

# Driving Mirror



9

Dust pauses play

July - August 2018

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*(Cover shot: Matt Nichols)*



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**[www.bristolmc.org.uk](http://www.bristolmc.org.uk)**

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**The next Driving Mirror deadline is  
Friday 5th October 2018.**

Got something to share? Please send any words and photos you have to:

[Matt@classiccarsdriven.com](mailto:Matt@classiccarsdriven.com)

# Chairman's Chat



Two weekends. Two venues. And three events. We did it folks, once again we did it. Our Dick Mayo Sprint ran like a swiss watch with some great performances out on track, many achieving PB's. To think Matt Bennett in his mighty Porsche Turbo was ninth fastest overall is incredible when you consider the classes we host. Dave Greenslade kept Simon Clemow at bay in his Lancer, albeit by a few tenths and Graham Palmer was unlucky to finish no higher than fifth when 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in class A3 were all on 71 sec runs.

In the MX5's Andy Laurence may have sealed the Championship with his victory (he also thinks he's secured King of Combe as well, but we'd better let someone else do the maths on that one, just to be sure).

Apparently in the Laurence household there is a family awards wall, whereby when any member of the family collects an award, it gets put up with pride. Ed Dalby made me laugh when this was revealed at SGS (Friday setup day) after he replied by saying they've got the same wall in his house. Trouble is he said, there's nothing on it.

Ed making good at our recent Club Night, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Bargain Class. Back to the DMS and Claire Tooth proved herself a Strictly Come Dancing fan as she pirouetted her way through practice before only really having a good stab at it on her second timed run. Well we've all had days like that haven't we.

Still Dad Mark was kept busy pretty much all week from loading his Dad's van with DMS cones etc. on Tuesday to car preparation and trailer loading Friday, reverse on Saturday and then Clerking FSCD on Sunday before returning said cones etc. to stores Monday. There is nothing like a weekend off to feel refreshed, and this was nothing like a weekend off.

One of our guest classes at DMS, the Northampton Motorsport Lotus 7 Club Speed Championship, really impressed. Having allocated them a large area in the paddock to base themselves, all 26 cars (31 Drivers) set up camp (literally) and once called, and get this everyone, arrived in the Assembly Area in strict number order with double drives at the front.

How impressive is that. Interestingly each competitor receives a championship booklet that describes every event in their calendar and includes circuit maps, tips on how to drive each course, where to stay etc. A very well set up and supported group I have to say.

We too had strength throughout the day both out on post, in the Tower, at signing-on and with our clerking team. Everything came together like a well-oiled machine, triggered by the class calls from our announcer Chris ably supported on the ground by Jackie our

paddock marshal. If you were there in any capacity (Post, Control Tower, Paddock, Assembly, Start Line or Signing On) then thank you and very well done.

The following day told a slightly different story and I think for me the penny finally dropped. Sign up 113 cars for a sprint, and you get 113 turn up regardless of the weather. Some even firmly believing that a wet surface may play to their strengths, with an opportunity to close the gap on more powerful machinery.

However, as was proven, invite 113 cars to a Concourse D'Elegance with parade laps following a dreadful weather forecast and just 30 turn up, even though a further 39 had paid their £15.00 to go out. They are clearly a group that can be put off by rain, and so a real shame the forecasters over egged the stormy conditions when by lunchtime the worst had gone and track largely dried out.

So, what about the future of this event. Well when you think just to break even at the price we charge we'd need 134 cars out on track and as we've learned if the forecast isn't right our fickle friends simply stay away. So, on paper it is difficult to square that circle. But and there is a BIG 'but' those who come along to take part and even some who help absolutely love it.

To the point where as Chair you cannot ignore it. So yes, we throw the dice one more time in 2019, most likely at a higher price, say £20 and with a lot more promotion beforehand. We probably need to re-brand as well to help clarify what this event is all about. Is it a Family Sports Car Day, or

something else, let me know your views?

Once again if you turned up in any capacity, it is greatly appreciated, and I know off-putting when less than a third of the entry show.

The good news though is that our 33 in the end including a couple from Belgium who happened by on the day all enjoyed themselves, something Jim Gaiford's fabulous pictures show off in this magazine.

The following weekend and by complete contrast, it was time to make dust at the South Glos Show (SGS). This event too has had its challenges over the years weather wise, but for 2018, the show's fifth year of running the sun was out and only challenge, how to stay cool.

I am of course thinking engines, gearboxes, and clutches. People after all, can look after themselves. We packed plenty of water, including a bowser to dampen the track, and with Andy Laurence in charge Saturday, and me at the helm Sunday offered our usual My Garage Clio drives and (mainly MX5) passenger lap rides. 31 drives in fact, 8 up on last year, plus 69 passenger rides.

If you were at the South Glos Show then thank you. You helped make 100 people's lives that little bit better. After all no one left without a smile on their face and as you'll read in this magazine the event organisers really appreciate what we do.

In the magazine this month, highlights from SGS, FSCD and DMS, Chris Bigwood's Birthday celebration and Chris Dymock's regular Drive-By feature which this month gets even stranger with a Neo-Noir take on FSCD. Please contact our helpline if you are affected in any way.

*Matt*

# Family Sports Car Day

**W**E definitely need to look at many aspects of this event, but as you can see from John Gaisford's excellent pictures, everyone who made it out enjoyed themselves:



All Pictures: Jim Gaisford



*"Just a quick note to say thanks for a great Sunday at Castle Combe, shame about the weather but we still enjoyed ourselves chatting with other owners and going around the track...."*



All Pictures: Jim Gaisford

# South Glos Show

**S**GS, a bit like FSCD, is an interesting one for me. Everyone who has a go, sat in either the driver or passenger seats, absolutely love it. Those who help and organise always seem to really enjoy themselves, and it could even be considered a training ground for potential event organisers of the future. After all we run under an MSA Permit and so with it comes signing-on, results, marshalling, ours and the public's safety, plus timekeeping.



**The My Garage Clio survived (again!). Matt Parr onboard.**

We also have Stig drivers to show people the course and then stay in the car when they have a go themselves. Which is where we throw the dice. I would say 50% of those who drive are exactly what we want to attract, they listen and are seriously going for a time. A further 20-30% just want to have a go, fair enough. One (mature) driver said, I'm just happy to wake up each morning, doing this today as well makes me feel very good indeed. Leaving an element of roughly 20-30% who to be honest, no. This group being the group who by definition are the reason for one of us being in the car always. This year though we had a bigger problem to try and resolve, dust (ED..!).

After a long dry spell and with soaring temperatures over the weekend, and even after plenty of bowser action, mud quickly turned to fog levels of dust. At times the wind direction was

kind to us, at other times not. And next to us, as always, was a Classic Car Display. We are talking serious show and shine. Therefore, no surprise the show organisers had 'feedback' from some of our close neighbours regarding the state of their cars, inside and out (ED...!) as well as the noise and smell coming from our corner of the field. Still the SGS organisers support what we do, which means a lot, and to prove that, this from an eMail response to a complainant, sorry someone providing feedback:

*We at South Glos Show try to be as inclusive to all leisure activities as possible, and whilst you enjoy spending time with your car, the guys at the Bristol Motor Club, who were running the Auto Solo motor sport event prefer offering the local people a chance to engage and take part in their activities, and these guys and their local sponsor have been assisting us with the Show since 2013's planning for our first show in 2014.*

*The Auto Solo is an amateur sport which allows all ages to try their skills and we would be very disappointed if we were to lose such a popular activity from our event, it is these types of activities that make us, as an Event stand out from others. We have had an extended dry spell which is what obviously caused the dust, the guys were trying to combat this with the use of a water bowser and this seemed to be working for most of the time, however we did ask for further watering on more than one occasion and probably would have been involved more if not pulled away to deal with issues within the ground.*

**Ed Dalby's MX5 likewise (here in the hands of Alex Paull)**



# Dick Mayo Sprint

Like a well oiled machine the Dick Mayo Sprint boasted 616 runs from 154 competitors:



Josh Long



Chris Bennett



Zoe Shearman



Nick Lear

All Pictures: Steve Kilvington

# 2018 - Dick

All Pictures: St



Andy Michelmore



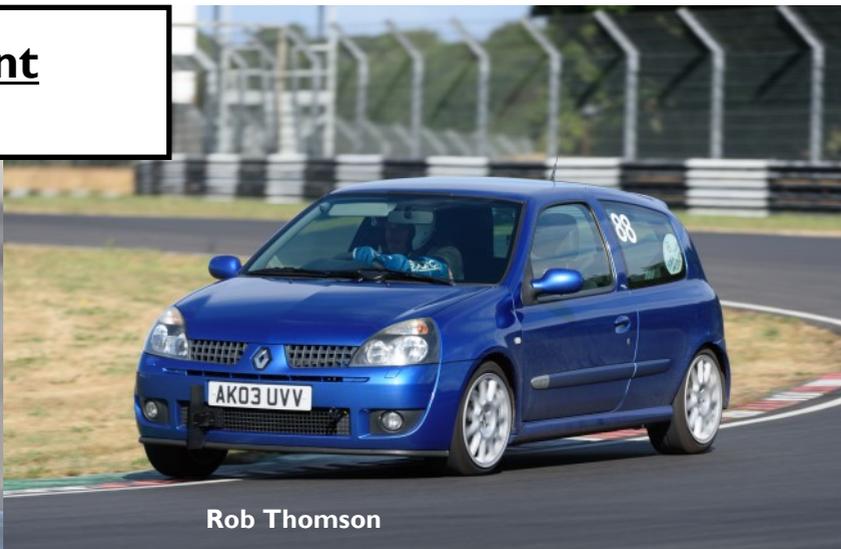
Graeme Palmer



Shaun

# Mayo Sprint

Steve Kilvington



Rob Thomson



West



Bob Bellerby

# 2018 - Dick

Steve Broughton SBD Dallas



Picture: Steve

# Mayo Sprint

ara F301 - FTD (54.61secs)



ve Kilvington

# Happy 90th Birthday Chris

Chris Bigwood is a remarkable man. Chris has a long history with the club and yet whilst some might fade away, Chris continues to regularly attend club nights and formal occasions such as the General Meetings we hold in December and May each year.

Mr B is also not afraid to let his views be known, and so as Chairman and Magazine Editor you do feel obliged to take note at times. Hence why it is now the President who sits on top of the list of club officers and directors on the inside cover of this magazine. Quite right too.

Last year we recognised Chris's significant contribution to the club with a Lifetime Achievement Award and in the time honoured tradition went for maximum embarrassment factor by playing a snippet from a film production that focussed on footage taken in 1948 of BMC members working on the Naish Hillclimb. Showing (a young) Chris and others wielding shovels and spades to lay down a sealed surface (corners only I understand) generating the following eMail response afterwards:

*I feel I must write and express my thanks to you and the committee for the delightful presentation made to me last Tuesday.. Especially appreciated was the work that had gone into preparing the embarrassing film clips. The pleasure that I have derived from being a member over the years has been enormous, particularly from making so many good friends. Although I have been driving since I was twelve I have never tired of the joy and have been lucky enough to experience driving almost everything on four wheels! All being well next year will be my 70th year of membership but it seems like only yesterday that I enrolled. I wish the club every success in the future and am relaxed in the fact that it is in excellent hands.*

From everyone here at BMC, Happy Birthday Chris, 70 years a BMC member.



Back in the day aged 20, and below more recently when making the Naish Hillclimb film with Phil Rumney.



# Drive-By

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Oh Crap, it's another of those evenings that seem to be interminable, without end: oppressively hot, airless, and time apparently passing so slowly it makes me question whether tomorrow has been cancelled and today declared eternal by some great deity with a grudge against me.

After it had been forming uncomfortably on my scalp for the previous couple of minutes, for the umpteenth time I can feel yet another bead of sweat tickling its way down the side of my face as it races to join its predecessors soaking my shirt. Christ, this weather's something else. Every time I step outside it's like being too close to the oven door when you open it to check the contents aren't burning, and when I'm indoors the Devil's poaching me in my own sweat.

Not unlike my past misdeeds, there's just no escaping it. I look up from my vantage point perched at the end of the bar as the sound of the rickety main door and the hacking phlegmy cough of the returning smoker interrupts my alcohol enhanced malaise.

What a fleapit; If you were tasked to describe a rundown pub serving the inhabitants of one of the least salubrious parts of the city, then I'm sat in a worse version of anything you could invent. The sort of grubby dump so bad the Luftwaffe probably couldn't be bothered to bomb it in the blitz because they figured somebody'd done it already, and not seen a lick of paint since.

My bad luck it's the nearest bar within walking distance of where I live. Still, the booze is cheap and the locals have the sense to leave someone alone if they appear to be preferring their own company, which is just what I need tonight.

"Another pint, Chris?" asks the barmaid, bless her. A middle-aged angel adrift in a sea of mediocrity and ordinariness but who somehow always manages to smile despite her own, obviously hard life.

"Go on then, thanks". More words than I want to use but, hey, no harm in being polite to

the person who's bringing you your next drink. As I look through the grimy window at the stygian night beyond, bereft of starlight thanks to nature's rainclouds duvet cover, laughter rings out from a group of youngsters in the opposite corner of the bar.

Oh yeh, like today's been something to laugh about. But maybe that's just me.

"Here you go darling" says the barmaid placing another cold beer in front of me, the glass already dribbling condensation and soaking the ancient beermat.

"Cheers" and I place a limp tenner on the bar, observing that even money doesn't deal well with this heat as I wait for my change.

I take a long drink from the fresh glass of ale, savouring every drop of the ice cold liquid as it slides down my throat.

One of life's unfathomable irony's, I continue to muse as I drink. The best beer only ever seems to be found in the pubs whose landlords would never perceive spending their money on something as mundane as a can of paint and an air conditioning unit.

Yet I have no desire to be sitting in one of the air conditioned, brewery chain-owned palaces located in the posh part of town, drinking a tasteless corporate concoction masquerading as beer whilst watching a bunch of hoorays making fools of themselves, however entertaining that might be.

Hmm, entertainment. As if my banal daily life as a wage-slave wasn't enough to burden, why in hell does it need to rain in the middle of a months-long heatwave on the exact day when I've been looking forward to one of my rare escapes from the pollution and clamour of the city?

My favourite day of the year, as it happens. Meeting up with some genuinely great people and enjoying the annual Bristol Motor Club, Family Sports Car event at Castle Combe Circuit that's always fun and nothing less than a lift for my dark and cynical soul.

I can only guess I must have done something desperately bad in a previous life (likely, if my current term on the planet is anything to go by...) and some days just aren't meant to happen as planned.

Even my indulging in a full-English breakfast in the Tavern Restaurant on arrival at the circuit this morning does little to lift my mood, as there's no hiding the bare fact that the day's going to be wet enough to seriously contemplate a spot of ark building and that we won't exactly be playing to a packed house, borne out as only a few hardy souls have joined us by mid-morning.

Use the microphone to announce a change to the original schedule due to the reduced circumstances of the day? No point, everybody has the sense to take shelter from the rain and there's nobody in the paddock to hear me, so it's a simple case of resorting to Shanks' Pony and wandering across to the Tavern and delivering the message in person.

All credit to those of our guests who braved the weather and who hopefully enjoyed their time on the circuit, and great to see a new Aston Martin DBI I taking advantage and going out on every available session.

But getting a message at lunchtime from my beloved saying she would be running late tonight only helps deepen my darkening mood as I brood over the predominant loss of a fabulous day, created by so many hard working, good people, and squashed to a fraction of its potential by the cruellest of mother-nature's jokes.

The sound of the main bar door once again cuts through my wandering thoughts and I look up to see if my salvation might be at hand. No such luck, Stepping into the dimly lit bar is a heartbreaker and her accompanying friend.

A local ghetto princess who's overly tight little dress and stilettos showcase her fabulous figure but do nothing to cover a raft of cheap tattoos, and whose long blond locks are pushed from her youthful pretty face as she takes longer than really necessary to clear the raindrops from herself. The sort of dame who should be adorning the covers of those glossy women's

magazines to reinforce their bizarre message that women should feel bad about every aspect of their own lives. Not wasting her life in a fleapit full of hopelessness.

With the eyes of the group of youngsters in the corner following her every step like laser-tracking missiles as she walks to the bar, I can't help but think 'enjoy the attention babe', because she's too young and too disinterested to even contemplate the futility of existence and realise that this is probably the high point of her entire parochial little life. A life only likely to be made better by winning the National Lottery, so never, then.

Returning to my drink, I ponder that at least I had the sense to take tomorrow off work, as the cold beer is doing little to quench my thirst or make me feel cooler and I drain the glass in a single long drink. "Another when you're ready"

The barmaid smiles at me in acknowledgment as she continues to serve the two girls and then the portal to this cruddy local watering hole creaks yet again. And there she is, breezing into the bar like a breath of fresh air is my very own angel of mercy. Beautiful, intelligent and who, for some reason that'll forever remain a mystery, likes me for who I am. "Hi darling, sorry I'm late. How was your day?"

"Uhm, not too bad considering the weather, and I think the people who joined us at the Family Sports Car Day had a good time!"

"Oh good", she continues at a pace "I thought it would be nice to try that big new pub in Clifton for supper so I've booked us a table as a nice treat to end the day"

"Brilliant, what a lovely idea"

Yep, living proof that where the right woman's concerned, I'm a cynical hypocrite – hey, nobody ever accused me of being perfect, I wasn't made that way.

Actually, thinking about it, not a bad day at all, all things considered.

*Chris Dymock*

# Privacy Notice - New Members

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Bristol Motor Club respects your privacy and we will only use your information in the way we describe in this notice. When using your information, we aim to be fair and transparent, and to follow our obligations under UK data protection laws. Your information is used for administering club membership, activities, and competitions.

Bristol Motor Club is the data controller for the purpose of GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Our club contact for privacy and data is our Chairman and their contact details can be found at <http://bristolmc.org.uk/committee-officers/>

## **Collecting your information**

We collect your information when you fill in a membership application form, such as the one opposite. You can give us your information using paper forms or online forms. The information you give us may include your contact details (name, address, telephone number, email address). When you give us information about another person, such as an associate you should let that person know that you have given us the information.

If you are under 18 years old, we will also ask for information from your parent or guardian.

## **Using your information**

We use your information when you first apply to become a member of Bristol Motor Club and then to administer and renew your club membership and provide you with member benefits.

## **Sharing your information**

We may share your information with the Motor Sports Association as required by its General Regulations for governing motor sport, or if we have to comply with a legal obligation.

## **Security for your information**

Your information is held securely by us. We have taken all reasonable steps, and have in place appropriate security measures, to protect your information.

## **Your rights**

You are entitled to a copy of the information we hold about you, and to ask us to correct any inaccuracies. You may ask us to stop using your information, and to delete it, although by law we must maintain a permanent record of members. If you ask us to do this, we will not be able to continue our contract with you.

You may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner.

# BRISTOL MOTOR CLUB



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

To the Membership Secretary,

Bristol Motor Cycle and Light Car Club Limited ("the Company")

In order to fulfil Bristol Motor Club's contractual obligations with me/us, I/we hereby authorise you to enter my/our name(s) and other information entered in this form in the Register of Members. I accept that as well as being a requirement of Company Law the information will be used solely to produce mailing lists for club publications and event notices and will not be passed to any third parties unless required to do so to meet a legal requirement. The BMC Privacy Notice and Data Management Procedure are both available for me to read on the Club's website - [www.bristolmc.org.uk/reference](http://www.bristolmc.org.uk/reference).  
If you agree please tick box

Full Member	First name	Surname	
	Email		
Associate member	First name	Surname	
	Email		
Address			
Postcode			
Main phone		Alternative	
Have you previously been a member of Bristol Motor Club?	YES / NO	Membership No(s)	
Do you wish to receive the club magazine, <i>Driving Mirror</i> , by post?	<i>(Delete as appropriate)</i>		YES / NO
Full membership	<i>(Tick boxes that apply)</i>		£ 20.00
Associate membership <i>(see <a href="http://www.bristolmc.org.uk/join-us">www.bristolmc.org.uk/join-us</a> for membership categories)</i>			£ 10.00
Additional windscreen sticker (first one is complimentary)			£ 1.50
DEDUCT REWARD POINTS £1 each (applicable to existing & previous club members only)			
<b>TOTAL</b>	cash or cheque payable to BRISTOL MOTOR CLUB		£

### DECLARATION

I / We, the above-named applicant(s), hereby:

- apply to become a member/members of the Company and agree to guarantee the sum of £0.13 (thirteen pence) in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company;
- agree to be bound by and comply with the provisions of the Articles of Association and the Bye-laws of the company which can be found on the Club website [www.bristolmc.org.uk/reference](http://www.bristolmc.org.uk/reference);
- agree that notices and other general information may be sent by the Company to me/us, either at the email address given here, or by being published on the Company's website.

Signed

*(Full Member; and Associate if applicable)*

Date

For further information email [membership@bristolmc.org.uk](mailto:membership@bristolmc.org.uk). Please post the completed form with your payment to Zoë Tooth, 49 Bowling Road, Chipping Sodbury, BRISTOL BS37 6EP Tel: 01454 329231

FOR CLUB USE	Date received	Membership No(s).
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## NOTES

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### CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

There are two membership categories: Full Member and Associate Member. An Associate Member must share the same address as a Full Member, and they may only request one copy of the club magazine for that address. In all other respects the two categories enjoy identical membership status.

### DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from the date you join until 31st December the same year, but if you join after 30th September your membership will run to the end of the following year. Thereafter, subscription renewal is payable on 1st January each year: your membership will cease if your subscription is not paid by 31st March.

### PAYING ONLINE

If you wish to use online banking please go to the *Join Us!* page on the club website and apply using the online Membership Application Form.

## DECLARATION

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I / We, the aforementioned applicant(s), hereby:

- apply to become a member/members of the Company and agree to guarantee the sum of £0.13 (thirteen pence) in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company;
- agree to be bound by and comply with the provisions of the Articles of Association and the Bye-laws of the company (which can be found on the Club website [www.bristolmc.org.uk](http://www.bristolmc.org.uk));
- authorise you to enter my name and other information entered here in the Register of Members, which is solely used to produce mailing lists for club publications and event regulations. The information will not be passed to any third parties.
- agree that notices and other general information may be sent by the Company to me/us, either at the email address given here, or by being published on the Company's website.

Signed

*(Full Member, and Associate if applicable)*

Date

Any questions please email [membership@bristolmc.org.uk](mailto:membership@bristolmc.org.uk)

Please post the completed form with your remittance to Zoë Tooth,  
49 Bowling Road, Chipping Sodbury, BRISTOL BS37 6EP Tel: 01454 329231

FOR CLUB USE

Date received

Membership No(s).



# Supercar Saturday

Do you have a need for speed?

Saturday 27 October 2018  
Castle Combe Circuit, Chippenham,  
SN14 7EY

Gates open 9am. Admission £5, concession £2.50,  
under 16s free. Tickets can be booked in advance.

Rides  
from  
£25

Together we can conquer stroke

Stroke  
association

## **Put yourself forwards to join the committee in 2019**

We are recruiting active club members to fill places on our main committee. A very special place where all important club issues are discussed and where we decide what as a club we will be doing now and in the future.

If successful in joining (confirmed at a General Meeting) you will be helping to shape the future of the club so that it continues to survive and thrive.

(Commitment involves attending up to eleven meetings each year (first Monday after each Tuesday Club Night) and typically being involved with an event).

R.S.V.P.

Matt@classiccarsdriven.com (M) 07989 601 774



## **Need somewhere to store your competition vehicle?**

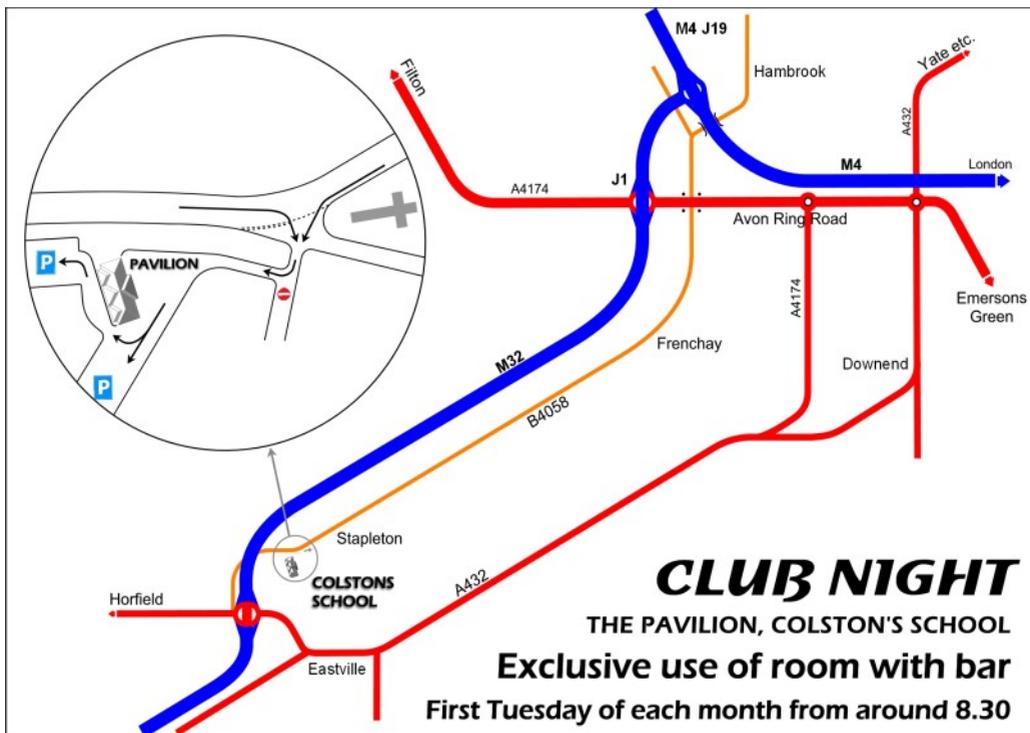
We offer a storage facility in South Gloucestershire next to the current club stores catering for 13 cars. Each car space is 2.45m x 4.95m.

See our website: [www.kingdomautostorage.co.uk](http://www.kingdomautostorage.co.uk)

Contact Andrew on 07916 723 648.

## 2018 - Forthcoming Events

Date	Event
Saturday 1st September	Wiscombe
Sunday 2nd September	Wiscombe
Tuesday 4th September	Club Night
Sunday 9th September	Summer AutoSOLO
Friday 21st September	Llandow Trackday
Tuesday 2nd October	Club Night
Friday 19th October	Autumn NavScatter
Saturday 27th October	SuperCar Saturday
Tuesday 6th November	Quiz Night
Sunday 11th November	Roy Fedden Sporting Car Trial
Sunday 25th November	Allen Classic Trial
Tuesday 4th December	General Meeting and Xmas Buffet



## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EMAIL

Pete Hart	<a href="mailto:peter.j.hart@btinternet.com">peter.j.hart@btinternet.com</a>
Paul Hemmings	<a href="mailto:paulhemmings2@btinternet.com">paulhemmings2@btinternet.com</a>
Richard Marsh	<a href="mailto:r_marshy22@yahoo.co.uk">r_marshy22@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Paul Parker	<a href="mailto:britishsprint@gmail.com">britishsprint@gmail.com</a>
Mark Benstock	<a href="mailto:benstock.mark@yahoo.co.uk">benstock.mark@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Matt Nichols	<a href="mailto:matt@classiccarsdriven.com">matt@classiccarsdriven.com</a>
Mark Tooth	<a href="mailto:mark.tooth@tiscali.co.uk">mark.tooth@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Zoë Tooth	<a href="mailto:membership@bristolmc.org.uk">membership@bristolmc.org.uk</a>
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