



Patron: Howden Ganley

Newsletter July - August - September 2024

Officers

President: Karen Clearwater
Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Coghill

Vice-President: Wayne Perkins
Past President: Nick Simpson

Committee

Barry Dorking Mark McGuinness Steve Keene

Vehicle Acceptance Committee

Kevin Telford(Chair) Wayne Perkins Brian James Steve Keene

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Up and COMING CMRC EVENTS:

Date.	Event	Venue
7-9 th February	Southern Classic 2025	Levels Raceway
24 th May	Autumn Fling	Levels Raceway

Presidents Report – Karen Clearwater

My thanks to the club members for the support of my nomination as Club President.

My involvement with the car club goes back to the early days when we (David and I) were approached to join the club after coming across them at a Queenstown event. This led to a very enjoyable time over the last 35+ plus years for our family including the building of two more cars and multiple roles within the club.

The friendships that have developed over the years, through local and international visitors, has been priceless and have shaped the lives of our girls as well.

It is a great honour to have been selected as your club president and it is with excitement and expectation that I look forward to the next two years leading a team of great people who are passionate about our branch of the sport.

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's trophies.

<u>Awarded at the AGM 2024</u>		
<u>Trophies</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Car</u>
Peter Gendall Polished Performance	Duncan Wright	Johnstone FF
Scotts Auto Best Presented Race Car	Rod Sinclair	Alfa Romeo Giulia
Ransley Shaft Hard Luck	Steve Ross	PDL 1
Ross Clifford Sportsmanship	Trevor Lines	Mini Cooper
PDL Trophy for the Best NZ Special	Phil Thomson	Daimler Special
Lindsay Neilson Best Performance	Jamie Greene	Datsun 1200
CMRC Award	Barry Dorking	

Outgoing Presidents Report – Nick Simpson

My thanks to all who took the time to come along to the AGM. It was well attended and that's a healthy sign for our club.

The meeting was largely a procedural formality but does stand out for a couple of important reasons.

We have now formally adopted our new constitution. Thanks to Barry Dorking for his work in leading the writing of the constitution. This has been a big task. I'd also like to acknowledge the work that Motorsport New Zealand did in providing us with a 'starter' resource to get us going.

We have elected a new club president in Karen Clearwater. Congratulations Karen on your new role within the CMRC. I am certain that you will do an outstanding job. Your long

experience as a competitor and administrator combined with your enthusiasm will enable you to keep guiding us in the right direction.

The race meeting that followed on Saturday can only be described in positive terms. The South Canterbury Car Club presented us with a circuit that was in great condition and had a full field of volunteers on hand to help us run the day. Our sincere thanks must go to the SCCC and the volunteers.



The weather was as good as you can get for motor racing, you might even say *Goldilocks weather* – not too hot – not too cold.

We had over 100 entries which is outstanding. The newly minted all-comers saloons class and the ever-reliable Pre 78's fronted with big fields.

The Vintage Car Club put on their usual fine show and there was a pleasing turn out here also.

CAMS also came to the party and were most capably organised by Sarah. The bikes definitely add a special favour to the day though I am uncertain about the sanity of those who are the swingers in sidecars. It's always good to have the bikes join us for this meeting which has a unique character. Well done to the bikes for winning the Brooklands Challenge.

As a final thought I found the atmosphere of the whole meeting to be first class. As I walked through the pit paddock, I was struck by the relaxed and friendly nature of this meeting. There was a real air of positivity which was most refreshing.

Prizegiving was very well attended. It was short, sharp and entertaining – well done Karen and Zara.

Our aim must be to keep this momentum going as we head towards our marquee event in February of 2025.



Race Report – Paul Coghill

What a great event this year's Brooklands event was. With the support of the Classic Action Motorcycle Sport (CAMS) and the VCC we managed a record 103 entries. Attrition did play its part with some cars not even getting through testing on the Friday.

Karen has with up the report on the Brooklands Challenge below.

Planning is underway for the Southern Classic 2025 with our club classes as well as the Invited classes for next year's event: - HVRA, Historic Formula Ford S.I., Historic Allcomers and Sports Sedan, OSCA and the Pre 65 and Mini 7's.

A promotional graphic for the Southern Classic 2025 event. The background is dark red with a white checkered flag pattern in the top left corner. In the center, there is a white outline of a race track. The text 'CLASSIC MOTOR RACING CLUB' is written in large, bold, white capital letters at the top. Below it, 'Southern Classic 2025' is written in a white, cursive font. A list of participating classes is on the left, and a logo for the Classic Motor Racing Club is on the right. A QR code is in the bottom left, and contact information is in the bottom center. A red banner at the bottom reads 'Celebrating 20 years of the Southern Classic in 2025'.

CLASSIC MOTOR RACING CLUB
Southern Classic 2025

- Pre 78 Classic Saloons
- CMRC Allcomer Saloons
- VCC & Historics
- Formula Libre
- Historic Sports Sedans & Allcomers
- Historic & Vintage Racing Association (HVRA)
- Open Saloon Car Association (OSCA)
- Historic Formula Ford South Island
- Pre 65 & Mini 7

7th to 9th Feb 2025 – Levels Raceway

For more information contact Paul Coghill, race organizer at race@classicmotorracingclub.nz or www.classicmotorracingclub.nz

Celebrating 20 years of the Southern Classic in 2025

The logo for the Classic Motor Racing Club, featuring a shield with a checkered flag, a steering wheel, and the letters 'NZ' with 'est. 1983' below it.

Brooklands Trophy 2024 – Karen Clearwater

It may only be a piece of concrete but the Brooklands Trophy is a great example of the camaraderie between the CMRC and CAMS which is fiercely fought over each year.

Since 1989 this historic chunk, bought back by George Begg and friends from the Brooklands Circuit, has been a key part of the Annual Brooklands meeting where a three-person team from each club try their best to win it for the honour of their club.

It seems simple. Estimate the time it will take for your bike or car to complete four laps of the circuit and then combine your team times. The team that is closest to their total time wins. The kicker is the pit stop that each vehicle/bike must do with one member entering the pit on each of the first three laps to do a stop/go penalty. Teams are chosen at the beginning of the day through a random process (this year for cars they were selected by having the number three as part of your race number). Teams are briefed on the format and a representative of each team then provides the estimated time to the referees.

They have no idea how long the pit stop may be. This is decided by the SCCC officials and even the referees have no idea how long it will take. Penalties are applied for various misdemeanours including failing to enter the pit lane on the correct lap or speed, completely missing the pit stop, excessive acceleration on leaving the pit, minor excursions from the track etc.

This year the teams were cars (CMRC) Matthew Christianson, Tom Henman, Cameron Lawes and bikes (CAMS) Garry Cotteral, Neville Willis, Noel Jackson.

A small team of CAMS and CMRC members headed up to the timing room where stopwatches were activated and times taken. The CMRC team performed well with no penalties incurred for speeding in the pits or aggressive take offs from pit lane but were about a minute out from their estimated time.

Now it was up to the bikes. Would someone miss their pit stop, would speeding be an issue or would they manage to take the trophy from CMRC this year. A concern was raised as one bike appeared to come into pit lane at high speed but managed to slow down just in time to avoid a penalty. A comment was made by a CAMS member that he had managed to hit his speed limiter just in time.

The times, as always, were close but the CAMS team managed to be the closest overall to their nominated time and so managed to win the trophy back after a couple of years of ownership by CMRC. Well done to CAMS but watch out next year I'm sure our CMRC team will be out to get it back.

Thanks, as always to the SCCC officials and the volunteers who came up to the timekeeper's room. To the riders and drivers thanks for once again making this a memorable event.

Brooklands Challenge Prize Giving

Brooklands 2024			
Class Awards			
CAMS	Neville Willis	Manx Norton	Years of experience and well travelled
Allcomers A	Tony Mann	74 Vauxall Victor	Brought out after 8 years absence
Allcomers B	David Hunter	MGB	Clean and spirited racing
Pre 78 Classic Saloons	Peter Scobie	Morris Cooper S	Total rebuild, back as fast as ever
Vintage and Historic	Paul Coghill	Jaguar Special	Great performance - always has fun
Formula Libre	Trevor Farley	Lotus Seven	Outclassed but still had fun
Trophies			
Ross Clifford Sportsmanship	Alan Taylor	Ford Capri	First to step up to help anyone else
Lindsay Neilson -Best Performance	Hamish Robinson	Fiat Uno	Struggled all morning with issues then went out in the afternoon and nailed it
Scotts Auto's Best Presented Saloon	Walter Whittleston	Ford Capri	Looked great
Ransley Shaft -Hard Luck	Wayne Perkins	Viva GT	Stub axle issue created 3-wheel car
PDL best NZ Special	Kevin Stevenson	Shadetree 1	Great to see it being driven well and looking good

Peter Gendal Most Polished Performance	Matt Ryan	28 Chev Camaro	Car looks great and being well driven
Spinners Award	Peter Caughey	Mustang	Pre 78 1st race spinner
Volunteers AWARD	Tim Dorsett	Rescue car driver	Stepped in for the days and provided wife as a flaggie
special mention	Dave Reesby/Sue van den Hueval	Yamaha Side-car	Swinger does an amazing job, great to see this
Brooklands Challenge			
Cars CMRC	Matthew Christian-son	BMW 320	
	Tom Henman	Austin Mini	
	Cameron Lawes	MG BGT	
Bikes CAMS	Garry Cotteral	Manx Norton	
	Neville Willis	Manx Norton	
	Noel Jackson	Harley Davidson	
	Winner	CAMS	

Pre 78 – Wayne Perkins

The **Pre 78 Classic Saloons** have got off to a cracker start with our 8 separate events in this seasons Race Calendar. We attracted 32 entrants to the initial **Brooklands** meeting a month ago. where we had 1 entrant in the 0-1200 class, 5 in the 1201-1400cc, 6 in the 1401-1800cc class, 11 in the 1801-2500cc class, 4 in the 2501-4200cc class and 4 in our 4200cc plus class.

It's taken me a while to work it out but I now realise that the **Pre 78's** are actually a social club of people who like racing old saloon cars in a safe and parity-based environment.

They appear to thoroughly enjoy each other's company which is probably the main reason a lot of them come racing with us which I think is really neat. Best of all we are now attracting younger guys in their 30's and 40's with their families which means we have an exciting and vibrant future as time rolls on.

The Pre 78 Classic Saloons 2024/25 Season Calendar.

- 1/. **Brooklands** - 31st August 2024 - Levels - 1 day - CMRC
- 2/. **Festival of Speed** - 11th October 2024 - Ruapuna - 3 day – CCC, Qual Saturday
- 3/. **Wigram Revival** - 22nd November 2024 - Ruapuna - 3 day - CCC, Qual Saturday
- 4/. **Super Saloons** - 7th December 2024 - Teretonga - 2 day – SSCC, Qual Saturday
- 5/. **Southern Classic** - 7th February 2025 - Levels - 3 day – CMRC, Qual Friday

- 6/. **Speedfest** - 15th February 2025 - Teretonga -2 day - SSCC, Qual Saturday
- 7/. **George Begg** - 10th April 2025 - Teretonga 3 day - Scott O'Donnell
- 8/. **Autumn Fling** - 24th May 2025 - Levels 1 day – CMRC, Qual Saturday

As always, it's been a bit of a mission with a fair amount of horse trading but we've finally

The Classic Allcomer Saloons – Steve Keene

Come One, Come all – And they did!

With the recent introduction of the new Allcomer Saloons rules and regs we have seen a resurgence of interest from competitors with a wide range of cars.



Steve Ross – Datsun 240Z

The recent Brookland's meeting provided 2 very good grids, and watching from the tower it was enjoyable to see good racing in both speed classes. And what was even more enjoyable was seeing happy competitors back in the paddock enjoying their days racing.

I was very pleased to also welcome some new competitors to the club, like Alex MacAskill who came down from as far as Blenheim in his Corolla Coupe which showed what a more modern take on a classic racecar looks like. And Matt Ryan who ran for the very first time in Frank Ryan's Chev Camaro, which was a big speed and power increase on his rapid SS Cup car.



Matt Ryan – Chev Camaro

We also welcomed back many familiar faces and cars, it was brilliant to see the diversity of cars which turned out, from Fiat Uno's, through to Rx7's and Rx3's right through to the "big bangers" in the faster group. As there is a lot more to come!



Jason Froom – Valiant Charger

The future looks very bright for the group, and the word is spreading about the class. I am receiving more inquiries from perspective members who either are retiring from running in points championships, restoring cars and/or building cars which now have a home in the classic community.

And whilst we do not have another CMRC club meeting prior to the Southern Classic, the work behind the scenes into making the Southern classic an incredible event is happening right now, and with the addition of the incredible Historic Sports sedans and Allcomers group from the North Island confirming a minimum of 16 cars coming down for the Southern Classic, this means the Allcomers groups are going to be jammed packed with top levels cars in all speed classes. The spectators will be in for an incredible sight and will really be able to see the noise

Marketing Report – Mark McGuinness

We have been fortunate over the years to have had an excellent race committee which has run terrific classic race meetings. This is the foundation that the Club has been built on since it was established forty years ago.

In that time, the world and cars, have changed a lot and as a Club we have had to adapt. Today we have nearly 200 members and we want to increase this to 300 over the next few years.

We plan to do that by running great classic and historic race meetings. This involves a good experience for supporters, spectators and volunteers as well as the drivers themselves.

In order to survive and thrive we need to create user friendly pathways for people (especially younger people) to enter classic motorsport as a driver, volunteer or supporter. For example, this could include introducing a new class for more modern classics.

As most of you know, the Club runs three events per year, all in the South Island, with its 'home' being at Levels in Timaru. The flagship event is the Southern Classic which is held in February each year. Next year promises to be better than ever, with very strong interest, even at this early stage

We are now starting to talk to different groups about sponsorship. Naturally we start with the companies that have supported us in the past but there are also some exciting opportunities for new sponsors.

Naming rights sponsorship for the Southern Classic is a particularly attractive proposition for a company wishing to raise its profile. Let us know if you would like some more information on this, over time it is a big opportunity. Both here and around the world, classic race meetings often get known by their main sponsor's name.



In the short term we want to raise the profile of the Club. This will happen through advertising and word of mouth but most fundamentally it will happen through us running successful race meetings.

We then need to welcome new people into the sport as stated above, including making it as easy as we can for younger people to experience the excitement of classic car racing.

The different classes such as Pre 78 and Classic Allcomers are run by passionate coordinators, Wayne Perkins and Steve Keene respectively. It is through supporting the current and future class coordinators that the Club can grow.

We are all excited by where the Classic Motor Racing Club is at today and are happy to talk anytime to anyone interested in joining the Club.

Lastly

The creation of 'content' is critical to creating and maintaining ongoing interest in what the Club is doing. Free publicity is the cheapest and most effective marketing tool along with 'word of mouth' recommendations.

We need someone to 'own' this as an editor – there is a bit of work involved in this but it's also fascinating. If you think that you would be good at this and interested in getting involved in this, let us know.

Vehicle Acceptance Committee (VAC) – Kevin Telford

The aim of the VAC moving forward is to have all the CMRC members cars either Certificate of Description (COD) or to be Vehicle Acceptance Procedure (VAP) compliant.

With the requirements of our club rules, we need to have all members race cars complying with the club rules.

This is a large task that will take some time but is necessary.

With the help of each race group coordinator, we will educate and inform the members who needs to complete the VAP or COD and encourage them to engage in the process.

I have already emailed many club members that from our records, show that their cars are not compliant and had a very poor response from them.

The approach we have been taking, is to ask the required members to at least start the process so the VAC can assist and help finish the job.

I believe that we should have all our cars on record so that we know what we have. Some club cars will not fall within our rules but that does not mean they will be excluded from the club. Our first job is to document some information on each car and work from there.

The VAC is a small group of enthusiastic and passionate people who are keen to help improve the CMRC and get as many cars on the track as possible. So please help us help you.

Remember this is your club, run by a small group of volunteers that need your help too.

Kevin Telford
0276 235 455

Snoops News. – Craig Pidgeon driving his beautiful red Sunbeam Tiger, is currently taking part in a tour of the North Island to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Sunbeam Tiger. Craig's car is one of four brought into NZ.

SNOOPS REPORT

Hi fellow Classic racers. Not sure just where the last few months have gone. It seems like only yesterday since the end of last years Racing season had passed with the Autumn Fling Meeting being cancelled.

On the bright side our annual AGM and Brooklands Meeting loomed up very quickly and was held end of August with a large entry for the meeting.

Unfortunately, my own class, Formula Libre, is going through a difficult period partly due to the separation of the different single seater classes. Both the Canterbury Car Club (CCC) and CMRC will support this class with races as long as we can get some decent numbers of entry's (only fair). I went along to the first CCC club day but our class was cancelled due to the lack of entry's, a bitterly cold day so quite pleased not to race as the track was too cold for single seaters.

Witnessed a very nice yellow Alfa Romeo Coupe racing very well out there and made an effort to talk to the owner. Hope that we will see him race with us shortly. He purchased the car from the North Island and is enjoying it immensely. Also saw a lovely 1965 4 door Cortina GT in the car park complete with factory steel rims. Quite uncommon to see this instead of the market mag wheels.

The CMRC AGM held on the Friday evening at the SCCC club rooms saw a very good turnout of members attending. The Committee of 2023/4 has done a very good job of running the CMRC over the past year. Great to see Karen Clearwater stand and be elected as our new Club President. Karen has plenty of experience to handle this position.

BROOKLANDS RACE DAY. The weather was fine but very cool to start with and warmed up as the meeting proceeded. It was great to see around 100 entries attend our popular Brooklands Challenge Meeting. A large entry for the ever-popular Pre 78 Classic Saloons and the new All Comers Saloon Class. This class picks up the Classic Saloons, large and small and Historic race cars from various classes, ShellSport, Pre 65 and Rennsport not suitable for the Pre 78 Classic Saloons.

The VCC and the CAMS bikers all supplied a good number of entries and some very exciting racing. The only disappointing class being the Single Seaters (Libre) with only six entered but reduced to four on race day due to breakages on the Friday whilst testing.

VCC Racing – An interesting mix of great cars along with the GP Specials of Paul Coghill driving the 1952 Jaguar Special, Graeme Hamilton driving his 1958 ACE III and Russ Haines, Hamish Pidgeon driving the Mercedes single seater. These four cars in particular were all trading positions at the south bend of the Levels track. Paul did a great job of holding them off with a couple of races on the day.

This was excellent racing for the spectators.

It was cool to see the blue Triumph Spitfire Roadster out on the track and having a ball.

I was quite interested in Hamish Pidgeon's new single seater and thought I recognised it as the ex-Ken William's car. I remember racing against it at Manfield several times, and also noted that when getting too close to him the car had a habit of spraying you with oil so you had to either back off or pass him.

I called Hamish to check on the car's history and he told me that the Mercedes Special (Single Seater) was built in Adelaide, Australia around 1968 and powered with a supercharged 6 cylinder Holden motor and raced successfully for a few years. It was then converted to Mercedes power ranging from a 240 – 250, then to its present configuration of a 280S motor and supercharged with a Vintage Supercharger. The car arrived in New Zealand around the 1990's, purchased by Ken Williams (a Mercedes fan) and raced in the North and South Island.

Hamish purchased it in 2016 and it has been in storage until this year. It was its first outing at the Brooklands meeting. Hamish plans to run it in the VCC class and hopes to dual entry in the Libre Class.



CAMS had a very good entry and put on a brilliant display in their races at the Brooklands meeting. I have to say that the team (Dave Reesby/Sue van den Hueval) driving the sidecar combination are brave beyond belief with the swinger placing herself in some amazing positions as many photos showed.

The site in the pit area and smell of the CAMS bikes at speed are a welcome addition to our event and their challenge for the Brooklands Trophy was successful as they were declared the winners. Well done guys. To those newer CMRC members who do not know the history of this trophy, the rock was sourced from the famous Brooklands Track, England by our own George Begg and donated to the CMRC for a trophy to be competed between the Bikers and the CMRC. A wonderful piece of CMRC history.



Dave Reesby/Sue van den Hueval

Formula Libre – Brian Dixon

Well, what can I say? A total disappointment all up.

It was a huge disappointment for Greg Mowat who had driven his car, Lotus 7 and entry down from Christchurch for the meeting. Whilst testing on the Friday he found that the car had developed a nasty oil leak and a few funny noises to the rear end. So, Greg had to withdraw.

But another driver of this class came up with an idea of sharing his car with Greg. So I would like to mention the comradery and friendship from one of our club members to another. Greg Mowat who had driven his green Super 7 Clubman down to the Levels Raceway at Timaru from Christchurch discovered that he had a problem with his car and unfortunately had to withdraw from the Formula Libre class.

Trevor Fairley who drives the red & silver Lotus 7 Rep. from Dunedin kindly offered his car to Greg to drive during the days meeting. This was arranged with the officials and Greg got to drive at the meeting. They each took turns at driving Trevor's car. Now this proves that Trevor is a 'Good Bugger'. Thankyou Trevor for your friendly gesture of which Greg was delighted with. Both had smiles on their faces all day in spite of the fact that our class was very small. We were also supported by the company of Gary Arnold from Timaru who had also had to withdraw with a mechanical problem with his Van Dieman RF75 on the Friday. This was the spirit of the CMRC. As the add always says, "Give that man a Speights". Well done Trevor.



AllComers Class – This class was divided into two groups. Group A and Group B. With such a mixture of various cars in both groups the result was some great close racing and great to watch as a spectator.

It was great to see Bruce Tinnelly driving his Holden Monaro and also Tony Mann in the mighty green Victor along with Greg Donaldson in his very quick Commodore being given a hurry up from Bruce Henderson in the RX3 and David Hunter in his quick red V8 MGB being a thorn in the side of some of the drivers. There was some excellent driving throughout the two groups with battles within battles out on the track.



Nice to see some of the Rennsport BMW boys back again with us and hope they will bring out more of their group now they are being encouraged to run with the CMRC. Once again, some great racing from those entered. Worth mentioning and great to see out on the track was Jason Froome in the Valliant Charger, Michael Johnson in the wickedly fast 240 Scarab and Neville Scoles out playing with us once again. Hope we can entice you all once again.

Classic Pre-78 Saloons Class – As mentioned before this class has been growing from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work of Wayne and friends. There are some beautifully prepared cars from Mustangs to Escorts, Viva's and Avengers to name a few.

Not far into Race 2 for this class the beautiful Mustang # 104 stopped dead in the sweeper and could not get fired up again so the race finished under yellow with the Vauxhall Viva GT of Bruce Farley winning this race.

Once again there was some very good racing with battles within battles and put on a good display of racing for the spectators who really were spoilt with the days racing. South Canterbury Car Club are to be congratulated for a meeting that was run on time all day.



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Facebook page

Our club face book address is:- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1379395309504773>

The normal posting rules apply. The post will be promoted as long as it is positive and about club type stuff. Don't forget to "like" the page and ask your friends to like it as well.

Website

www.classicmotorracingclub.co.nz

Remember this is your website and you can add photos to it to make it more interesting. **The latest entry form is always on the Website as is the membership form.**