

The Wild
Bunch Drag
Racing
Association
proudly
presents

Against the Clock

Real Steel
PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2004

Editors Note....

And there it was...the start of the season! You wait for months then, without warning it's there, on the doorstep....and some of us just weren't ready for it were we!! AtC gets to report on the gossip at the track - yes we'll throw in some results along the way but it's gossip & scandal we really want!!

So, what's new? There's a new team on the rampage & they're nicely twisted! Couple of new cars waiting in the wingsand did you see the paintwork on 'Backdraft'? WOW!

....and there's more to come I'm sure.

So Wild Bunchers we're off & running!



Alice

**Wicked Lady feature
on back page**

Twisted new team at the drags

Hell's Belle - what a fantastic name for a drag car! A beautiful altered that has taken it's second outing on the track this season! Yep, Helen & Dean from Team Twisted and their new crew recruit Dave were at a slightly damp Pod in early January for their first Test & Tune of the season as well as being at the recent Test n Tune at SCR.

AtC leapt to the challenge of researching the new team! "The one thing that we're all agreed on" says Helen "is keeping a hobby that we both enjoy! Me driving & Dean happily spinning the spanners!" Sounds like a perfect start to the season if you ask me! Helen is a Dental Hygienist & Dean an Electronics Engineer. He got the car craze when he spotted an article in Street Machine on a red '34 coupe way back in 1990. For a birthday treat he took himself to the Pod, looking back he's no idea how he managed to find it but he did & has been hooked ever since. Building a dragster was never on the cards - the build of a street '32 or '34 were the original beginnings of the whole thing. In '97 Dean met Helen, they went to the Pod

together & the familiar plea of 'Can we go again, can we, can we, plllleeeaaassssseeeee' was heard.from Helen! Dean is a perfectionist & it was fast realised that the money to build the kind of street car he'd been dreaming about just wasn't



there. The magazines were tough & you can't help but sneak a look through the 'for sale' section can you?! There it was - an altered chassis for sale. Dean was quick to take a look. He returned to tell Helen that "it looked pretty neat, needed quite a bit of finishing but could be a good starting point & was affordable". Helen was somewhat surprised to find that he hadn't bought it & Dean quickly returned to

complete the deal! That was the start of a fairly long build, over the next two years they collected parts from Swap Meets but kept in touch with the previous owners, the Draper brothers who offered great encouragement & advice

along the way the best of which can be summarised as 'get out there & enjoy it!' Since then they've moved house three times, got married & in 2003 finally finished 'Hell's Belle'. The 'getting out there and enjoying it' philosophy was given another test at the first event in the Wild Bunch

calendar, the recent T&T at SCR. The weather was a bit dodgy but that didn't stop the team being in the fire up road for most of the weekend. The determination paid off with Helen running down to a 12.753 @ 104.41 mph! The plan is to run the 2004 season with the Wild Bunch, so with that said let's give them one Hell's Belle of a Wild Bunch welcome & wish them all the best.

Real Steel
PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

NEWSFLASH!!

Talk about ending the weekend on a high note...it's come to the attention of AtC that Real Steel have officially confirmed their continued sponsorship of the Wild Bunch. A massive thank you goes out to them from all of us.



One very Wicked Lady One careful male driver!



Getting introduced to drag racing in the early seventies, in the days of Dennis Priddle, Allan Herridge & Clive Skilton was enough to get the owner / driver of 355 cu chevy powered Wicked Lady hooked! Dennis Hawkins became an ardent supporter but it wasn't until about fourteen years ago that he decided the time had come to build his own dragster...rather than just talking about it..a familiar story!! "It took fourteen months of hard work & lots of hard cash (don't tell the wife!)" says Dennis, "before the Wicked Lady rolled out into the world for the first time....completed." Dennis told

me that a friend of Shirleys (Dennis' wife) named the car but I'm still confused - was it Shirley or the friend that was the original Wicked Lady?!

Although the 2003 crew team of Bob, Karen & Eddie have now disbanded, Dennis is very grateful for their dedication, hard work & commitment over the last few years. It seems



that each had a key role in the success of the team -

Dennis

ensuring that the chute was repacked each year...whether it needed to be or not! (151 mph & he doesn't pull the chute!). Karen always running around keeping the team fed & watered, with one eye on the weather! Eddie rallying round with moral support and Bob,

who is a full time motor technician, spent all his time trying to keep the team in order at the meetings aswell as looking after the car. "He made a great job of the car but has a long way to go as far as keeping the rest of us in order is concerned" jokes Dennis! 2003 saw the team honoured with the 'Best ET' trophy for their 9.231 which came at the National Finals event in Santa Pod off a 9.84 dial in! But they were even more delighted with the 'Best Radical / Dragster' trophy for the 2003 season & it seems fitting that the crew leave on such a high.. Here's to low ET's in 2004!

Ultimate Update

Back dated cheques are no longer accepted for MSA events. Payment **MUST** be made with the entry form. Remember, entries for MSA events must be made at least 3 weeks prior to the event date.

Wet, Windy but smiles all round!

SCR saw it's first T n T of the season last weekend & it was great to be back. Plenty of Wild Bunch action & a few new faces. Team Twisted were there with 'Hell's Belle' & they had a great weekend staying until the end of Sunday & being rewarded with a 12.753 ET—their best yet. They're still not sure what sort of times they should be expecting from their 305 stock chevy but they're going the right way to finding that out very quickly!!!

The 'Backdraft' team were in full, glittering effect with a breathtaking paintjob & Crazy Chris pulled a nice, steady 9.625 ET to begin their 10th season of racing. Joe Stevens was out in the 'Back in Black' altered having completed a rebuild over the winter. Although he's got a way to go to catch Quick Draw Coulsell, Joe bagged the weekends 'Best Reaction' spot prize with a .640. Spirit of Drag Racing winners 'The Cunning Plan' proved they've put a plan & a half together being the very first vehicle on the race prepped track & running a PB ET of 11.621 right off the trailer!

Not content with that, the body came off & Tony ran a storming 11.330...a Cunning Plan indeed! The Loveridge's were along for the ride with the teams 'Herr X' slingshot. Pete got the car out for it's 1st pass on the Sunday recording a good 10.742 @ 124.31 mph. The good Dr - Tony Wynne-Jones won the 'Best Radical/ Dragster' spot prize with the always beautifully presented 'Welsh Raider 2'. Tony's quickest pass of the weekend was a 12.343 @ 114.80 mph. Another team that really did find gold after a long winters work were Colin, Bruce & Jennie with the 'Golddigger' slingshot who walked away

with the 'Best Slingshot' spot prize. You know it's going to be a good weekend when you take more than a second of your previous PB with your first run!!! The team left the weekend having achieved their first 11 - 11.837 to be precise! Fantastic! The Gibbs family were back with the newly named 'Witchcraft' slingshot. They say the beautiful



ABS sponsored car has some fine tuning yet to come but produced a best of 12.929 over the weekend. Andy Solley made the long trip to the first T n T event with his 'Repeat Offender' altered. With the nitrous off he achieved an 11.493 @ 115.98 getting quite close to a new PB but was just short! Steven Field, another newcomer to the WB caught everyone's eye with his Plymouth bodied coupe altered 'The Black Pig'. Despite ending the weekend with a gearbox problem, Steven ran down to a WB debut of 13.091. The car has yet to sport it's full finery of graphics but has already impressed winning the 'Best Altered' spot prize. 'Destiny' & Sid Slattery



found the fire up road a few times but the weather kept them from making a run over the weekend. 'Mailkey Dragster' is the renamed ride of Paul Harvey who put in a full checkout pass of 10.198 @ 132.35 mph securing spot prizes for 'Quickest ET', 'Fastest MPH' & was chuffed to bits to take away the 'Best Engineered' title for the event. And last but by no means least Matt Lee with the 'Worth the Wait' slingshot bombed off the trailer with an 11.625 ET & on the Sunday ran a PB MPH of 118.11 & they clinched 'Best Appearing Team' spot prize.....is it fun to be back I THINK SO!!

THE WILD BUNCH DRAG RACING ASSOCIATION

"Against the Clock"
41 Frederick Thomas Road
Cam
Gloucestershire
GL11 6LY

Phone: 07796 937869
Home : 01453 546238
Email: sarah.howells@tradeteam.com



www.the-wild-bunch.co.uk