

The Wild Bunch Drag Racing Association proudly presents

Against the Clock

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Page 3 pull out & keep 2005 Wild Bunch Calendar!

Welcome the new kids on the block!

Editors Note
I had a whole different speech worked out for this editions 'Editors Note' ... but that was before hearing the sad news of Ian Roddy's untimely death.
Ian had raced with the Wild Bunch for a number of years & I am sad to say that I personally didn't know him very well ... but I wish I had. From all the tributes that have been left on the website, it's obvious that he was someone who people respected & loved for many different reasons not least for his warm and friendly personality. He will be sadly missed.
The original speech was about Xtreme Wheels, a corker of a show in February - page 2 for that write up. You'll already have received your pre-season packs from Claire but the details of the new D.R.A.G format are on the back page for you to get to grips with!



Alice

Luke Bennett is certainly no stranger to the drag racing scene. The son of Frank Bennett, he was pretty much cleaning his Dads "Phantasm" ford pop as soon as he could stand up! Now Luke is out to start his own history & towards the end of last season, he bought the "Hot Dog" altered of Gareth Kent & promises to come flying out of the starting blocks!

He's already had his first drive in the car at last years Hot Rod Drags. Already confident about staging & how the tree worked, Luke listened to his Dads advise to 'feel the car' on the first run & poodle on down the strip. He did just that & ran to a 17.60 ET. The run, in Luke's words ,was "not spectacular but I wasn't worried about my times & was intently taking advise from Dad who said to use the next run to try a harder launch & run the car til about half track". The car still has a manual gearbox so Luke launched at about 2500 rpm, did exactly as Dad had suggested to an end ET of 13.70! Evermore comfortable with the arrow straight car, Luke's best ET was a 13.20 @ 98mph.



With a name change from "Hot Dog" to

"Devils Advocate", Luke is now in the middle of a total rebuild on the altered & spending all his hard earned cash! "I'm looking forward to the race season ahead as I love it too much for words! Everyone that I spoke to at the Hot Rod Drags was so friendly & it'll be great to run with a bunch of people that will always help one another out and if anyone ever needs my help at the track then just ask - I'd be happy too". Careful Luke, they'll be a queue!

Another newcomer to the Wild Bunch is student Adam Charnley - the creator of Cougar Racing. In September last year, Adam started a motor sport engineering course at Swansea Institute of Higher Education & set up Cougar Racing. Now the team are 5 people strong & working on the car as part of their university degree and of course to have a bit of fun! Struggling to find a suitable name for the car, the team launched a competition and came up trumps with *P.R.E.D.A.T.O.R!* Powered by a 350 Small Block Chevy, the intention is to keep the car standard to start

with & then add some modifications to see how quick they can go without "having to switch to silly fuels or NOS"! The team have already secured an impressive sponsor in Frankley CLC (City Learning Centre) a "centre of excellence" which provides young people today with the skills needed for tomorrow's technology". Predators former life spans back to a Roland Pratt Hillbilly funny car, Dave Stones "Tee Rat" and then on to be called "Tantrum". Adam bought the car last Easter & since then he's been stripping down the bodywork, removing the wood & generally re-



building! There's a new paint job in the offing from No Messin' Paintin' who specialise in custom paintwork. "They've even branched out & painted the common room fridge which now sports flames & chequered flags" says Adam!
Luckily the plan for Predator is satin black with silver, blue & purple. It sounds stunning

We've long stopped believing any sort of decent drag racing weather can be expected at the last weekend in October in the heart of Shakespeare countryside & last years Halloween Showdown didn't dispel the myth! We were met by determined winds - determined that at least one gazebo would end it's days in the bin, never to see a race track again! Lots of spooky happenings over the weekend, not least the costumes worn by Team Twisted & the pumpkin carved by the D.A.S.H team & supporting kids! Saturday was a practice day and the weather was cool, cloudy & damp, although it didn't rain! The track didn't dry enough for the Wild Bunch to run so we had to wait til Sunday. Sunday was similar, but a bit drier in the air, so the Wild Bunch were straight into the queue!

Joe Stevens ran his "Back in Black" altered, having finished Runner-up in the Wild Bunch & Real Steel series he was keen to finish off with some good numbers! He put in a pass of 10.181 @ 130.36 mph & followed it up with a 10.07, improving, but not yet the 9-second pass he's looking for but 'Smokin' Joe' won the "Smokiest Burnout" spot prize! Tony Smith was in "The Cunning Plan" altered, having just been crowned Wild Bunch Champion after the "Fall Nationals". He

Halloween Showdown

started with an 11.637 followed by a strong 11.590 & an 11.719, all at over 111 mph. We'll look forward to seeing him out as WB 1 next season! "Crazy" Chris Hartnell was still looking for the elusive 8-second pass & trying to crack the 150 mph barrier in the "Backdraft" slingshot at the end of his 10th season of racing! A 10.053 proved to be Chris' fastest run ever, with a 146.37 mph speed. In the absence of any RED's or Radicals, Chris was awarded the

"Best Dragster/Radical" spot prize by the commentary team! Pete & Gavyn Loveridge were sharing the driving in the "Herr X" slingshot. The team dressed up for Halloween

night & won a prize of a season ticket for the racetrack next year - great stuff! Gavyn ran an 11.171 @ 124.29 mph. Alec Coe was another driver hoping for some good numbers with the team Mad R's "Shy Torque" slingshot! He posted a 10.505 @ 127.09 mph on the cold track, with a "Quickfire Reaction" of .156. He later im-



proved with a 10.181 @ 131.92 mph. The "Hell's Belle" altered was, for one weekend only, in the hands of Dean Smythe! Taking his first runs at Shakespeare, he was keen to improve on his 20, 18 & 16-second passes he run months ago at Pod. He came straight out with a 13.194 @ 97.80 mph! Followed by passes of 13.187 & 13.053 @ 97.86 mph maybe Helen will have a fight on her hands for the driving seat?! The team won the

"Spookiest Appearing Crew" spot prize for their fantastic Halloween crew attire! Darryl Howells was in the DASH Racing "Chemical Reaction" slingshot, fresh from its ap-

pearance at the "Classic Car Show" at the NEC in Birmingham where he had the car on display on the NSRA stand. Lifting the wheels, Darryl recorded an 11.895 @ 124.69 mph, & another 11-second pass on his second run. The car won the "Best Slingshot" spot prize & DASH Racing won the "Best Appearing Team"

award, sporting their team wear, even in the cold weather!! Steve Field, in the Plymouth-bodied coupe altered "The Black Pig". Steve was just back from an inspiring trip to the California Hot Rod Reunion. Steve wanted to try out the new gearbox, before putting the car away for the long off-season. Unfortunately, Steve didn't make a run on Sunday so the test on the box will just have to wait! Alan Broughton was having his first ever drive in the "B-Sting" altered, making him the 5th driver of the car this year! He was raring to go & posted a 14.812 @ 82.26 mph on his first pass. He improved on his second run, recording a 14.078 @ 89.55 mph, earning himself the "Best Performance" spot prize. The car also won the "Best Altered" spot prize.

The team also did their own live version of 'Guess Who' with the entire B-Sting & Cunning Plan teams dressing up as a mysterious old ghost in a white boiler suit & hairy mask. 'He' wandered round



the pits leaving everyone scratching their heads as to who it really was! It was a spooky old night to end another great season!



Xtreme Wheels - the show that everyone's STILL talking about!



Xtreme Wheels - **the** show set in the grand surroundings of Alexandra Palace! It certainly brightened up an otherwise dull February!

Chris Hartnell & Claire Meadows certainly had a great time displaying "Backdraft",

meeting their ever growing group of drag racing friends & seeing all the great machinery on display! They met up with the original owners of the slingshot when it was built as "Malibu Express". Claire says "it turns out that the owners wife was one of the first full time female crew members in the sport back in the 70's & she used to pack chutes for 4 different teams"! Another welcome edition to the Backdraft library were several

pictures of the car in the guise of "Pink Panther". They were given to the team by Junior Oley whose Dad was the second owner of the slingshot. Junior is soon to drive the Nobby Hill "Houndog" funny car! Unknown to Chris & Claire, the

weekend was to bring them more than interesting chats with interesting people, it would see them honoured with the "Anya Yates with you all the way Memorial Trophy" presented by MC John Price. The award is in the



name of the young Shakespeare County Raceway marshal who died aged just 21. Her sister Sophie & Sophie's husband Bruno (Sanderson-Brown) present it in Anya's memory. They try to choose people they be-

lieve Anya would have wanted it to go to, she loved the characters of Drag Racing & those who, like herself, put so much time & effort into a sport she loved.

"We remember Anya fondly &

with great respect" says Claire. "We're very privileged to receive a trophy dedicated to her memory & would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of Anya's family for this honour which we were truly overwhelmed & humbled to receive. It's quite some-

thing to receive an award as special as this for participating in a sport we love so much & are passionate about & enjoy working hard for. We would encourage anyone who had ever thought about taking part to have a go and

get involved in any way, be it driving, crewing, marshalling, or simply cheering on the racers. Just to have fun being part of the quickest and best motor sport on earth is really very special!"

Another Wild Bunch member, gentleman racer & T Shirt extraordinaire, Colin Stevens, was proudly displaying his beautiful "Goldigger" slingshot alongside his fantastically well stocked Hot Rod T's stand!

With the massive amount of organisation, determination & dedication a show on this scale must take, a big thank you to Terry & Tina Gibbs, Bob & Cathy Glassup for having the guts to take the risk that motor sport enthusiasts would come out & support it.....which I hope the ticket sales will show we did.

If you missed out on a trip to Ally Pally this year then make sure you don't miss out next year! There's lots to see with different aspects of motor sport represented & Xtreme Wheels 3 will be looking, I'm sure, to be even bigger & better again!



WILD BUNCH Nostalgia Drag Racing



MARCH

19th & 20 Season Opener Test & Tune SCR

APRIL

2nd & 3rd Club Day Test & Tune SCR

16th & 17th Power Nationals (MSA) SCR
ULTIMATE POWER R1, REAL STEEL R1

MAY

14th & 15th American Car World Nats (RWYB) SCR
WILD BUNCH R1, REAL STEEL R2

29th & 30th UK Open Nationals (RWYB) YORK
WILD BUNCH R2, REAL STEEL R3, ROY WILDING NOSTALGIA RACE CARS R1

JUNE

18th & 19th Shakespeare Nationals (MSA) SCR
ULTIMATE POWER R2, REAL STEEL R4

25th & 26th Summer Nationals (MSA) SPR
WILD BUNCH R3, REAL STEEL R5



JULY

2nd & 3rd Nostalgia Nationals (RWYB) SCR
ROY WILDING NOSTALGIA RACE CARS R2

16th & 17th Mini Weekend / Club Day (RWYB) SCR
WILD BUNCH R4, REAL STEEL R6

AUGUST

6th & 7th UK Northern Nationals (RWYB) YORK
WILD BUNCH 6, REAL STEEL R7, ROY WILDING NOSTALGIA RACE CARS R3

27th - 29th Allstar Nationals (MSA) SCR
ULTIMATE POWER R3, WILD BUNCH R6, REAL STEEL R8

SEPTEMBER

17th & 18th Hot Rod Drags (RWYB) SCR
ROY WILDING NOSTALGIA RACE CARS R4

OCTOBER

1st & 2nd Sportsman / National Finals (MSA) SPR
WILD BUNCH 7, REAL STEEL R9

15th & 16th Club Day Test & Tune (RWYB) SCR
REAL STEEL R10

29th & 30th Halloween Showdown (RWYB) SCR



In memory of Ian Roddy



10th Anniversary 2005 Championship Dates

PHOTOS BY



Life really will be a D.R.A.G!

It's all change in the world of Wild Bunch R.W.Y.B calculations! Team Twisted member Dean Smythe has come up with a new approach - Deans Real Average Gap (D.R.A.G). The old method used percentages to establish the racer closest to their dial in whereas D.R.A.G deems the winner as the racer who records the lowest average difference to dial in.

It's calculated by summing up the difference to the dial in on each run and then dividing the total by the number of rounds. ET's over or under the dial in are treated equally but measures the cars performance on the error margin in seconds rather than as a percentage which will give us a fairer assessment of consistency. The best way to see how it works is to put it into practice so here's a couple of examples. Both use the same figures to show each method.

Car A		
	<u>Previous Method</u>	
Dial In		9.70
Run 1		9.80
Run 2		9.65
Run 3		9.52
Run 4		9.78
Dial In for 4 runs		38.80
Total of all runs		38.75
%		99.871%
(difference in time over 4 runs) - 0.050		
	<u>D.R.A.G</u>	
	Actual Gap	Actual Gap
	Actual Gap	(unsigned)
Run 1	0.10	0.10
Run 2	-0.05	0.05
Run 3	-0.18	0.18
Run 4	0.08	0.08
Sum of gaps		0.410
Real Average Gap		0.103

Car B		
	<u>Previous Method</u>	
Dial In		9.70
Run 1		9.90
Run 2		9.55
Run 3		9.45
Run 4		9.88
Dial In for 4 runs		38.80
Total of all runs		38.78
%		99.9485%
(difference in time over 4 runs) - 0.020		
	<u>D.R.A.G</u>	
	Actual Gap	Actual Gap
	Actual Gap	(unsigned)
Run 1	0.20	0.20
Run 2	-0.15	0.15
Run 3	-0.25	0.25
Run 4	0.18	0.18
Sum of gaps		0.780
Real Average Gap		0.195

So there we have it, the workings of D.R.A.G which the Wild Bunch will use for all RWYB events throughout 2005. The system will be reviewed & it's future use confirmed at the 2006 AGM.

If you have any questions then please ask!

Wild Trumps are coming ... honest!!

www.the-wild-bunch.co.uk

WILDBUNCH Nostalgia Drag Racing

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2005 Wild Bunch 10th Anniversary

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Remember the old 'Top Trumps' game we used to play as kids? Well I thought it might be a giggle if we had our own Wild Bunch version, so here they are - Wild Trumps & on our 10th Anniversary too! I'm hoping to get a card for each of our cars & get them ready for the Power Nationals in April. We've had some great interest in them already so make sure that I've got your very best stats to ensure that they'll at least be up to date for the start of the season!! They're pretty basic so don't get too excited but any money raised will go straight to the Meningitis Research Foundation. If you haven't already done so then please send me a lovely photo of your car & the specifics as set out on the example so you too can be a Wild Trump!!

The Cunning Plan



**Team Cunning Plan
Comp Altered Mini Van**

Engine: 360ci Chrysler
Fuel: Super Unleaded
Best Reaction: .520 (400 tree)
Best ET: 11.33 (Body Off) 11.56 (on)
Best MPH: 118 (Body Off) 114 (on)
Best Achievements:
2003 Garlits Spirit of Drag Racing

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