

THE WILD BUNCH
DRAG RACING
CLUB PROUDLY
PRESENTS

Against the Clock

Real Steel
PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Volume 2, Issue 1



January 2005

Editors Note:

There you all are - I've been looking for you to wish you a very Happy New Year!

Here's to a season full of great racing & sunshine in what is the 10th year of Wild Bunch racing.

We've got the pen-ultimate race report from 2004 & the honours list from the Dinner Dance ... front page deservedly goes to Tony Wynne-Jones & the back page.. your clue is 'On My Life'!

It would be great to hear your pre season reports - contact details as always are on the back page - then the star of the show could be you!



Alice

Raiders of the lost 'Vette

Known & respected throughout the drag racing community, Tony Wynne-Jones is one of the sports true gentlemen. Always willing to lend a hand or offer advice, in 2003 he was awarded the C&C Sportsman trophy for doing just that. His own season was far from trouble free, the receipt of the Perseverance award in the same year proved it wasn't! 2004 saw Tony honoured with the Best Radical / Rear-engine Dragster award for his current stead, the beautiful open top '64 Corvette. Powered by a 400ci Pontiac, the best ET to date came at last years 2004 Hot Rod Drags where Tony ran the car to an 11.251, his best speed was on the previous run of the same weekend - 121.23mph. It wasn't just 2003 that Tony has had to show grit, determination & at times downright bloodmindedness! 2004 wasn't that easy either & the 11.251 was hard earned! But the year definitely had it's big plus points - then fiancée (now wife) Lisa was bounded into the thick of it all too, even joining Tony on the long trip to York for her first ever drag racing event where Tony did a really strong launch & ran through with a 12.125. Unfortunately the end of the prop shaft & pinion broke through the finish & exited into the field accompanied by a big 'bang' which sadly put him back on the trailer. The problem was still hindering the performance at the Summer Nationals event at Pod & finally came to an oily head at the Mini Showdown! However, his new 11.251 PB seems to hint that the problem is now well & truly fixed!

Tony lists some of his achievements as being 7

time MDRA Car Champion, previously NDRC Top Gas Bike Champion, winner of several Welsh Motorcycle Championships & the winner of countless awards for being witty, charming, helpful, modest, multi-lingual, multi-talented, fearless, artistic, creative & having an ability to leap tall buildings in a single stride!! He says he may be a little confused about some of the awards but this is his 33rd year in racing & that in itself should speak volumes about his mental state!! His first ever race was at Oulton Park in May 1966 on a Ducati, he finished 9th & started to race regularly from August 1972 over the 1/4 mile.

He won no less than seven 'Best Radical / Dragster' spot prizes during the 2004 season and the 'vettes appearance & presentation is always perfect.

When AtC lowered the spotlight for the 'fingers on the buzzer round, excepting only your first answer' Tony came up with these!

What's your earliest drag racing memory?

One of the first Pod meetings (early 60's). Pubcrawler (now Sid Slattery's 'Destiny') was there!

Who have you most admired over the years?

Jody Nicholas who roadraced TR750 Suzuki's, flat-tracked Gold Stars, ex-Top Gun Navy fighter pilot in Vietnam & concert violinist at Carnegie Hall! That's talent! He inspired me to build & race a TR750. My son is named after him.

Other heroes are Jarno Saarinen & Renzo Pasolini.

What have you currently got in the garage as 'working projects'?

Underway - 4.2 litre quadcam V8 (Cosworth 16v topends on Rover bottom end), a 250 Bianchi and 350 Benelli race bike rebuilds, plus 462ing the 'Vette!

Has Lisa said she wants to drive?

No Lisa doesn't want to drive yet.

Bikes or Cars What's your favourite to take down the track?

Need to ride a bike now & again but the 'Vette does it for me!

Any unfulfilled dreams?

Not really, not since Lisa came along. I'm very lucky - I've got a wonderful wife, two smashing kids, a job I enjoy and a 'Vette that I get to race against some very nice people.

Tony, the pleasure is all ours!



The Good Dr celebrates his best ET with Tony



2005 WILD BUNCH 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The 2004 Bench Race Santa Pod National Finals were well attended this year by the Wild Bunch!! It was like a Saturday night when you're all dressed up but got no place to go! Okay so we did get one run even if it was unfortunately on the wrong tree (sportsman not pro) so 99% of us did see the end of the racetrack in fairness! There was everything to play for this weekend as it was the final & deciding round in the both the Wild Bunch & Real Steel championships. We were a field of 12 cars with more hanging in the balance for some than others! *Saturday* was as always a qualifying day and there were scheduled to be 3 qualifying rounds....well you can hope can't you!! With a cool & cloudy start following a downpour the night before, the track crew were out early drying the strip. Our one & only trip down the track panned out like this....

Mild mannered Joe Stevens was *Back in Black* with the burnout demon altered & keen to get on the track. He was lying in 2nd spot in both the Wild Bunch & Real Steel championships by just 1 single, solitary point Joe was here for serious business! Dialling in 10.24 he recorded a 10.478 @ 130.40 mph for his opening bid. This put him in 4th place ... all he could do now was sit and wait and wait and wait! The man with the 1 point lead over Joe (drum roll please) Tony Smith & *The Cunning Plan*. The fact that Tony was wearing

wellie boots instead of his race boots gave us no clue that he had insider weather control or knowledge!! Hoping to repeat the PB's he'd had at Shakey during the Hot Rod Drags, he recorded 11.699 on an 11.50 Dial-in putting him in 3rd place on the ladder. 'Crazy' Chris Hartnell & his *Backdraft* slingshot were brimming with pride having fixed some of the gremlins since the installation of the new Chevy motor. Dialling in a hopeful 8.80, not wanting to break out. Chris ran a very strong wheels-up pass of 9.228 @ 142.40 mph, his best run since way back in May. He recorded the "Best Reaction" on the *Sportsman* tree of .055. The run was Low E.T. & high speed

of the Bunch for the day and he qualified in 8th place overall. The team also took away the "Best Appearing Team" Spot Prize, awarded by the commentary team. Mark Coulsell was in his first Santa Pod event this year in the *Limited Funz* slingshot. He Dialled in at 10.50 posting a 10.841 @ 119.37 mph qualifying in 5th spot. Mark won the "Best Slingshot" Spot Prize for his blue and silver machine. Tony Wynne-Jones was running the *Welsh Raider II* Radical Corvette, fresh from some PBs at the Hot Rod Drags. He dialled in at 11.25 & ran an 11.732 @ 114.47 mph, to qualify in 9th position. Alec Coe was back in the *Shy Torque* slingshot dialling in at 10.25 for the first round, and recorded a good 10.302 @ 130.38 mph, which turned



out to be the "Closest to Dial-in" for the day. This also made him the No. 1 Qualifier so well done, Alec!! Helen Smythe was in her first MSA event at Pod with her beloved *Hell's Belle* altered. She dialled in 12.82, & ran a 13.245 @ 95.32 mph, somewhat slowed by the wind. Qualifying in 7th place, Helen was delighted to receive the "Best Altered" Spot Prize - her first of the year!! Darren Law & the *Wicked Lady* team had given the Rear-engine dragster a gorgeous new paint job, with really wicked-looking dark green sparkly paint. Darren dialled in 9.85, hoping to pick

up where he left off at the 'Mini Nationals'. He ran a PB E.T. of 9.687 @ 126.69 mph, the only PB & breakout of the session, earning him the "Closest Breakout" Spot Prize, being just .163 under. Darren was also awarded the "Best Dragster/Radical" Spot Prize, a unanimous decision for such a beautifully turned out car! Andrew Gibb was running the *Lil' Old Opel* Radical. He dialled in 12.20 & posted a good 12.307, into the wind, putting him 2nd overall for qualifying, a good performance. D.A.S.H racing were at their first Pod event with the *Chemical Reaction* slingshot. With a broken half-shaft fixed early Saturday morning (!), car & driver were raring to go. He dialled in 11.35 and carded a 12.328, qualifying 10th, and hoped to tune up the carb for the next run. Darryl was awarded the "Driver's Choice" Spot Prize, voted for by all the drivers

attending! Fair play, Darryl! Andy Murphy was back in the *B-Sting* altered, hoping to break into the 11's with the car as team manager Paul had done at the last event. He Dialled in a conservative 12.20 for starters, and posted a 12.564 @ 106.19 mph, qualifying in 6th place overall. Mike Cresswell was in his first event at Pod in the *Living the Dream* slingshot. He had trouble starting the car early on Saturday which unfortunately meant he missed the one and only Wild Bunch run down the track.

A few more classes managed qualifiers before the rain started about 2:30. The track crew worked tirelessly to get the track ready to complete the first cycle and start the second but the day turned cold and the track did not dry. The second qualifier was postponed til Sunday morning, which began cold and cloudy, and the start was again delayed by a wet track. There was the promise of a 2nd qualifier so we all towed down in anticipation as the track was nearly ready .. then came the drizzle and back to the pits we went. After about an hour of constant rain, the decision was given that the it was officially a rain off.

It was a good event, despite the weather, and a huge thank you must go to the hard working marshals & officials for their efforts and thanks to all at Santa Pod for making us so welcome!

Tony Smith has won the Wild Bunch Series for 2004, as well as the *Real Steel* Series, so many congratulations to him!

2005 WILD BUNCH 10TH ANNIVERSARY



The night of Champions 2004

Drayton Manor was again the venue for the annual Wild Bunch Dinner Dance. The evening saw a fantastic array of winners & enthusiasts alike with the usual hilarity that we've come to know & love from this particular evening!

Right on cue & keeping us on the edge of our seats were Baz 'n' Jerry with a stirring build up for each of the category winners! With the roaming radio mike Jerry was certainly set free to hunt out anyone inadvertently away from their seats 'at the wrong time'!

Guests of honour, Derek & Brenda Annable were proud to see the trophy they have donated be presented for it's 2nd year to Wayne & Janet Schrier. The trophy is awarded to a couple or partnership who are committed to drag racing. It can go to various different types of

people, from racers & commentators to spectators & fans infact any pair that demonstrate the family spirit of the Wild Bunch. It is a unique award in that the winners each year choose the following recipients. The 2003 winners - Roy & Angi Wilding - choose Wayne & Janet for their tireless efforts behind the scenes which help keep racers racing! Special people indeed!

A very popular choice on the night was the announcement of the years 'Best Newcomer'. This went to Helen Smyth of Team Twisted and they were absolutely delighted! Having won an array of spot prizes & event trophies throughout the season, Helen finished 5th overall in the Wild Bunch championship. With such a friendly, bubbly, sportsmanlike, enthusiastic attitude Helen & the team are a great

asset to The Wild Bunch & she shows great promise for this season too!

Mark Gredzinski was on hand to take photographs throughout the evening - I'm sure he will have one of your special moment of glory so please contact him to order a copy through his email address which is gredzinski@btopenworld.com

Just like last year, AtC will be featuring all of our winners - we've started with the good Dr, Tony Wynne-Jones who was the very well deserving winner of the Best Radical / Rear-engine Dragster.

And talk about planning ahead - the date has already been set for next years Dinner Dance - November 26th 2005 is sure to be another evening of sparkle & delight so put the date in your diary!



- FASTEST MPH
- QUICKEST ET
- FASTEST TIME BY A BRITISH ENGINED DRAGSTER
- BIG BANG TROPHY
- BEST NEWCOMER
- BEST SLINGSHOT
- BEST ALTERED
- BEST RADICAL/REAR-ENGINE DRAGSTER
- BEST TURNED OUT
- BEST ACHIEVER
- PERSERVERANCE AWARD
- DADDY COOL PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT
- C & C SPORTSPERSON
- DEREK & BRENDA ANNABLE TROPHY

- PAUL HARVEY - 'GOIN LOCO' RED
- PAUL HARVEY - 'GOIN LOCO' RED
- DAVE 'SAG' SOUTHWORTH - DADDY COOL
- SID SLATTERY - DESTINY
- HELEN SMYTHE - HELL'S BELLE
- CRAZY CHRIS HARTNELL - BACKDRAFT
- TONY SMITH - THE CUNNING PLAN
- TONY WYNNE-JONES - WELSH RAIDER II
- D.A.S.H RACING - CHEMICAL REACTION
- JOE STEVENS - BACK IN BLACK
- SID SLATTERY - DESTINY
- JENNY ARCHER & TOM COE - PSYCHO
- DARRYL & SARAH HOWELLS - CHEMICAL REACTION
- WAYNE & JANET SCHRIER



DON GARLITS 'SPIRIT OF DRAG RACING' SHEILD TEAM B-STING

NEW LOOK

The Wild Bunch are the very proud owners of a smart new web site thanks to Demon Scream & web master ace 'Ed' Yates. The new site was unveiled back at the beginning of the year & has plenty of new features for you all to get to grips with!

There's now a team page where you can update

www.the-wild-bunch.co.uk

your teams details & photos, a great message forum for tips & questions & general chit chat plus the usual links, the results pages & For Sale notices! It's full of info & a great way of us keeping in touch!

If you have any ideas or comments then email Ed at eddie@demonscream.com or Sarah at sarah@dashracing.co.uk



2005 WILD BUNCH 10TH ANNIVERSARY

On My Life

January 14th was the day that Custom Car made Crazy Chris Hartnell an even prouder man. For that was the day when the February edition of the magazine came thundering through fans letterboxes & the On My Life profile was all his! It makes terrific reading, is very honest & shows Chris in his younger days as a biker. I won't spoil it for you but you shouldn't miss out - get yourself a copy!

Rainout Credit

Anyone who entered the 2004 Santa Pod National Finals event is reminded that a rainout credit is yours to collect. The credit of £20, can be used to offset a race entry during 2005 or even against SPRC membership renewals. To collect against a race entry, indicate on your entry form that you are offsetting the rainout credit against the race entry fee. If you have any queries then please email Paula Marshall on 01933 313625 or paula.marshall@btconnect.com

Turn rubbish into success!

A new initiative being taken by Shakespeare County Raceway promoters LA Performance is the opportunity of advertising your company ... on the waste bins! "We have a high number of waste bins on site & to make them more user friendly we now have an equally

large number of plastic covers just waiting to have your logo printed on it" says Lee Child. If you require more information or would like to sponsor a bin (or bins!), you can contact Lee at lee@laracingparts.com or on 01803 554308.

Can you think of a caption for the Photo?



Getting Xtreme

The 2005 Xtreme Wheels International is a must for all motoring enthusiasts with an eye for the unusual and who breathe the fumes of the pit lane! Taking place at Alexandra Palace over the weekend of 19th/20th February, even Olympic champion James Cracknell is expected to be there & has already been seen in the hot seat of Bob Glassups altered. More info on



www.xwishow.com

LA Racing Parts announce Anniversary contingency

To mark the 25th anniversary of Lee Childs first drag race, LA Racing Parts is posting a contingency sponsorship for the 2005 Ultimate Power Drag Racing Championship at SCR. LA Racing Parts vouchers worth £50 & £25 will be presented to the winner & runner up in every class staged at the Power Nationals,

UK Nationals & Custom Car Magazine Allstar Nationals. Two simple rules - decals carrying the LA Racing Parts logo must be displayed on the vehicle & the driver must have made a purchase from the Paignton based company... & they say there is more to come!

SEND YOUR AGAINST THE CLOCK STORIES TO

"Against the Clock"
41 Frederick Thomas Road
Cam
Gloucestershire

Phone: 07796 937869
Home : 01453 546238
Email: sarah@dashracing.co.uk



www.the-wild-bunch.co.uk

Wild Bunch AGM

It's that pre-season time of year and the AGM is nigh! The meeting is to discuss amongst other things, this years race dates & of course the annual committee election. If you have any points that you want to raise at the meeting - please let Claire know by February 19th so that sufficient time can be allocated to you.

Sunday 27th February is the date - the venue is The Bell Inn at Belbroughton near Bromsgrove. AGM packs have been sent to all Wild Bunch members, the pack contains all the information & directions so we hope to see you there!

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LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

Diolch!

Happy New Year Wild Bunchers! Can I give a long overdue **Thank you** to some of my fellow racers for their help in 2004....Adam (Destiny) & Scottie - thanks for stepping in as crew. To DASH for repeatedly allowing us to hijack their streetcar to rush home on Saturday nights to fix / weld / repair some bloody broken 'Vette component! To 'The Cunning Plan' & DASH teams for rescuing and loading the little beauty when I charged off to hospital with Wayne after his crash & to Sarah for phoning Lisa to tell her it wasn't me who'd 'endoed'.

To all those who wished us well with the wedding, the house move and our future.

To all my fellow racers for their ceaseless encouragement in wanting that Corvette to fly. It will it will!

Have a great 2005, all of you!

Best Wishes

Tony & Lisa Wynne-Jones

Welsh Raider 2

2005 WILD BUNCH 10TH ANNIVERSARY