

The Wild Bunch Drag Racing Association proudly presents

Against the Clock

Volume 2, Issue 5
Aug 2005

2004 Best Achiever The man in Black

Editors Note

All hail Custom Car & LA Racing, for Commuter cometh to the Allstar Nationals at Shakespeare County Raceway! Along with Money Hungry & various others, Commuter is set to line up within a static display at the 3 day event over the bank holiday weekend during August! Having only seen this car in back issues of the previously mentioned mag, I can't wait!

Earlier in August, on the 6th to be exact, many of the 'Bunch' will be at York Raceway for the Northern Nationals but there will be one team of notable exceptions. 'Mad R's' of Shy Talker fame will instead be in full attendance at the wedding of Tom Coe & Jenny Archer, recipients of the 2004 Daddy Cool Personal Achievement award. On behalf of the Wild Bunch, AtC would like to wish them a lovely day with a very long & happy marriage.

 *Alice X*

"Smokin" Joe Stevens has been racing with the Wild Bunch for 5 years. The straight talking man from Trowell near Nottingham has slowly but surely made his mark within the Bunch & this year has ventured out into Pro ET aswell. His 23 T styled 'Back in Black' altered, which he built from scratch himself, has been making ever more consistent passes and at the Santa Pod Summer Nationals he made his long awaited first 9 second run. The cheer that went up from tower side was pretty huge & was mirrored by the rest of the Wild Bunch watching from just before the finish line! It was the first of three 9 second runs in one day. A 9.974, followed by a perfect dial in 9.970 & the final 9.934. 'R' Joe was firmly in the 9's!

lent achievements I'm sure you'll agree.

Joe's racing this year in Wild Bunch RWYB events but he's also campaigning the car in the national Pro ET championship and so far so good! It's always a huge field, sometimes 32 cars, but with improved reaction times & excellent accuracy with his dial in's he's currently equal 6th in the championship overall and more than holding his

the 9 second run at Pod took the long awaited opportunity of a wind up on Joe & arranged the prank!

Now Joe isn't afraid of a bit of 'banter' himself but he's also not afraid of helping people out either ... but ssh, that's a secret! We don't want to ruin this roughy toughy image that he tries so hard to keep! FrEQ Racing are just one of the teams that Joe's recently helped out, owner driver Mikey



Back in Black into the 9's at Pod

Cresswell had this to say about his fellow racer. "I've got great respect for Joe. As a racer he's very competitive & a bit scary but he's also great fun to be around; his big mischievous smile has become a regular sight in the pits over the years. We were struggling to get the car running properly

In 2004, Joe won the 'Best Achiever' award. The reasons for this were simple, not only did he attend all 14 Wild Bunch bannered events that year but he had worked hard to try to achieve personal bests & win events. He ran over 137mph & a best ET of 10.007 at the very last event of the season. He won three meetings & over a dozen spot prizes including four Closest to Dial In, four Best Burnout & two Number One Qualifier trophies. He succeeded in winning the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Car Series for the third year in a row and came 2nd in Ultimate Power, Real Steel & Wild Bunch. All excel-

own! 2005 Wild Bunch success came with his recent win at the Nostalgia Nationals. It was a pleasant surprise to hear his name called as the winner - he didn't think that he'd done that well! It kind of made up for the shock he got whilst relaxing on his back in the fire up road when over the tannoy came 'Joe Stevens, please report to pit control where Geoff Martin is waiting to see you!' For some time now Joe has been sending 'chassis taggers' away with a flea in their ear with the comment 'When I've run a 9 you can take a look!' SCR scrutineer Glenn Stockton was well aware of this & since hearing of

but Joe helped fix electrical problems & loaned us an air filter - the combination worked & I ran my best ET yet! Typically a great Wild Bunch character!"

There are different paths that Joe's talking about for the future. Coming back for a full Wild Bunch year in 2006 or continuing the split between Wild Bunch & Pro ET or maybe even building something bigger & better for another class altogether. Sadly for us there's also the possibility of a year out crewing for long term crewman Mark with his Camaro so I guess we'll wait & see but for now ... Fair shout on your 9's & go get 'em Floyd!



Cor blimey govnor, what a scorcher! 8 Wild Bunch cars took part in this 'so hot should've been sunbathing on a beach' extravaganza! Short, sweet & pretty much to the point - here's the inner most details! Fresh from his victory at the York Spring Shootout was young Tony Smith in The Cunning Plan. He grabbed the 3rd place qualifying spot. Mike Cresswell played tunes on his dial in to hit the high note on the third run with an 11.547 @ 108.44 mph, just .047 off his 11.5 to take the No. 1 Qualifier Spot in Living the Dream! 'Crazy' Chris Hartnell was hoping for some more 8-second passes in Backdraft. His best was a 9.108 @ 147.99 mph putting him 5th qualifier. This was Tony Wynne-Jones' first outing of the year in his beautiful Welsh Raider 2 after having installed a new 462 ci Pontiac engine in the radical Corvette. He qualified in 7th place, but was really happy to have made the show for Sunday! Darren Law was in his first race of the year in the beautifully-painted Wicked Lady rear-engined dragster. He dialled in at 9.75 & with a 10.009 he qualified in 4th place. Sarah Howells was running in Bernie Nicholas' Destiny's Angel altered. With a 9.695 @ 141.24 mph she qualified in 2nd place. The Black Pig of Steve & Lesley Field was again piloted by Steve. With initial problems Steve managed to qualify 6th. Trace Froome & his team worked hard trying to iron out



Next stop, Santa Pod! Another 7 Wild Bunch entries - 2 withdrawals as sadly the new slingshot of Mad R's & Trace Froome's Sunburst funny car were not quite ready. Despite some wet stuff we were delighted with 2 qualifiers on Saturday & another Sunday morning. Tony Smith was leading both the Wild Bunch and Real Steel Series in The Cunning Plan. He qualified 5th with his 2nd run but his 3rd would be an oh so close breakout of 11.515 on an 11.52! Qualifying 3rd was Mike Cresswell in the Living the Dream slingshot. Crazy Chris Hartnell was looking for his first 8 second run at Pod in the Backdraft slingshot. He dialled in at 8.80 & hit the spot on the 3rd run with an 8.898 @ 149.93 mph to qualify in 2nd place overall. Tony Wynne-Jones was running his Welsh Raider 2 radical Corvette. After coping with some teething / 'flaming' carb problems he managed a run on Sunday morning to qualify in 6th place & make the show! Team Twisted had installed a brand new engine in Hell's Belle, a 420 ci small block chevy! Driver Helen put down two 12 second check out passes on the Saturday so lowered the dial in for the last qualifier on Sunday morning. Crew chief & husband Dean told Helen that 'full throttle' was allowed and full throttle is what she gave! Ready for this?! Off an 11.90 dial in, Helen put in a 9.472!! This had the whole Wild Bunch

Shakespeare Nationals

gremlins with their Sunburst radical Funny Car. Unfortunately, they ran out of time to get in any qualifying passes on Saturday & didn't make the competition on Sunday. That put 7 cars in the field - first up, Destiny's Angel v Backdraft! Chris ran a new PB of 8.884 ... so at least he went out on a PB with Sarah taking the win & advancing to the semi's. Next saw The Black Pig v The Cunning Plan. Unfortunately, Steve was shut down after the burnout with a small oil leak, leaving Tony to solo & take the win with an 11.860. On a bye run for being No. 1 qualifier, Living the Dream and putting in a 'Closest to Dial in' 11.542 off his 11.50, he was safely through! In the third race, Welsh Raider 2 faced The Wicked Lady. Sadly, Tony had problems before staging & could not make the run, handing the win to Darren, who went on to run a 10.424 on his 9.75 dial in, reaching the semis in his first ever MSA competition.

The first semi-final saw Living the Dream taking on The Cunning Plan. Not too much difference in the dial-ins on this one, with Mike at 11.35 & Tony at 11.75. Tony recorded an 11.854 to take the win over Mike who posted an 11.732. The other pairing, Wicked Lady v Destiny's Angel saw a breakout 9.863 off a 9.90 for Darren giving the win to Sarah.

That put The Cunning Plan & Destiny's Angel in the Final. Tony's an hold hand at this finals lark but this was Sarah's first! It was the initial meeting of what may become a new classic matchup between the two altered! With bounce from both, Tony recorded a 12.433 on an 11.75 dial-in, whilst Sarah cruised to the win with a 10.022 on a 9.75 dial for her first MSA competition! Excellent stuff! Spot Prizes also went to:

- Best Altered - Destiny's Angel
- Best Slingshot - Backdraft & Mr Entertainment
- Best Radical/Dragster - The Wicked Lady
- Best Engineerd - Destiny's Angel
- Best Reaction - Tony Smith (0.164)

It seems the heat affected the performance of most of the cars over the weekend, with the times being slower by a couple of tenths in some cases, but we did all enjoy the sunny June weather! Thanks to The Black Pig team for the shade of their tent, and several of the crews who were cooling each other down with water sprays. We would just like to say a huge thanks to all the hardworking marshals and officials, and especially the fire crews for all their efforts over the weekend in the heat! Cheers, we really appreciate it!



Santa Pod

Summer Nationals

buzzing!! She qualified 7th but really couldn't have cared less!! What a run!!

Darren Law was in his first race event at Santa Pod with the gorgeous Wicked Lady rear-engined dragster. He ran his first 9 at the Pod with a strong 9.908 & qualified in 4th place. Sarah Howells was running Bernie Nicholas' Destiny's Angel altered for what was also her first ever event at Pod! With a 9.573 @ 142.48 mph she qualified numero uno! Neil Ward entered the event with the Andromeda slingshot but a problem with a rear main oil seal meant that he was unable to run either Saturday or Sunday.

And so to Sunday's competition - Destiny's Angel on a bye run, dialled in 9.47 & with a 9.512 she was safely through. The first race of the round saw a match-up with The Cunning Plan versus Backdraft. Chris dialled in at 8.80 & with a nice wheelie ran an awesome new PB E.T. & Speed of 8.747 (*like the plane!*) @ 151.08 mph. The breakout gave the win to Tony who with a strong 11.538 on an 11.50 would've been very hard to beat! The next race saw Living the Dream paired up with Welsh Raider 2. Tony ran his best yet, an 11.784 @ 113.67 mph, but Mike took the win with a good 11.599 in a very entertaining heads-up race. The 3rd race of the round was The Wicked Lady versus Hell's Belle but Darren couldn't fire, so Helen soloed to the win with a 9.673. Semi Final time saw Living the Dream advance over Destiny's Angel with Sarah running a

breakout PB of 9.470! Mike was in the final at his first event at Pod! In the other semi, Hell's Belle got a little out of shape resulting in a 10.004 @ 128.65 mph off her 9.60 dial. Tony sailed to the win with a solid 11.546 on his 11.50 dial in. The final saw an excellent match-up between Living the Dream & The Cunning Plan. With their dial-ins very similar, 11.50 to an 11.48, it proved a great race from the start, as they posted reaction times within one thousandth of each other! And the race remained close up to about the 1000ft mark when Mike experienced a small misfire, and recorded an 11.786, whilst Tony took the win with an 11.555. Many congratulations to Tony, as this is the first time he has ever won an MSA event, after previously reaching 3 finals! Helen finished 3rd for the event & Sarah took 4th. Spot prizes also went to:

- Best Dragster/Radical - The Wicked Lady
- Best Altered - Destiny's Angel
- Best Slingshot - Backdraft
- Fastest MPH - Crazy Chris Hartnell
- Closest to Dial In - Tony Smith (.038)
- Cock Up award (ref dial in!) - Helen Smythe

With Backdraft & Destiny's Angel (*thanks Chris!*) putting in a 'demo' run amongst other racers, the strong performances & the weather turning in our favour, it was a great event for the Wild Bunch!!

Nostalgia Nationals

Ever popular, this great event brought masses of fun & the debut of two fabulous new cars. 'Shy Talker' the much awaited new blown slingshot of the Mad R's team plus Roy Wilding was back with a brand new 'Chariot of Fire' altered which he had just finished building for wife Angi. Get yourself a cup of tea & settle down for a good read!

Crew Chief of The Cunning Plan, Dave Williams, was taking his first turn in the hot seat after a couple of years break! Even though the team didn't arrive until Sunday morning, they were quickly scrutineered, signed on & made it down to the fire-up road while the rest of us were still in bed! Ok, so that's a lie, but they didn't hang around! Dialling in blind at 11.60, Dave's come back was temporarily cut short when an oil cooler bypass pipe broke. Luckily, they soon had it fixed & Dave put in a PB of 11.720 @ 111.85 mph followed by another PB 11.557. Nice one! Mike Cresswell was running the 'Living the Dream' slingshot but still having some misfiring & gear problems so turned to Smokin' Joe for some help who, as always, came up trumps. Mikey finished with a great new PB E.T. of 10.982 @ 115.90 mph in the last round! This was his second ever 10-second run so congrats to the FreQs, who ended the weekend on a high note but just missed the top 4 by finishing in 5th place overall. Wahey!! "Crazy" Chris Hartnell split the weekend between crewing for son Mark & stunning everyone with the teams nostalgia extravaganza 'Backdraft' AND 1963 Chevy pickup turned 'dragster pushtruck'! With a push pad fitted front bumper, and a long pushbar with a wheel to the back of Backdraft, it was Scottie & Zak who were in charge of pushing the car down the pits, and into the pairings lanes, just like teams used to do in the 60's! It looked really cool! Claire dialled Chris in at 8.97 for Sunday's rounds - good job too as the runs of 8.950, 8.826 (which won him a special spark plug trophy from the NSRA for the "Quickest Wild Bunch car"), 8.989 and 8.840 put Chris in 2nd place overall, his best result for some time! He was also awarded the "Best Burnout" spot prize! Mark Hartnell was at his second event this year in his 'Awesome 4-Some' slingshot. He'd spent a lot of time on the car since the last meeting - new gearbox, new shock absorbers etc. Mark dialled in 14.00 even for Sunday's rounds & started with a 14.271. Then came a PB ET 13.633 plus a new PB mph of 99.95 followed by a 13.759. The last run saw him paired up with Dad Chris, he ran another PB E.T. - a 13.561, also at 99 mph! Awesome 4-Some finished in 4th place & Mark was amazed, then even more thrilled when he was awarded the "Driver's Choice" spot prize! Well done, Mark! Mad R's Alec Coe & Kev Mortimer really had reason to be cheerful this weekend, for they arrived with their brand new methanol-burning 'Shy Talker' blown injected slingshot built by B&J Nostalgia. The car looked brilliant, the shine from the blower only being matched by the team's smiles once the car was declared race ready!! Having spent Saturday in the pits firing up & working on

finishing touches, the team did try for a run but just missed out with teething problems in the fire up road. On Sunday morning they dialled in 10.00 & when the car pulled round onto the strip you could've heard a pin drop ... if it wasn't for the beautiful note of a methanol burning blown injected slingshot! On what was a supposed 60ft pass, Alec decided that the car was strong, the run was straight & is big foot was staying down until ohhhh I'd say half track! With a 9.993 @ 113 mph, just .007 off his dial, the run earned him the "Closest to Dial-in" spot prize! The next pass was a strong 9.262 @ 144.51mph! Definitely quicker & faster than Alec had ever gone before, and still not using the car's full potential! Two great checkout passes & a lovely turned out car won Alec, Kev & the Mad R's the "Best Slingshot" spot prize! Welcome home guys! Helen Smythe was running the Team Twisted 'Hell's Belle' altered, fresh from her 9-second runs at the Pod! Having decided to back off the speed, Helen recorded a more modest 10.222 @ 135.89 mph but the 10's didn't last & she was soon back with a 9.943 @ 136.35 mph!



Luckily for Helen but unfortunately for the next days runs, the team noticed a puncture in one of the rear slicks. Despite their best efforts no one could fix it so they had to spend their Sunday watching, which they thoroughly enjoyed but would've preferred to be out there in the thick of it! Roland Willats and his 'Dragin Time' slingshot put in a couple of passes on Saturday in the 13's & cracked the 100mph barrier for the first time! Dialling in 13.00 for Sunday he went straight out to run his first ever 12-second pass, a 12.925 @ 101.40 mph. He didn't stop there & went on to run a PB E.T. of 12.771 @ a PB mph 103.22! Well done, Roland! Great result! Colin Stevens was back in his beautifully turned out 'Golddigger' slingshot. He dialled in 12.10 & the car ran better than expected, a great 11.758 @ 112.76 mph! Sadly, he broke the diff on the next run & was sidelined for the rest of the event. Get fixed & come back soon. Big mention from Colin to the more than helpful guys from Moving Parts who

provided him with crew all weekend. Phil Sweeney was back in the 'Antisocial' slingshot & dialled in 13.50. His closest run was his third with a good 13.650 @ 95.83 mph & he finished in 8th place overall for the weekend. Lee Gallimore & 'The Fury' slingshot dialled in at 11.00 even for the rounds. He immediately came out with a new PB E.T. of 10.764 taking .536 off his previous PB & running 117.74, a new best mph! Lee finished 6th, thoroughly enjoying his weekend's racing. It was great to see Andy Solley & the team back with 'Repeat Offender'. Dialling in at 10.20, Andy posted an 11.679 & then a better 10.271 in the second, much closer to his dial, but unfortunately with a red light. On came the nitrous & he ran 9.848 @ 134.97 mph & 9.975! Great to see you all again! Steve & Lesley Field were running their 'Black Pig' altered. Their season got a whole load better with this weekend with Steve's first ever 9-second pass, a superb 9.722 @ 140.27 mph, which was also Steve's first trip into the 140's! Fair play! This run earned him the 'Most Improved E.T.' spot prize having taken .575 off his previous PB! With lovely wife Lesley choosing Sunday's dial in at 9.90, Steve ran really close with a strong 9.874 @ 140.49, a 9.995, a 10.030 & a 10.331. The last run was, however, another new PB for speed, a great 141.20 mph! There was another bonus to come, as Steve finished in a good 3rd place overall, oink oink!! Mike Davies & Linda White-Jones were looking for some fun in their 'Trespasser' slingshot, having fixed a gear problem from the York Spring Shoot-out. They fired the car up in the pits on Saturday, and after that unfortunately experienced a clutch failure, so could take no further part in the event. We really hope they can fix it soon. Roy & Angi Wilding's new 'Chariot of Fire' altered is stunning! Roy took to the driving seat for its first event putting in checkout passes of 13 & 11-second runs on Saturday. He dialled in 10.50 for Sunday's rounds & consistently ran in the mid 11 runs to finish in 7th place. The car looked wonderful in bright green with checkers & purple flames with great attention to detail. This was rewarded with the 'Best Altered' spot prize! Welcome back, Roy and Angi!! Sid Slattery was running his lovely Jag-powered 'Destiny' slingshot after his Top 4 success at York. He fired the car up in the pits on Saturday but sadly (luckily) noticed some metal filings in the oil. He stripped part of the engine to find a spun bearing. He was unable to run at the event so put the car back together & set up his pit display which did look brilliant in the sunshine of the weekend. And so to our winner! Fresh from his 9 second runs at the Pod, Joe Stevens was 'Back in Black!' He made several low 10-second passes dialling in 10.10 on Sunday. Consistent as ever, Joe recorded a 10.147 @ 128.49 mph, followed by a 10.168. He kept this consistency up, posting a 10.143 & a 10.154, to finish with an average difference from dial-in of just .053 & won the event! Fair play, Joe! The first place trophy came with a Nick Pettitt "Time Travel" DVD (many thanks to Nick the extra prize)! Fantastic event for the Bunch!!

Auction without the Drag!

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Sun Jul 21 02:03:36 2005

Paul Harvey of the PLP Solutions drag racing team has been in touch to tell us about their new Drag Racers Auction Site.

Run by Drag Racers for Drag Racers; Team PSP SOLUTIONS Internet Service Providers; and Drag Racers, present a quick new Auction Service, with all the features you would expect from similar sites, but not as costly.

They promote simple charging structures, no closing fees & the ability for you to auction any item up to £49.99 for FREE (Images uploads cost £1.00).

All the prices are clearly visible on the site AND you get an initial £1.00 credit towards your first Auction Listing, so your first Auction Item listing of £49.99 is absolutely free!!

You can sell your items with pictures and accept Credit Cards for instant automated payment via PayPal.

If your item does not sell at the first attempt, re-list it for free! Buy items, pay by Credit Card, all automated! Visit & register at www.PSP-2GO.co.uk

..... & as for Paul's rear-engine dragster he says he's just got their Alloy Cleveland engine back from the US of A so current time is being spent getting that into the car! He's hoping to be out some time soon, if not later this year then definitely next. It's going to be a rare 1968 motor up-rated to a 410ci but with only a third of the weight for a cast iron block. 1968 engine - 1975 chassis & body Something truly special indeed. Best of luck to Paul & the team!

Gadgets Glossies!

Check out Gadgets Glossies website run by Graham Motler. It's great for drag racing associated photos with a completely different feel!!

I originally found the site through Eurodragster & whilst wandering around it saw a cou-

ple of pic's of Edd's camaro! Graham had taken them whilst it was parked in front of our beloved Destiny's Angel & Chemical Reaction!! You might be another one of Wild Bunch that he's snapped so have a look!

If you're interested in Graham tak-

ing a photo of your car & giving it a totally unique feel then get in touch with him as he's now selling them at a very reasonable £4.99 each.

When you do get in touch with Graham, be sure to mention you're a Wild Buncher!!

www.gadgetglossies04.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk



Just two of the current photos on 'gadgets glossies' site.

Also check out 05 which is all the Thorney Island stuff from this year!



Mini Showdown

The Mini Showdown saw a welcome return for Darryl Howells in the DASH Racing 'Chemical Reaction' slingshot with their newly rebuilt Hartnell Gold block! & we also welcomed newcomer Les Stephenson, appropriately debuting in his Mini-bodied altered 'Top Cat'! It was another hot one & went something like this ...

Tony Smith was back behind the wheel of 'The Cunning Plan' mini van altered. He put in 4 good passes on Saturday even trying for a 5th noticed a whisp of smoke so shut down. Back in the pits they discovered a couple of bent valves. Phew, that was lucky! Tony had spares & the team spent a couple of hours sorting it all out. He dialled in 11.70 starting well with an 11.724 @ 108 mph then an 11.705, finishing with an 11.807 to win the event! He's increased his lead in both the Wild Bunch & Real Steel Series! Fair play, Tony! Well worth all the hard work Saturday night!! 'Smokin' Joe Stevens was running his 'Back in Black' altered. Still looking for the elusive 9 at Shakey, he played it cool with a 10.15 dial in. 10.107 @ 129.33 mph, 10.097 and a 10.294 to finish a more than respectable 4th place overall (only just though Joe I was right on your tail!) Having loads of fun in the 'Living the Dream' slingshot were Mikey Cresswell & the FreQs! He ran a PB E.T. of 10.964, with a day's best speed of 116.23 mph on Saturday but missed the first round on Sunday with starting problems. They fixed it & joined in for the remaining two. Lee Hartnell was back in his 'Dazed & Confused' altered, one of a trio of Hartnell cars here. All looked well with a couple of 12 second passes but Lee realised something had broken in the diff & was sidelined for the rest of the event. A great shame! "Crazy" Chris Hartnell began Saturday crewing for both of the boys before getting in the hot-seat of his 'Backdraft' slingshot. Saturday saw him getting out of shape on both of his runs which left a bit of a guessing game for his dial in! Chris opted for a 9.40 but promptly went out & ran a strong 8.912 @ 148.95 mph!! With a 9.881 @ 146 mph & a final 9.447, he finished in 9th place overall. The youngest in the Hartnell trio was Mark in his 'Awesome 4-Some' slingshot. Fired up from his first Top 4 placing at the Nostalgias, he was hoping for more PB's. Mark recorded a 14.677 @ 93.80 mph on he first run against brother Lee but had some tuning problems. The car sounded better at the start of the second run but the 17 & then the following 18 second runs told a different story. A blown head gasket put Mark out of the race too. He hopes to strip down & re-gasket the engine in time for the Hot Rod Drags. The debut of Les Sanderson's 'Top Cat' full mini-bodied altered was perfectly timed for this event! He had finished building the car just in time! Les couldn't make it until Sunday so dialled in blind with a 13.42. Good friend Gareth Kent took the first couple of runs in the car, to test everything out recording a 21.237 & a 20.906 @ 44.71 mph. The car had some teething problems, which unfortunately meant Les didn't get a run. He was amazed to win the 'Best Altered' spot prize by the commentators, for being

'Bold and Adventurous'! Welcome to the Wild Bunch! Tony Wynne-Jones was back running his beautiful 'Welsh Raider II' radical Corvette, after fixing some problems from the last event. He put in several passes on Saturday, including an 11.977. He dialled in 11.70 for Sunday & posted a 12.018, a 12.014 & a 12.235. Tony was thrilled to be awarded the 'Best Radical/Dragster' spot prize for the weekend, & finished in 10th place. Kev Mortimer, Alec Coe & the Mad R's team were back with their new methanol-burning 'Shy Talker' blown injected slingshot. Alec put in an early pass on Saturday of 9.842 @ 139.96mph, losing some traction during the run. His next run of the day netted some long-hoped for figures, as he ran his first 8-second pass at over 150mph, an 8.959 @ 151.08 mph!! The team dialled in with a 9.00 for Sunday & Alec drove to a new PB E.T. & Speed of 8.870 @ 154.88 mph! This jump in speed also won Alec the "Most Improved MPH" spot prize. Then it was son Tom's turn! Not one to miss the full extent of an opportunity he posted an amazing 9.090 @ 157.14 mph! We need a new sign for their pit 'No checkout passes here'! The commentators choice of the spot prize 'Best Slingshot' went straight to Tommy Gun alone, with the comment querying whether the 'old man' had been kicked out of the seat already! But Alec was back in for the final round which was a swerve & a half to miss the guard rail! For his great driving job, he won the "Wildest Ride" spot prize! Well done to all the Mad R's team on a brilliant weekend! Helen Smythe was driving the Team Twisted 'Hell's Belle' altered, arriving fresh from husband Dean's graduation ceremony, where he'd been awarded his Automotive Engineering Degree! Helen was consistent with low 10 second runs throughout Saturday so dialled in 10.35 for Sunday's rounds. She started off tentatively with a 10.466 but then posted a better 10.315 @ 128.07 mph, & a really close 10.368 to finish in 2nd place overall! The team were also won the "Best Appearing Team" spot prize for their smart appearance & their total attention to team wear co-ordination! Another great weekend for the team & thanks for an ace party Saturday night! Roland Willats had arrived early Sunday for some more fun in his 'Dragin Time' slingshot. With a 12.77 dial in he was hoping to beat his PB from the Nostalgias. He started with a 13.289 & went on to run 12.856 @ 102.05 mph followed by a 12.917 to finish in 7th place overall. Darren Law was back running 'The Wicked Lady' rear-engine dragster. The team dialled in at 9.75 for Sunday's rounds, but the car experienced gearbox problems, with Darren running a 10.568 & a 10.732. The team had to park the car, & will surely diagnose & cure the problem in time for their next event. Sarah Howells is having more fun than a barrel of monkey's this year in Bernie Nicholas' 'Destiny's Angel' altered! Bernie dialled her in at 9.70 for Sunday. Starting well with a 9.724 @ 141.61 mph followed by a 9.791 & a 9.828, Sarah finished just outside of the Top 4 in

5th place, a mere three thousandths of a second behind Joe (an average of .081 versus .080! So close but as Joe would say 'not close enough!') Phil Sweeney was running in the 'Antisocial' slingshot. He put in several passes on Saturday, ranging from a 13.9 up to a 16-second pass as he experienced carb problems. He did manage to gain his MSA license though so congratulations to him! He dialled in hopefully at 13.80 for Sunday & having taken some advice from other Bunchers managed to cure the problems to put in a much improved 13.375 @ a new PB Speed of 97.81 mph, all the hard work paid off! Neil Ward & the team were out with the 'Andromeda' slingshot. Neil ran well on Saturday, posting a 9.726 @ 131.75 mph, a 9.859, and a 9.729. Unfortunately, the team found a broken lifter or two & made the decision to replace the whole set, hopefully in time for the Allstars. Darryl Howells is back in the beautiful 'Chemical Reaction' slingshot, with an engine newly rebuilt by Crazy Chris (Kiitos!). Darryl spent some of the day in the pits running the engine in & crewing for wife Sarah. He did put in a checkout pass of 12.107 @ 108.35 mph, just for starters! Dialling in 11.50 he ran 11.472 at a new PB Speed of 131.02 mph, his first time over 130mph! He was too hot to trot so missed the 2nd round but came back for the third with an improved 11.027 @ 130.44 mph! Welcome back DASH racing!! Steve & Lesley Field's 'The Black Pig' altered was looking for more 9's! Steve came close but stayed in the 10.0 so dialled in 10.05 for Sunday's rounds. And so came the 9-second passes! 9.969 @ 138.65 mph & 9.946, before posting a close 10.034 to finish in 3rd place overall! Steve 'Jacko' Taylor was in his 'Claustrophobic' rear-engine dragster. He had brought the car up late on Saturday, so dialled in blind at 13.00 seconds even, hoping for his first 12-second pass. He put in a 13.397 @ 101.35 mph but then got closer with a 13.176 & ended the day with a 13.288, to finish in 8th place overall. Roy & Angi Wilding's new 'Chariot of Fire' altered, was again in the capable hands of Roy. All seemed to be going well & the car fired up nicely in the pits but on Roy's first pass the engine let go without warning. Roy coasted safely to the first return road but back in the pits found the cam in pieces, twisted rods, a smashed oil pickup, and other broken parts. A huge shame as the car had looked so great, and it was so early on in its career. Sid Slattery was running his lovely Jag-powered 'Destiny' slingshot after he & the team had worked to fix the small amount of engine damage sustained at the Nostalgias. He also succeeded in gaining his MSA license on Saturday. Sid dialled in 11.63 on Sunday & recorded an 11.907 followed by a better 11.833 & an 11.878 @ 118.05 mph, with a nice little wheelie off the line! He finished in 6th place overall. Big smiles all round! Once again, another great weekend, with lovely sunshine and lots of track time!!

On Thursday 21st July, Ford Motor Company's Technical Centre at Dunton in Essex, held its first "Vehicle Enthusiasts' day". In layman terms, this was a "bring your car to work day" instead of a "bring your child to work day"! All 4000 or so employees were invited to exhibit any vehicle they owned that they thought might be of interest to their fellow co-workers ... so Dean Smythe of Team Twisted took along Hell's Belle! The cars were on show on the centre's test track, split into various categories. British pre-1980, Self Build, Americana, etc, etc. The cars judged "Best" from each category were selected by a panel and awarded a trophy & framed certificate. Guess who won the "Self Build" category?! Can't guess? Ok, keep reading! The minute that Hell's Belle got wind of the show, she was on the trailer and ready to go!! Amongst 80 cars, trucks & pick-ups displayed across 7 categories, only the Belle arrived on a trailer, everyone else simply drove in but that made her feel even more special! With the vehicles set out on display, Dean

changed into his team wear and set up a table with info sheets, photo's and Wild Bunch trophies. For the three hour show, Hell's



Dean & Hell's Belle

Belle ... and of course Dean, attracted a lot of people & questions, including the time honoured favourite of "how much do the tyres cost?!" There were many that had never seen a drag car in the flesh before and Dean took the opportunity to promote Drag Racing and in particular The Wild Bunch. Just to make sure no one got bored or forgot their up close & personal showing of Hell's Belle, Dean fired her up every half hour! Apparently, after the

first time, none of the others bothered starting their engines again! As one spectator reported "you drowned out everything else that was there, including the cars 200 yards away at the other end of the display!"..... way to go girl! The experience might also have been enough to encourage a few more new faces at the track as people were still talking about it the next day! It was certainly one of Dean's nicer days at work even though he did end up with a sore throat through so much talking about drag racing!

Do you really need more clues to guess who won the Best in Class for the "Self Build" category?! Noisy? Violent? The ride of your life?! (as it says on the back of the teams van - I'm not being rude!!) **Hell's Belle** - it just goes to show that drag cars can even win trophies whilst standing still!



Like the way the girl can pull a crowd!

Reminders Corner!

Wild Bunch 10th year T-Shirts

are selling fast so get yours quick!
They're available trackside from Claire & Chris at the Backdraft bus & can be yours for just £10!
That's right A TENNER!
Astonishingly good value & they're ace Just look at our models!



Hot Rod Drags Wild Bunch photo shoot.

Contact Sid or Sheena
(Destiny slingshot)
by email for more details.
sidsheena@hotmail.com

Wild Bunch Dinner Dance Saturday 26th November

Drayton Manor
Tower Ballroom
Annual presentation to celebrate this years Wild Bunch champs & the unveiling of the 2005 winners of the Don Garlits Spirit of Drag Racing shield.
3 course meal, disco, raffle
Tickets available from Claire!

And some

Most of us have, by now, been 'twisted' by those lovely but sneaky little bears Penny & Pooky! Well here's a couple more pictures of their recent adventures Have you been 'twisted' yet ... if not, look out ...they're coming!!



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NEXT ISSUE DUE SEPTEMBER