

The Wild Bunch Drag Racing Association proudly presents

Against the Clock

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Editors Note

As ever, the season is starting to fly along before us! There's going to be a mass invasion of new and revamped Wild Bunch cars over the next few events with teams like Mad R's, B Sting, Roy & Angi Wilding, Cougar Racing, The Dogs Bollocks ... all champing at the bit to get to the track! We've actually got a progress report on B Sting - check out page 3!

The much promised 10th Anniversary Wild Bunch T-shirts are available from Claire - be warned ... they're fantastic & I reckon you'll want more than one of them! At £10 a go to Wild Bunch members they're a great way to commemorate our 10th year!

One last thing before I go ...

This coming weekend sees the track debut for another member from the stable of Hartnell racers! Mark, who turned 17 last November, will go from crew to driver at the American Car Nationals with his 'Awesome 4-some' pinto powered slingshot. Everyone at AtC would like to wish him all the very best.



Alice

Backdraft's golden numbers!

2004 saw C & C Drag Racing enjoy their 10th anniversary with the beautiful Backdraft slingshot. Every now and then, Crazy Chris Hartnell - driver & nostalgia nut - would allow himself the dream of an 8 second run at 150mph. Sometimes he'd even share that dream with those around him and when the dream looked like it might become a reality, he dialled the slingshot in accordingly! But 2004 was not going to be the year of the 8. Despite sporting a rather impressive injection system, Backdraft came close but with a 9.126 was just denied. That was this time last year but from then on Backdraft suffered numerous bouts of engine damage & breakages. The 355ci small block was irreparable & consequently replaced by a 377ci. Even that was lucky not to suffer serious damage but Chris remained positive & decided to swap the

smaller, trusted injection system back on but the season ended with the 8 second run & 150mph just out of reach.

Chris was awarded Best Slingshot in 2004 at the end of season Wild Bunch Dinner Dance. It was the 4th time in a row that he'd been honoured with that particular award and it makes him very proud. Getting ready for the 2005 season was quite different - the larger injection system came out again and the car was prepared over the winter but rather than race meetings, Backdraft would appear first in two static shows ... in two different countries. First came Xtreme Wheels where Chris & Claire were awarded the "Anya Yates with you all the way memorial trophy" for their dedication to drag racing. Shortly after, a container bound for Finland beckoned! Along with the 'Pandemonium' Gator County Dodge of

fantastic show with Backdraft displayed at the front of a long line of historic drag cars. Chris was undeniably extremely proud to be a part of it. Over 60'000 people visited the show over the 4 days which is staggering!



Because of the decision to take the car to Finland, Chris missed the first two RWYB events of the year. His first event was the Power Nationals at Shakespeare County Raceway and it was here that the dream became a reality. With the first run out of the trailer just over 10 years of hard work and a lot of fun turned into sheer delight.

On April the 16th 2005, Backdraft, in the trusty hands of Crazy Chris Hartnell powered it's way to a run of 8.885 at 150.03mph! What a way to start the season!

Break out the champagne ... well the Jack Daniels anyway!!

Congratulations Chris - you did it!!



Real Steel R1

The third meet of the 2005 season but the start of the Real Steel and Ultimate Power championships! A two day event with a reasonable weather forecast lay before us. Unfortunately a cloudy & cool start with a wet track on Saturday morning delayed the kick off til noon but all 7 Wild Bunch cars made the two qualifying rounds on Saturday, here's how the weekend took shape. 2004 Wild Bunch Champion Tony Smith was running in "The Cunning Plan" Minivan altered. He recorded an 11.621 @ 112.10 mph on an 11.52 dial-in & then a slightly closer 11.615 to qualify in 4th place.

Mike Cresswell dialled in 11.30 with the "Living the Dream" slingshot which was on double duties with the Baldwin's also running in Pro ET! Mike ran an 11.416 @ 115.13 mph & then an improved 11.357 to finish in 3rd spot.

'Crazy' Chris Hartnell was in his first outing of the season, after the team's recent trip to display the "Backdraft" slingshot at the American Car Show in Helsinki, Finland. He dialled in at 9.10, just under his previous PB and went straight out to run an amazing 8.885 @ 150.03 mph! Major celebrations took place on the start line - it was the magic num-



8.885 at 150.03 mph

bers that Chris had hoped for since buying the car! Many congratulations to Chris & the whole team on a dream come true! With a loss of traction on the launch of the second run, the back up of the 8 wasn't to be had

... Mike Davis and Linda White-Jones were out in their pinto powered "Trespasser" slingshot at the York raceway meeting in early May. Team Hector crew chief Linda took her long awaited turn as driver for the weekend & pulled a more than credible 13 second pass at 107mph! "I started trying too hard" says Linda "and after that the ET's weren't so good but I

Power Nationals 16th & 17th April at

at this meeting ... but, you know, you've got to leave something to aim for at the next event! Chris qualified in 7th place & took away the "Fastest MPH" spot prize! Helen Smythe was in Team Twisted's "Hell's Belle" altered. She dialled in at 12.90 & ran a great 12.947 @ 99.35 mph, just .047 off, which



Number 1 qualifier Helen Smythe in Hells Belle

proved to be the #1 Qualifying mark! Helen's second run was another good 12.95! Sarah Howells was accompanying the Evolution Racing team's "Destiny's Angel" altered down the track at her first MSA event in this car. She dialled in at 9.50 & ran a 9.725 @ 145.03 mph chasing Crazy Chris' wheelie bars! The second run got the number two qualifying spot with a PB 9.548 @ 143.08 mph. Steve Field in "The Black Pig" altered was looking for the 10 second runs of the previous RWYB event. He dialled in at 10.70 but ran an off-pace 12.811 for his opening bid. His second run was an improved 11.273 to qualify in 6th place. Dave Ward was back in the beautiful "Rampage" radical funny car. Not knowing what the car would run with the new engine Dave dialled in at 11.00. He posted a breakout 9.618 @ 133.74 mph!! Fantastic! Many congratulations to Dave & the team! His second run brought a

9.608 @ 136.01 mph off a 9.40 dial in, qualifying 5th overall.

Race Day Sunday started off sunny & cool but the clouds grew as the day went on. All 7 Wild Bunch cars had qualified & there were due to be 3 good races and a bye in the first round ... which was already the quarter-finals!

The first pairing saw Mike Cresswell facing Steve Field. Steve recorded his first 10 of the weekend with a strong 10.753, but brokeout on his 10.95 dial-

in. That handed the win to Mike who ran 11.434 off an 11.35. Next up, Tony Smith versus 'Crazy' Chris '8 second' Hartnell! The start was a close run thing with Chris' .193 reaction to Tony's .196, but after that it was Tony all the way. With an 11.720 off his 11.60 dial-in to Chris' 9.172 @ 146.83 mph off his 8.80 dial-in. Chris was awarded the "Best Slingshot" spot prize by the commentary team for his first 8, first 150+ mph run and great appearance ... is that Chris' appearance or Backdrafts?!! In the closest race of the round, Sarah Howells posted a strong 9.596 at a PB speed of 145.79 mph to grab a lucky win by just .021 ahead of Dave Ward's 9.625 on a 9.55 dial-in. Dave & the team were very pleased to be awarded the "Best Radical/ Dragster" spot prize by the commentary team for their gorgeous 9 second funny car & Sarah and the Evolution team took home the "Best Altered" spot prize for

Ultimate Power R1

their great performance and further PB's. Finishing off the first round was Helen Smythe with a bye run by virtue of be-



Destiny's Angel sneaking through.

ing Number 1 Qualifier. She recorded an off-pace 13.396 on a 12.90 dial-in. The Twisted team won the "Best Appearing Team" award for their smart purple shirts, fleeces, caps, umbrellas, and everything else that they could possible turn purple!! Well done to them, they really were well turned-out!

The four semi-finalist's were in the fireup road waiting their turn when the weather broke & the rain came down! It didn't let up, so time was called on the event. Such a shame, as we were sure to see more exciting racing in this round with Tony & Sarah matched up, as well as Helen and Mike...I guess those races will keep!

We were still able to declare a result for our Wild Bunch **Real Steel** Series based on the difference from dial-in of the four quarter-final winners. Mike Cresswell emerged the victor as he was the closest being just .084 off his dial-in. Sarah Howells was second with Tony Smith third and Helen Smythe fourth.

All in all, a good event frustratingly cut short by the weather! Thanks again to all the hard working marshals and officials for their efforts. We are now looking forward to the first WB Series round of 2005, our "Spring Nationals", at the "American Car Nationals" mid-May, where we expect to see a really big field of Wild Bunch!!

... while up't north

had the third fastest reaction time of all the competitors for the whole weekend!" A great achievement & with Linda finding the whole thing "very addictive" it won't be the last time that driver & crew chief swap places! The weekend ended on an unfortunate note with the Trespasser demons this time striking the teams military style pack strapped to

their trailer containing their race suits. It parted company on the way home. The team aren't naming the guilty packer but would be grateful to hear if anyone has chanced across the package, a small reward is being offered and you can contact the team on

hector@sew-cool.co.uk

The team is back out at the www.software-partners.co.uk



Linda at the controls of Trespasser

end of May bank holiday event in York but will there be a fight for the driving duties?! We will wait and see!

'B' Warned!

A number of teams are yet to come out this season with new cars waiting in the wings ... one of those teams is B Sting and they have a message for us all!!

"We're not far off" says team manager Paul Croston. "Our various work commitments & a short wait for a welder slowed us down a bit but we're back on course with the sting. We've got some panelling left to do & an axle to source but other than that we're there or thereabouts!" Paul told me that the team have extended the chassis to make the wheel base 110 inches and with the nose being radically altered, the car is to undergo a "closed beehive" (*shut in the teams party tent once in the pits!*) approach when it does venture to the track for the first time! "We're thinking about charging an entrance fee for you lot to have a look at the Wild Bunch 10th Anniversary winning car from the front" jokes Paul "if only so we can make some of our money back!"

With a brand new 363ci small block motor housing Keith Black rods & pistons, a 2 speed transmission & high stall torque converter, this car has been built to fly! Running on water & with a multitude of gauges keeping an eye on the performance, the teams test pilot is still to be decided but with a powerful launch between 4'000 - 4'500rpm they'd better have their pilots licence!

The team are still searching for a 9 inch Ford axle to replace the old Westminster which failed to cope with last years power let alone this years! If anyone can help then please get in touch with Paul or myself through the Wild Bunch website or the telephone numbers for "AtC".

There's a possibility that the team will be out for the York meeting at the end of May & with a knowing smile Paul says "That will be a two meeting head start for the rest of you ... and then we'll **B** back

BEE WARNED!!"

Real Steel Series

POINTS AFTER THE FIRST ROUND

1st	Mike Cresswell Living the Dream	7 pts
2nd	Sarah Howells Destiny's Angel	5 pts
3rd	Tony Smith The Cunning Plan	4 pts
4th	Helen Smythe Hell's Belle	3 pts
5th	Chris Hartnell Backdraft	2 pts
	Steve Field The Black Pig	2 pts
	Dave Ward Rampage	2 pts

Wild Bunch 10th Anniversary Personal Bests!

In just three events, Wild Bunchers are sure going crazy with the PB's!

Here, in no particular order are the ones that we know of...so far!

Joe Stevens with the Back in Black altered threw down a 10.02 in the first RWYB of the year. Joe has been campaigning Pro ET this season as well!

Lee Hartnell ran a best ET of 12.145 @ 113.46 mph in his Dazed & Confused altered.

Helen Smythe got even quicker with the reactions, her best is now .144!

Steve Field stormed to a 10.574 best ET & 126.42 best mph!

Tony Smith moved his 'body off' PB's to 11.300 with a mph of 116.18.

Rita Coe took over the controls of son Tom's Psycho slingshot to a brilliant 12.20 @ 111mph ... on her 2nd ever drive!!!

Sarah Howells is still on cloud nine with a 9.54 @ 145.79 mph in the Destiny's Angel altered.

Crazy Chris Hartnell stormed through with the amazing 8.885 at 150.03mph in the Backdraft slingshot.

Dave Ward brought Rampage back out to a superb 9.618 @ 133.74 mph.

If yours isn't mentioned let me know & I'll make sure it is next time!

Twisted Adventures!

They've eaten an apple from an Evolution racing team chair, been snapped in The Black Pig's trailer, taken a ride in a Ford Focus & now they're at it again! Pooky & Penny those cheeky crew bears from Team Twisted have twisted in the house of 'red'! Yes it's Crazy Chris Hartnell who's been well and truly 'twisted' this time! Penny was so



excited with his 8 second run that she rushed to congratulate him but had to make do with a sip from the strange smelling mug (*JD & coke?!*) & a quick pose in his sunglasses! But ... what's this ... additional security is being placed in the "Living the Dream" slingshot of Mikey Cres-

well?? Yes, it's true! The team, who recently experienced a raid by the "twisted ones", have employed a 24hr security dog called "Satan" to protect their vehicles & their crew! Mikey says "following the disgraceful & sordid behaviour from the two very twisted members of the Wild Bunch, we feel we must take these extra precautions!" Bunchers - stay alert!



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NEXT ISSUE DUE JUNE



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



In memory of Ian Roddy

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



10th Anniversary 2005 Championship Dates

PHOTOS BY



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