

Returning to the scene of the accident

October 2013, a very wet and rainy Silverstone national circuit and the biggest crash in Max5 racings history, my car was unrepairable, and I was a little worse for wear too. However I started building a new race car as I recovered, determined to get back out on track.



With the help and assistance of Paul Roddison and his mechanic Ian a new race car was finished and I recovered and returned to racing at Brands Hatch in 2014, this was to be my only meeting that season as work took me away from the track.



The new year and my new racing license arrived, I had been working on my car over winter, waiting for the race calendar to be issued. Determined to get a full seasons racing under my belt.

The day arrived, imagine my joy as first up on the calendar was the Silverstone National circuit on the 28th and 29th March and it was going to be live on Motors TV.

A track day with other Max5 drivers was held at the beginning of March, the sun shone and the track was dry. The first time past the scene of the crash felt a little strange but as the day progressed speed picked up along with confidence and we all had a good day.

I kept one eye on the weather forecast as the race weekend approached, and it changed from dry to wet and back, finally it said rain and high winds and they were right. Arriving in a very busy paddock Friday night I set up my gear and was woken by rain hitting my tent at 3-30am, the wind had been blowing all night. We were due to qualify at 11-45 on the Saturday, the car passed scrutineering, Race suits were donned and we made our way to assembly. We were held for a while as there had been an incident on circuit and we had to wait while the car and driver were recovered. Eventually we made it on track and in a replay of 2013 I went down the pit straight in heavy spray, this time I made it to copse and after 15 minutes I had qualified, 21st of 23.

As we discussed qualifying back in the paddock the air ambulance appeared over head landing at the medical centre to airlift the injured driver to hospital. This was the first of 3 visits that weekend.

Sunday came and déjà vu played its part as we were set to race at exactly the same time as 2013, it was cold, wet and windy again and as we waited in assembly we were delayed, a car in Britcar qualifying had spun off the Wellington straight hitting the bridge, recovering the car and driver took almost 50 minutes, and was a reminder how treacherous the conditions could be.

We made it out onto the grid, our green flag lap was completed, we formed up, the red lights came on and

we were away, the race was on. The faster drivers headed into the distance and as we came to complete the first lap broken plastic in the Luffield complex gave testimony to an incident. Two cars had come together, one span and a third hit it hard in the rear quarter, both were out of the race. I continued my own race with another newcomer, seeing another car fall off reducing the field again, sadly I had to pit on lap 10, fuel problems had reduced revs and I could not continue. My fuel gauge showed a quarter full but my tank was almost empty!! Paul Roddison won the race.

Race 2 was in the afternoon, as we waited to go out we were warned of oil spilt all around the circuit making conditions even trickier. We started at 2-30 and ran until 2-50, I had put plenty of fuel in, I wasn't going to run out this time. The rain fell the wind blew and the more experienced drivers showed their skill in the wet, I managed to stay out of their way and out of trouble, Jonathan Halliwell won the race. I took the chequered flag last but was happy I had returned to the circuit that nearly ended my racing and came out the other side, ready to race again. Sadly the day was spoiled by an incident after the flag when car no 3 headed off track into the Armco. The driver being the third airlifted to hospital.

We hope all drivers taken to hospital a speedy recovery and return to the circuit.

Our next meeting is Croft at the end of April, I hope I need sunscreen and I hope I see some of you there.

Peter

By Peter Hart.

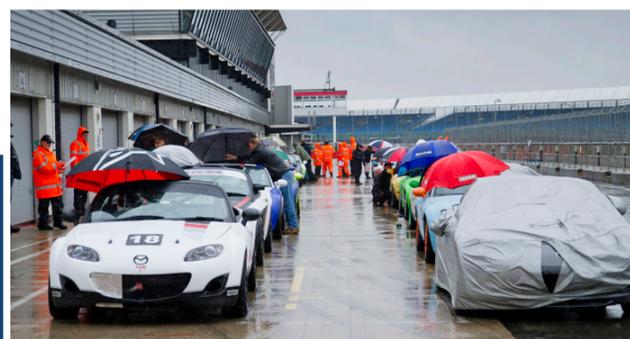


Image by Phil Grayston



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PEAKS & PENNINES



MX-5 OWNERS CLUB

June 2015

MX-5 alive

From the drivers seat...

After over 3 years of producing our excellent newsletters, Gary has stood down and handed the mouse and keyboard to Mike 'Humpty' Hall. The club owes a big thank you to Gary, Christine and their son Martin, our newsletters have become the envy of many other areas. We hope they will come to our social meetings and out on runs with us whenever they can.

By the time this newsletter lands on your door mat we will be almost half way through 2015, time fly's when you are having fun, and the articles created by our intrepid reporter Eileen and other members certainly reflect that those members who have joined us have enjoyed themselves. Our May run organised by The Worksoop Gang had a record 20 out. Thank you Bob and Sally, Phil and Gill.

There is plenty planned for Peaks and Pennines members in June, the Sunday run sees the club visiting Staithes in North Yorkshire and calling in to see Rachel in The Feversham Arms, Church Houses to sample her excellent food and beers on the way back.

The following Sunday the Owners Club has been invited to visit Lifewise, a facility run by South Yorkshire's Blue Light Emergency Services, it's mainly funded by speeding fines! (no comments re anyone within our membership!)

Inside it is like a movie set and the staff have promised to put on some interesting presentations for the members.

The Blyton Bash, our yearly motorsport weekend, starts on Friday 19th June, full details have been published in the March Edition of Soft Top.

Lesley and I will be across in the motor home, the kettle will be on, come across and say hello (at any reasonable time - Rob!!). A number of P&P members have already booked track time. A convoy of P&P members will be going across on Sunday morning.

The final event in June is the Hope Motor Show organised by The Sheffield and Hallamshire Motor Club, it is in my opinion the best summer evening classic car show in the area, P&P will have 6 cars on display.

Finally a plea from the heart, please check the P&P website and forum on a regular basis, it takes me about 45 minutes to create or update the details of each event, and whilst I enjoy talking to members who phone me, it's really frustrating when their questions could have been easily answered by a quick look on the internet.

Safe driving

Burton and Lesley



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Ironbridge 2015

First let me thank on behalf of everybody, Burton & Lesley for the sterling work they did to organise the trip to Ironbridge. They had put a lot of time, and effort in reeking our trip to make sure everything was organised. I wish more people could have joined us and been there to enjoy the weekend. It was a PERFECT TRIP.



Five cars set off from The Truck Stop. We did an early start as there was a lot to see when we got to Ironbridge.

It was a good journey, we all managed to stay together and fortunately no one got lost (It didn't count that Trevor & Myself turned into ASDA by mistake!)

Arriving at The Museum Of Iron about 1.30pm we paid for an annual passport ticket which took you to 12 Museums as many times as you wish to go in a year, saving a lot of money.

First things first

We made our way to the cafe for drinks and a bite to eat.

The Museum Of Iron was known as the "Great Warehouse" built by the Coalbrookdale Company in 1838, the clock tower was then added on in 1843. Next was the Museum of Ingenuity. It was a children's heaven, plenty of hands on giant exhibits to experiment, play, build, test and discover. Even Burton, Peter, Trevor had fun building an arch out of polystyrene bricks, (I could say they were all numbered, but I won't)

After spending hours in the Museum, it was time to make our way to the Malthouse. John, Alan, Peter & Shaney, Burton & Lesley, were given a room in The Swan (it used to be a pub, but now it is bedrooms for the guests at the Malthouse) Trevor & myself were put in the Cottage (it was more a house, 3 up, 2 down) it was lovely, very quirky decor but very clean and comfy.



The meals were brilliant and plenty on our plates. We all enjoyed.

You're nicked...



After a good nights sleep we all set off to Blists Hill Victorian Town. That showed the life in the 1800's, shopkeepers, town folk, all dressed in the costumes of the time. We had a chat to the local bobby, (Burton even hid his bike, but he didn't put him in jail). We went back to school, had chips out of a paper, YUMMY. We had a great day of entertainment, but sadly we had to say goodbye to Peter & Shaney, they only came for one night, they did say they would come back in May.

Our next visit was to the Coalport China Museum. I never imagined there was so many designs made into china tea sets.

With our tummy's rumbling we made our way back to the Malthouse to eat another hearty meal. (prawn & smoked salmon cocktail to die for!)

Another good nights sleep, a full English breakfast, then a short walk to the Gorge Museum at the end of the road, situated by the river it was used as a warehouse for storing goods.

John decided to head for home, so once again we said our goodbyes. The rest of us did a steady walk down to the few shops plus the Iron Bridge that we had heard and talked about for the past two days. It was built in 1779. Cost £6,000 pounds. 387 half tons of steel, and built by Abraham Derby the 3rd.

We all walked back to the Cottage for a cuppa, before Burton, Lesley and Alan also set off for home. Then there was two! Trevor and I were staying until the end of the week.

The rest of the week was spent enjoying some of Shropshires country side and towns.

It was a brilliant weekend break. All the places we visited were of great interest. The manager James and his staff at the Malthouse couldn't have been more friendly and helpful. One day who knows we may return.



Once again THANKS for your company and a bigger THANKS to Burton & Lesley.

Eileen

By Trevor & Eileen, our roving reporters.

STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS>>>

The Peaks and Pennines Area has been asked to host The Clubs 2016 Spring Rally at (a largely unknown) South Yorkshire Stately Home. The location will be revealed when the deposits have been paid.

Put **Assisting at the Clubs Spring Rally on April 24rd** in your diary. **Now!**

Monthly social

Next meeting - Weds 3rd June

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

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month and start around 8:15 when everybody 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.

You'll be made very welcome!