



## Blyton Park Race Way MX5 OC Track Day Weekend, June 2014

by Laurence

Enter - one novice with a Mk1 B-Spec Touring, lots of ponies under the bonnet but not enough skill behind the wheel.

Arriving in time to sign on, get a bacon butty and coffee and hear the briefing. No problems now, got the wrist bands and into the car for the sighting laps. Laps done, another wrist band on, ready for the big start - 1st time out and in the novice section - can't wait.

All lined up and ready to go. Oh forgot to mention earlier - I've booked a session's tuition with 'Nick' from MOT. And now the nerves set in - big time! No time to chicken out - car is now parked in the queue and Nick has just climbed in beside me. Quick chat from Nick about 'smooth lines' and stuff then it's time to launch. The car is fast but the driver is slow-ish. Can't get smooth lines into and out of the corners. Here's the same corner, next lap around, remember the braking marker, remember the turning point, keep the speed up, see the apex, hit the apex at speed, through the corner, applause from Nick, what APPLAUSE FROM NICK.

Ok, so here's the 3rd session. Yeah right. 3 minutes into the session and there she blows - super charger belt lying in the middle of the track. Off to the DOCTORMX5 in the grain store. Please can you put this back on?? (Oh yeah, forgot to tell you, the marshals collected the belt off the track for me, thank you Mr Marshal.) DoctorMX5 - no problem, just park your car here, won't be long. Oops 2 and a half hours later. Belt tensioner completely stripped, mounting bracket removed, steering pump mounting bracket removed, broken bolt removed from steering mounting bracket, (the cause of the problem), all reassembled and belt correctly tensioned, car can now run again but time has run out for day one. A VERY BIG "THANK YOU" TO THE DOCTORMX5 GUYS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK TO GET THE CAR GOING AGAIN. REALLY APPRIciate IT.

SUNDAY! Weather forecast is for good weather again, no rain in the forecast. Last stop for fuel, refill, tank full, not far now and then it's a sharp left turn into the circuit. Back at Blyton for another day.

Hey, Burton! You want a ride? Well we're on the start line and all is looking good. Light goes green and we are off, down to 'Chapman's'. Oh this is a fair bit tighter than

yesterday!! Different corner numpty! Same start but a very different corner. Third lap and here we go!! Pirouetting through 'Chapman's', damn that's a real tight corner - have some respect Lawrence! Bollard leaves its mark against the driver's door - not too bad, a little polish and it's all gone - straighten all out and check for traffic - nothing coming get back on track, boot the throttle and off we go again. Said sorry to Burton and start the concentration again, here comes 'Curva Grande' again. This is a tricky corner, long and demanding on the left hand side as you close in on the apex, then it's down into 2nd gear and hard left into 'The Wiggler'. Boot it out, hard, into 3rd, down to Bishops. Now we are starting to get things a little bit better. Being a bit smoother, lines starting to come together as well. Darn, this is high octane fun. No sooner than we have started and the flag comes out to tell us this session has come to an end.

With all this adrenaline pumping, time to get into open pit lane. Yeah. But this now has all the big guns in as well!! Really very nervous about getting in the way of the big guns but in for a penny in for a pound. Got Rob in the car as the passenger, got a few clubs members as supporters and the atmosphere is just the best. The support from everyone just feels great. "Put the thinking head on, leave the ego behind and don't get ahead of yourself" - quick talk to self and then the light turns green and we are off down to Chapman's once more. Getting this corner a bit better, in a little slower and out a bit faster. On to K7, then Trubshaws, so far so good. No real problems, then into CURVA GRANDE, this corner scares me a bit but we don't overdo it and its down into second and through The Wiggler and boot it onto Bishops. Things are going great! The rest of the lap goes well, we are settling down to a good rhythm, things are hooking up, going faster but smoother. Then here comes the 'orange peril' - don't know who he is but he is a load quicker than me - and oh no here's 'Ushers 2' the second last corner and I'm in too fast. Spin!! here we come, right in front of the viewing bank and all erupt into applause as we come to a rest backwards after cutting more grass than you can shake a stick at. Well no one got hurt, and the car still goes - forward this time. No traffic, back on track and into the pits for a quick breather. This Eastern Circuit is a good challenge. I like this. A few more runs out, one with Peter as passenger - he races his own Mk1 in the max5 championship, so I'm real nervous - but Peter says my lines are not bad and I'm getting smoother, thanks Peter, appreciate the words. A big thank you Burton and Lesley for all their hospitality and the tea. Load the car and say our thank yous to the organisers and then its wind down and head on home. Back home, cold beer, feet up and can't stop smiling.



August 2014

### FROM THE DRIVERS SEAT

by Burton & Lesley, Local Co-ordinators

By the time Soft Top Hard Top arrives on your door step, summer and the weather for going out in your MX5 will be well and truly here (famous last words!!).

I am keeping my article brief as I know Gary has received several write ups from our members about there experiences at Blyton, along with reports from our roving reporter.

If was really good to see so many members from Peaks and Pennines both on track and supporting them, Lesley's mobile tea wagon did a roaring trade on both days.

My thanks to The Worksop Gang for organising the June Mystery Run, whilst we were at Lesley's youngest daughters wedding, I understand the run was really excellent and well attended, finishing with a picnic in the grounds of Burghley House.

Please have a look at the articles in Soft Top Hard Top re our forthcoming National Rally at Gaydon, as its reasonably close to our area I would like a bumper turn out by members from The Peaks and Pennines area, both for the Dinner Dance on the Saturday night and on the run down to the venue on the Sunday.

I know something very special is being planned at Gaydon, something may be revealed on or before the day.

Safe driving  
Burton and Lesley

### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on:  
**Wednesday 6th August 2014**



## Getting To Know You



Hi there, we are Keith (AKA Norman) and Maxine, we've been members of the MX5 Club for 5 years now. During which time we seem to have done so much having enjoyed countless sunday runs, numerous weekends away, including trips to Wales, the Lake District and Northumbria, not to mention an unforgettable night in Walesby (you all know who you are, so enough said about that I think), plus an intrepid touring holiday in France. All these were enjoyed in the fantastic company of new friends made at Peaks and Pennines, long may the wheels and good times roll.

Keith and Maxine

## Monthly Social Evenings

Social evenings take place at the Queen's Head, 12 Main Road, Ridgeway, Sheffield, S12 3XR.

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month and start around 8:15pm, when every one has finished eating.

If you would like to have a meal before the meeting starts, they serve good quality, value for money pub grub until 7:30.



Peaks & Pennines Co-ordinator's

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## Gunby Hall

Report from Eileen

Starting from the Stock Yard, Hellaby with 13 cars. Lesley said that Alex may join us to make 14. (I think she must be a bit superstitious). Tea, Coffee, bacon butties were all eaten. When we got outside 17 cars were counted. Some people just can't get out of bed.

Tops stayed up, as rain looked inevitable. Heading through Maltby, Ranskill, Gringley on the Hill, to Gainsbrough. The rain did come down, but at least everybody stayed dry. We are not used to having tops up, makes you feel a bit claustrophobic.

The roads were good, not much traffic, on one straight road all we could see were MX5's. Looked great.

Our first stop was Scothern Garden Centre, giving us time to natter to the group that came late to the Stock Yard. The dark clouds were still above us, so some of us decided

to keep the tops up. After a while Trevor decided to risk the top down, After a few miles the black clouds were getting worse, and a flash of lightening didn't help. But we were lucky, soon we had reached our destination to Gunby Hall near Skegness.

Gunby Hall was owned by the Massingberd family who lived in Gunby Hall until 1963, tenants took over from 1967 till 2012, then it was taken over by the National Trust. The gardens were excellent, I wish we could get our lawns in that condition.

One and a half hours later we were on the road again, after saying our goodbyes to some of the group. Now reduced to 8 cars we set off to The Pywipe Pub at Lincoln, for a very enjoyable meal, it was excellent.

I do keep going on about Burton and Lesley, but they always give 110% to Peaks & Pennines days out. The group always go away with happy thoughts of the day. This is all down to Burton and Lesley's organisation. A hard act to follow.

We all thank you so much. - Eileen

***The weather may have been damp but the spirit wasn't.***  
**- Rob and Jayne**

Tan Hill as we mingled amongst other members.

After the crew had conducted a few interviews we headed off back down the hill to Low Row where they wanted to film the cars going through the ford as quickly as you dare. Shelley did get wet as the spray came in, then back through the ford and down to a disused quarry for the final part, more photos and interviews.

We said our goodbyes and headed off to Reeth for much needed food then as we were in the area we drove to Hawes via Buttertubs Pass then headed home on what turned out to be quite a chunk of the Tour De France route...all in all a great day was had and hopefully we will be in the film to be shown at Goodwood Festival... complete with Peaks & Pennines logo on the doors.



by Trevor & Eileen Allkins,  
MX-5 Roving Reporters

## A Trip by the Worksop Four



Trevor and myself were very sorry to have missed the Daffy Run. All those scampi's made my mouth water. It was great of Lesley to do the blog on the days event. Anybody can do it, don't be afraid to put pen to paper, none of us are professional.

Meeting at the Treble Bob, 17 cars set off on a day trip that only 4 people new the destination. It was forecast a good day weather wise. The sun was shining (and it stayed with us all the day). Sally & Bob led the way, Gill & Phil went to the back (that was a lovely change). Passing through Cresswell, Norton, on to Ollerton, all keeping together through many more villages, good roads not many cars, villages with strange names, Kneesall, Flintham, Orstan to name a few.

Our first coffee stop came into view, we couldn't miss it, Belvoir Castle. The cars took up the prime position in the middle of the car park. After a chat with friends and a photo shoot, we took to the road.

More villages, lanes just made for the mx5's, keeping together in convoy, walky talky's working overtime (Gill doing a fine job keeping the flock together from the back).

Finally we came into Stamford, it was a lovely town, very oldy worldy. Cobbled roads, old churches and shops. Making a left turn, we then found our way to Burghley House (where they do the horse trials) OUR DESTINATION.

Burghley House was built in 1555 by William Cecil, High Treasurer to Elizabeth 1. At the moment the privilege owners are Orlando & Miranda Rock and family.

With that bit of information, 17 cars found their way into a space on the grass, Chairs, Tables, Wine, Food

were brought out of the boot (everything but the kitchen sink). The sun still hot, we all sat down for a most enjoyable picnic. A lot of chatter, a bit of banter, and a short wander up to the house, it was then time to say our goodbyes.

We all thank the Worksop 4 for making it a wonderful day. The organisation, the route, Sally's great directing, Gill keeping us all together from the back, and not to forget the drivers Bob & Phil.

Burton & Lesley (we missed you) would have been very proud of you, they missed a great day,

Eileen



## Reeth Film Drive

by Gary & Shelly

Having left home on a very wet Saturday we arrived in Barnard Castle for our stay at the Three Feathers Hotel just as the rain stopped and the sun came out.

Up early Sunday morning to a super breakfast and to give the MX a spruce up we headed off top down, sun shining over Stang Top to Reeth. The views were amazing and the twisty roads even better.

As we pulled into Reeth around 20 cars had already gathered. The plan for the day was explained and we were directed onto the green to park up ... FRONT ROW. This was to be the 3rd part of a film about the MX5, the MX5 in motorsport and this one about owning and driving an MX5.

After chatting for a while to other members we were ready to go "action" what was now around 38 cars pulled off The Green and headed off to Tan Hill Inn stopping at several points so that the film crew could relocate ahead of the convoy. Drinks, chat and laughter were plentiful at

