

NORCEMOG

NEWS

NORTH WEST AND CHESHIRE

July 2017

Welcome to this edition. Thanks indeed to Andrew Threlkeld for the content this month. Without him, it would be another bare edition. However, trying to make the reports paste into the newsletter without the photos moving haphazardly about the text has been beyond me and the three reports appear as attachments to the circulation e mail. Apologies! I will certainly be happy to receive anything that you care to send, make any necessary corrections to grammar and spelling and then publish it! Andrew needs to turn on his spell checker....Please get writing.

NORCEMOG REGALIA – Isobel Moore 01253 738201



NorceMog At The Gordon Bennett Classic Car Run 2017



Gordon Bennett – History



James Gordon Bennett (1841-1918) was born in 1841 of an Irish mother and a Scottish father, who owned the New York Herald Tribune. Born into a wealthy family he did not experience the need to have to make do and to work hard for the basic necessities to survive. With easy money available to him, he was able to enjoy the rich life of social entertaining, sporting and gambling. Having reflected on the events of his past, he decided with the blessing of his parents to relocate to Paris and head up the New York Herald Tribune paper there. To promote his Tribune, he hit on the idea of promoting various sporting and expedition events, such as a balloon and an airplane race along with a yacht race which eventually became The Americas Cup Yacht Race.





In 1900 he sponsored the first ever international motoring competition – The Gordon Bennett Cup Race: the first to be held on a closed circuit. He sponsored six races in total, the first three and the sixth were held in France. The 1902 race was won by an Englishman, Selwyn Francis Edge, hence the 1903 race should have been held in England but the rulers of the day were not interested in having noisy, smelly mechanical vehicles tearing along their roads frightening the public and horses drawing coaches and buggies. The Isle of Man and Ireland were

considered as they were under English rule and so it was, 114 years later, that 16 NorceMoggers crossed the Irish Sea to celebrate The Gordon Bennett Classic Car Run.

Strictly speaking it is only open to cars registered prior to 1974 however, as the secretary (Dain Flemming) of the organizing committee has 2 Morgans (a Morris Minor and 2 Irish Wolfhounds!) we were invited to take part.

A super week-end, we took advantage of the Scenic and Classic Car Tours (SCCT) package and all the arrangements were most satisfactory.



It is a beautiful country filled with extremely friendly and welcoming people and, on arrival, I was presented with a poster welcoming NorceMog visitors to Ireland and The Gordon Bennett complete with NorceMog logo.



Ireland – The land that time forgot. We were somewhat unprepared for the Irish methods. Questions such as “what time will the evening finish?” were met with surprised expressions and “why would you want to know that, who cares?” – The gala dinner on Saturday night for example, 300 people dining and they were only taking the orders – a choice of menu with 4 starters and 5 main courses – around 8pm. We had ordered a taxi for 11.00pm, postponed to 11.30 (“oh, no trouble at all sir” when I rang the company on an iPhone a chap at the bar insisted I use!). As we were preparing to leave the musicians were just setting up to ‘start’ the evening – yes, it’s the Irish way.



The driving consisted of a scenic run on each of the 3 days aiming for attractions along the way. Kilkenny Castle on the first day, The Gordon Bennett race route on the 2nd day through the counties of Laois (pronounced Leash), Kildare and Carlow. With stops for Potato Soup, a short talk, a lunch stop and the Town Square at Kildare where we were welcomed by the Cill Dara Old Vehicles Club.



Potato Soup? I hear you say. We were a bit puzzled but Linda insisted that the second day included a stop for potato soup. “How do you know?” we queried. “It’s in the instructions” she replied. The instructions were duly sought – “Linda” asked the voice “did you have your glasses on when you read the instructions?” “No, why?” Well it says here we call at Moate of Ardsclull for a **PHOTO STOP!** Needless to say we promised not to tell anybody or bring it up again!!!!

The 3rd day included a visit to The Irish Stud and Japanese gardens before finishing back at the starting point for a final BBQ, presentation of certificates and car badges.



The route instructions apparently were much improved on previous years – it is Ireland – It appeared the routes had been sketched on google maps, instructions ‘cut and pasted’ – well most of the instructions anyway – and issued in the handbook. At important junctions the confusion generated saw some cars turning, some cars going straight on only to be met by other cars who were on their way back to the junction to try again. Scenic run? More like wacky races but it added to the ‘charm’ of the event.

The original events were for ‘gentlemen racers’ a fact brought home by the death of one of the route plotters for the 1903 race. Count Eliot Zborowski died behind the wheel of his car when his cuff links jammed the throttle of his 60hp Mercedes whilst racing at Nice speed week!

With 139 entries ranging from a 1910 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Titanic through to the McArthur’s 2016 Morgan ARP4 there was plenty to keep the car enthusiast in heaven, until, that is, the 1913 Wolseley 16/20 pulled out in front of you on the road! – Martin Cooper perfected this maneuver through the few days!

If you are thinking of going next year do get in touch and we can advise on itinerary etc.

Report – Andrew Threlkeld

Photos – Martin Cooper and Andrew Threlkeld

NorceMog Autotest – 11th June 2017

British Commercial Vehicle Museum

Leyland, Lancashire

A busy June for NorceMog took its toll on attendance at the 2017 Autotest however a total of 8 competitors representing both 4 wheels and 3 wheelers signed up for the start. Unfortunately, our usual chief steward, Bryan Rawlinson, was absent through illness however Andy Bleasdale relished the opportunity to 'take the mick' of all competitors as he manfully performed the chief marshal duties.

Other notable absentees included usual trophy winner Martin Cocks who was busy cruising (but still found time to organise our permit) and 14 other members who had been in Ireland for the Gordon Bennet classic car run the previous week.

Nevertheless, we had 2 'virgin' competitors, Roy Senior, complete with recently acquired plus 4 and other 'regulars' challenging for points and prizes.

The first course was assembled testing height of windscreen, width of car, position of nearside front wheel and reversing prowess utilizing tripods, cones, tennis balls and plastic tubing – oh the technology is mind blowing!



Steve Marshall on the start line

Andrew Threlkeld volunteered to take the route first and immediately incurred the wrath of Chief Marshall Andy, with less than an inch to spare between the horizontal bar and top of windscreen. Words to the effect of "you cocky b*st*rd, you will get no leniency from here on!" And no leniency was needed when cramp in the clutch foot during the reversing maneuver caused the slightest of contact with the tubing. Andy B was delighted! Chris Harfield demonstrated the flexibility of an adjustable windscreen and was 'allowed' to vary its height at the bar. Roy just made sure his new car was

not going to be scratched however he was within the length of tape measure.



Roy leaves plenty of room!

exemplary on the near side wheel test and drove confidently to the reversing section. Slowly, she edged back towards the pipe, keen eyes waited expectantly as she stopped, glanced at the marshal and decided another 3mm was called for. Unfortunately,

Ann Harfield, in a 3 wheeler, perfected the height of screen, squeezed through the cones,



Chris Harfield shows that 'tongue out' makes all the difference



Ann Harfield

the pipe was only 2mm away as she nudged the pipe. "YOU STUPID WOMAN" shouted our impartial, apoplectic judge, "YOU'D NAILED IT, ABSOLUTELY BLOODY NAILED IT AND YET YOU HAD TO GO THAT BIT FURTHER, HOW BLOODY STUPID WAS THAT?" Ann was deeply concerned and traumatized, you could see it in her eyes as she was beside herself with laughter in the driving seat!

First set of tests over the course was reset consisting of a slalom of cones on which the driver had to place tennis balls, a



tight turn at the end, reverse into a garage of cones and then race to stop across the finish line all against the clock. The nimble 3 wheelers again demonstrated their value in a tight environment.

More photos will be added to the web site in due course

In the meantime, a Father and Son, who had just turned up to watch, were asked to judge our concours for the day. They were delighted and would have willingly taken any of the vehicles home however they rated them in 1st, 2nd and 3rd position.

After much deliberation and calculation, the results were declared as follows: -

Autotest Results

1st – Chris Harfield

2nd – Andrew Threlkeld

Best Lady – Amy Anafi

3 Wheeler award – Steve Marshall

Concours –

1st – Andrew Threlkeld - Ivory 4/4

2nd – Roy Senior – Burgundy Plus 4

Glendower Cup – Andrew Threlkeld
Best Autotest / Concours combined



Thanks again to Bryan Rawlinson who made it all happen and Chief Marshall Andy Bleasdale.

Report & Photos – Andrew Threlkeld

NorceMog at Arley Hall Garden Festival

25th June 2017

Arley Hall, Cheshire, CW9 6NA

A dull morning however no rain – yet. We set off, hood down, side-screens off and the Morgan looking pristine as we travelled north on the A49 towards Arley Hall. We arrived in persistent drizzle, hood down, side-screens off and the



Morgan looking slightly less pristine. That's it! I'm putting the tonneau cover on. So it was a little miserable at the start weather-wise but things can only get better.

The Moores were already parked up with the sad news that Roy's, more beautiful than ever, burgundy plus 4 Morgan would not be coming. "Why not?" "Jean is ill" – "So?" Roy, you are such a star, how you must have been looking forward to 'showing-off' your beautiful Morgan – C'est la vie.

Further absence noted when Peter Marsh phoned through to inform us his car would not start due to a flat battery. We are now down to 8 cars including 2 DevaMog members displaying a 4/4 sport and a 1952 Series 1 DHC.



After our usual trip to the café for bacon sandwiches and coffee the weather had improved and we even enjoyed some late afternoon sunshine, encouraging the crowds to enviously view the 8 cars spanning 1952 through to 2009. Children enjoyed testing the seats and one, recently married, lady was overjoyed at having her picture taken sat beside new hubby in a Morgan. "They are beautiful and you've really made my day" – we know what she means!

Lord Ashbrook made his customary visit to our display in between garden tours and question time and was suitably impressed. Many thanks to those who displayed and we've been promised an invitation to the 2018 show. By the way – The rest of the festival was good too!

**The Northern Centre's Annual
Autumn Retreat Oct 27th-29th 2017**

The Buckatree Hall Hotel

The Wrekin, TF6 5AL Shropshire.

1,2 & 3 night options at £45 pppn DB&B

Had a busy year? Unwind and enjoy the company of fellow Morganeers for a quiet weekend. Dining in our own reserved suite on Friday & Saturday evenings, and guaranteed no Disco!

There's a great selection of local attractions nearby to cater for all tastes.

For more information or to book contact

David or Una Haynes



David.Una@hotmail.co.uk

Mob. 07714 104871



NORCEMOG DIARY OF EVENTS – 2017

N.B. Dates **highlighted** are NorceMog organised events

Items in red to be confirmed / finalised

Easter Monday – April 17th St Georges Day – April 23rd

- July 2nd Supercar Sunday at Holmes Mill, Greenacre Street, Clitheroe, BB7 1EB
Contact – Holmes Mill, Tel - 01200 401035, email enquiries@holmesmill.co.uk
- July 9th**
Updated Scenic Run – Three Counties Run-around – **Final numbers by 4th July!**
Cheshire / Staffs / Derbyshire
Click Here for [Details](#)
Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395
- July 15 - 16th Hale Barns Carnival. St Ambrose College, Hale Barns, WA15 0HF
Display your Morgan for free entry. Minimum of 11.30 – 4pm though welcome to stay for evening entertainment including outdoor cinema & headline concert
Click Here for [Details](#), Download an [ENTRY FORM HERE](#)
Contact – Andrew Threlkeld – Tel 01606 852395
- August 9th** Committee Meeting - 18:30 TAS Partnership, Preston
- August 6th Supercar Sunday at Holmes Mill, Greenacre Street, Clitheroe, BB7 1EB
Contact – Holmes Mill, Tel - 01200 401035, email enquiries@holmesmill.co.uk
- August 13th**
NEW Lunch at Briars Hall Hotel, L40 5TH – Click Here for [Details](#)
Contact – Isobel & Peter Moore Tel 01253 738 201
Email - isobelpeter@gmail.co.uk
- Aug 26 – 27th MOG 2017 - Run for the Hills - Click Here for [Details](#)
Contact – Morgan Sports Car Club
<http://www.morgan-motor.co.uk/runforthehills/>
- Aug 26 – 28th Oulton Park Gold Cup – 3 day race week-end - Click Here for [Details](#)
Contact – Andrew Threlkeld Tel 01606 852395
- Sep 3rd** Gymkhana - Farmer Parr's Animal World, Fleetwood FY7 8SL
Contact – Bryan Fearn Tel - 01253 891539
- Sep 3rd Supercar Sunday at Holmes Mill, Greenacre Street, Clitheroe, BB7 1EB
Contact – Holmes Mill, Tel - 01200 401035, email enquiries@holmesmill.co.uk
- Oct 8th** **Noggin – To be confirmed**
- Oct 27th – 29th** Autumn Retreat – Buckatree Hall Hotel, Telford, Shropshire, TF6 5AL

Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – David & Una Haynes – email david.una@hotmail.co.uk

Nov 12th

Greater Manchester Transport Museum – Click here for [Details](#)

Contact - Adrian & Alicia Grant – Tel 01253 727336 or Adrian.grant@taspartnership.com.

Dec 10th

Christmas Party and Annual Awards Presentation

The Barton Grange Hotel, Walled Garden Restaurant, PR3 5AA

Click Here for [Details](#)

Contact – Isobel & Peter Moore Tel 01253 738 201

Email - isobelpeter@gmail.co.uk

Or Bryan & Linda Fearn – Tel 01253 891539