in V1 (pre 1972 cars).



I was up against Ian Harrison in his TVR Vixen, Roger Coote's Austin A40, Steve Hill's Austin A35 and finally Mark Hobbs Lotus Cortina. At this point all was well.....and then the drivers brief was called, can you guess what happened next? Yes, the heavens opened and a group of very damp drivers returned to their cars to get going, ah the joys of motorsport. So first practice was interesting in that both Ian and I locked up in the same spot, a small warning as to the damp/wet surface we faced.

First timed run was also interesting as the showers were frequent and the wind had picked up, off we went, only for four of us finding that half way through the course the mist had rolled off the sea and reduced visibility to around 50m not great. Thankfully for everyone else our class was last out so no one else faced the 'blind drive' challenge, except that is the marshall's who appeared out of the 'clouds' for their lunch like firemen emerging from a smoke filled room.

So by now we had experienced dry, wet, wind and thick mist and I hadn't had lunch yet! So second timed run and the sun had come out and with the wind we had a dry course, great, and so it turned out all of our class being within a few tenths of each other and personally I dipped below 70s for the first time at Portreath, which had been my weekends target, I was really happy and to cap the day off Argyle beat Bradford, the EFL's only undefeated team.

So it was off to my AirBnB in St Agnes where I received a warm welcome and a very nice hot shower. Purely by coincidence the lady of the house was a classic car enthusiast (she owned two) and her partner restores old British competition motorbikes (moto X, grass trackers etc). So there was no

shortage of conversation during the evening as well as looking at each others respective vehicles (not a euphemism...).

Before I knew it Sunday morning had arrived and the short journey back to Portreath was completed, albeit that Google maps took me on a completely different route than the night before, I couldn't fathom why. The venue was dry but the wind had really picked up and bad weather was forecast, at least that days drivers brief was a no umbrella zone.

Practice and first timed run was uneventful and my sub 70s time returned so for a moment I thought I could improve it further, unfortunately the bad weather that had been forecast started to arrive, the wind was strong, the rain was heavy. With the organisers looking to get a third run before lunch, one after another cars started to pack up to go home and before I knew it there was no one left in my class but myself.

Looking at my tent bent in half by the wind and with rain lashing down I took to the old adage, 'if you can't beat them, join them'. So I packed my very wet kit into the car and prayed I could get the car home in one piece.

The journey especially on the A30 was unpleasant, my car is low, small and with no heater/demister and huge volumes of road spray and quite frankly some nut jobs on the road plus the inevitable leaky hard top, I was relieved to reach the Glyn Valley in one piece, from that point on despite the rain things weren't too bad. so once home, showered, warm and dry I could reflect on what had been an enjoyable weekend and with my personal target met quite satisfying.

So thanks to my fellow 'class mates' for the competition, a very hardy bunch of marshall's whose work as always is very much appreciated, to Truro & District Motor Club for putting on a great event, all the officials who helped keep things going and finally to the caterers whose company name escapes me but who served great food at a fair price and with a smile. Thanks for reading this article and now its time for Five Clubs weekend.

Rhys and his MGA (Team 66 — years old for both of us)

Westcountry Rescue



There are lots of ways to get involved in motorsport as not everyone can afford 'wheels', so why not consider getting involved with a friendly team of guys and gals passionate about supporting motorsport. They're usually at a motorsport venue near you and they don't just watch and rescue, this team get involved at events.

So if you fancy joining the team get in contact with John Sluman, you'll be given all the necessary training which isn't just relevant to motorsport, you will learn life skills, which may even help your personal development at your work place. So if you fancy becoming an integral part of this motorsport team send John an email, john.sluman1@btinternet.com

2027 membership

We have 2 types of membership:

Membership	Price
Single — one member	£12.00
Couple / family — two people at the same address	£19.00
Each additional person, up to five people total	£3.00

You can join using the link button below.

Renew now

James Ellison, PMC Membership Secretary

Contribute to Spotlamp

Fancy writing an article or submitting a picture? Deadline date for next month's Spotlamp is below.

Submission deadline	Publishing date
26 October	28 October

Safeguarding and social media policies

Our Club safeguarding officers are Adele Selley and Dr Stuart Hately. If you need to contact them their email address is:

CSO@plymouthmotorclub.co.uk

Safeguarding policy · Social media policy

PART OF THE CLUB

Spotlamp | September 2026

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP MOVING

Join or renew through MemberMojo.

Membership information

CONTRIBUTE TO SPOTLAMP

Have a club story or photograph to share?

Email your contribution to the Spotlamp editor.

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USEFUL CLUB INFORMATION

Safeguarding

Club policies

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