

The Wild
Bunch Drag
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Against the Clock

Volume 2, Issue 6
October 2005

Editors Note

First things first - a list of Congratulations!

To Lee & Sarah (Hartnell) on the birth of baby Liam Christopher on Friday 7th October. Liam weighed in at 8lb 4oz - an ET for Gramps to aim at!!

To Lynne, Mark & Josh Couzell on the birth of baby Harley Russell on Friday 14th October. Harley weighed in at 7lb 12oz ... as Mark said 'he's a 55 plate - brand new'!

To Joe Stevens on securing the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Cars series title ... for the 4th year in a row!!

To Mikey Cresswell & the whole of the FreQ racing team on the coveted WB1 for the 2006 season and

To Tony Smith on securing numero uno in the Real Steel championship.

Page 5 details an important change to the chassis 'tagging' rules of 12.99 second race cars. Please read!

On page 6, a short parish notice about getting your mits on Dinner Dance tickets!



Alice

The Black Pig - a treasure chest

Steve & Lesley Field make no apologies for the 'satin black' look of their fabulous Black Pig altered, in Steve's words "It's a hot rod - it's the law"!

The couple from Marlborough, Wiltshire have thrown themselves hook, line & sinker into the car since 'rescuing' it from the back of a friends garage. It literally was a case of 'well if you think you can do better then take it & try!' Clearly not one to turn down a challenge, Steve did just that!

The '33 Plymouth 5 window coupe bodied Competition Altered has quite a history, originally built in '77 & successfully campaigned by Reg Hazelton as Thunderbird. It was then sold on in the early eighties to Mick Hillier & turned into 'Pony Express'. Mick parted company with the original chassis & body, having built himself a more updated version, and these were bought by Neil Benson - friend of a certain previously mentioned Steve Field! And so began two years of trickery to get the car to the track ... but it was all supposed to be so simple! A 383 small block Chevy now proudly displays a set of alley AFR 220 heads & this set up has brought the team a best ET of 9.698 and a best mph of 141.42. It wasn't an easy journey, many

rarely are, but one of the easier decisions was joining the Wild Bunch which seemed the natural choice for the team & the car. Welcomed by all but made to feel instantly at ease by two old 'dogs' Ray Ford & Mark Turton, they were relieved to find such a friendly & approachable 'bunch'!

Events at Blackbushe



© Sharkman, www.topendtoies.com

were Steve's original introduction to drag racing back in '76 - *I wonder if he ever saw Thunderbird run back then?!* Lesley's first trip to the strip was a little while later & she never envisaged they would have their own! For the time being she may have chosen not to have a go behind the controls, but Lesley is still a major part of the success they have & not just in terms of dedication, commitment & support. Lesley is the chooser of the dial in's & at times doesn't even share them with Steve until the end of the event!

The Black Pig is a superb looking car & isn't short of admirers having been recently photo featured in an addition of 'Go Mini'.

The picture was taken at the Shakespeare County Raceway Mini Showdown event & was published with the caption 'crazy drag demons everywhere you looked'!

Steve's ambition is to build his own drag car & what a fantastic set of ideas he has too. The engineer turned carpenter has detailed drawings of his vision for the future & they look fantastic. The plans are still in the project stage but will almost certainly include the Enderle Injection system which Steve & Lesley purchased earlier on in the season.

What started as a seven strong team of mates at the cars very first tests has continued with Steve, Lesley and faithful crew, John & Heidi. John was a very lucky find some years back when Steve was looking for a place to build Lesley's Beetle roadster. John had some space in his 'workshop come barn' which Steve has since moved the Black Pig into & taken over completely!

Finishing in a credible 9th place in the Wild Bunch championship, they've all thoroughly enjoyed themselves with one of the highlights being the twilight racing at the recent Santa Pod National Finals!

So here's to one of our very own 'crazy drag demons' & whatever their future visions build!



Pig in a Puddle at Pod!

Way way way back in early August, on the same weekend as Tom & Jen Coe's wedding, many of the Wild Bunch were up at York whiling away another Saturday night clued to the 'big screen' watching the days racing!! It's fast becoming tradition to watch the days action with the SNS team! Long may it continue! Four notable drivers were missing from this event - WB1 Tony Smith had to revert to a Cunning Plan at his sons wedding and Chemical Reaction, Destiny's Angel & Shy Talker were all at the Coe wedding ... which meant that some calculated & competitive drivers were left alone at York to take a firmer grip on the points!

A field of nine WB cars were involved in the action - the quickest of the weekend was Crazy Chris Hartnell in the **Backdraft** slingshot. Running down to a best of 9.477 @ 146.13 against his 9.62 dial in, Chris was over the moon to finish in second place overall & at that point, take the lead in the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Cars Series. The breakage of the weekend went to Steve & Lesley Fields **Black Pig** altered. This superb car scored a York best mph of 136.27 on Saturday but on Sunday, having run a brilliant 10.939 on his 11.00 dial in, the steering arm broke on the second run. Car & driver were perfectly fine - just stranded at the top end! Despite this, the team still picked up the Best Altered spot prize & as you will read in the next reports are fixed & back on the track! 'Smokin' Joe Stevens lived up to his name in the **Back in Black** altered -

his crown of Burnout King is still firmly in his hands as was the 'Best Burnout' spot prize! Dialling in 10.90, Joe eclipsed this with a 10.383 in the first round which under the new D.R.A.G system put him unusually off the mark. He still managed fourth place though & did his points no harm at all! Team Twisted were fully supported this weekend with Mum Christine plus bears Pooky & Penny of course! They were the furthest travelled 'bunchers' of the weekend coming all the way from Wickford in Essex! The **Hell's Belle** altered was, as ever, in the more than capable hands of Helen but unfortunately the team missed the first & second round on Sunday when the Belle wouldn't fire. A dodgy starter motor was detected & they were back out for the remaining rounds running down to a York personal best ET of 12.010 @ 82.97mph. Not surprisingly the team looked stunning as always & were awarded the Best Appearing Team spot prize by the commentary squad! Sizzlin Sid Slattery & the teams glorious **Destiny** slingshot made some good runs & were maybe looking to better their fourth place at the previous York event back in May...which they did! Sid came third overall and was awarded the Best Slingshot spot prize! Fantastic - with runs down to 11.129 off his 11.26 dial in the SNS team were delighted! York regular Dave 'Sag' Southworth was back in the **Daddy Cool** rear-engined dragster. Having not run the car since fixing the engine problem earlier in the season, Sag made some initial 8th mile check out passes - with everything

seemingly ok he dialled in 10.30. With his second run he took the 'Closest to Dial In' spot prize for a 10.298! He was also awarded the Best Dragster/Radical spot prize and finished in fifth place overall. Great stuff. York favourite, Tony Wynne-Jones was back with the gorgeous **Welsh Raider 2** 'vette. Still tuning the new engine, Tony suffered misfire on a few of the runs but bagged himself a best 12.554 on the Saturday. The tuning continues! Pete & Gav Loveridge are just loving the new shorter version of the **Herr X** slingshot - they've never had such a busy season! Following the usual tactics of taking it in turns, Pete went first having dialled in 10.65 & ran a not far from the nose 10.60! Unfortunately Gavin lit up a cherry on the tree in round 2 but recorded a 10.489 in the fourth round. The car looked strong all weekend & the pair had a great time. Mikey Cresswell was having loads of fun in the Living the Dream FreQ Racing slingshot! Problems with a core plug leak affected Saturday but the team came out fixed & raring to go on the Sunday. Dialling in 11.24 he never strayed far from the mark & took the win of the meeting with all four runs being within a tenth of each other! Well done Mike - it puts you in 2nd place for both the Wild Bunch and the Reel Steel series!!

A small gathering for the Bunch but a great event with the weather on our side & loads of runs PLUS congraulations to Tom & the now Mrs Jenny Coe!



Wild Bunch website back on line!

Phew! Thank goodness the message forum is back, the gossip nearly stopped!! The untimely demise of the original internet service providers meant webman Edd slaving away for hours on end to set the site up again. It's now there, ready & waiting for you to log on, re-register, re-create your team page & get back in touch with all the Bunchers.

There's a caption competition going on at the moment which was started by John Munday of **Steel Fixing** fame. If you've got a cheeky caption for the photo of Dean, Helen & Dave from Team Twisted (left) then post it on the Wild Bunch website against the Gossip & Chat, A Good Caption for this Picture posting. You could be in line to win yourself £50 donated by John if your caption is judged funniest by Twisted Helen herself! John has also generously pledged another £50 to the charity of the winners choice.

Competition closes on the Friday after Halloween & the winner will be announced at the Wild Bunch Dinner Dance! Happy captioning! More about Steel Fixing can be found on

johnmundayracing.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk

www.the-wild-bunch.co.uk

October 29th & 30th - Shakespeare County Raceway

The Halloween Showdown's a ghostly affair with all the ghouls & witches there. Wear your costumes, don't miss the fun... who will be the scariest one!!!



Allstar Nationals

Another 3 day, spectacular event for Shakespeare County Raceway over the August Bank Holiday weekend! The Bunch had 5 qualifying runs split between Saturday & Sunday with the rounds starting on Monday. During the weekend our impressive stats included: 18 runs in the 11's, eleven runs in the 10's, seventeen runs in the 9's & nine runs in the 8's! Some strong performances to read about so keep going!! Tony Smith was running in **"The Cunning Plan"** Minivan altered. He was consistently in the mid 11's & qualified 3rd with a best 11.466 @ 112.90 mph. This weekend could see Tony overtake Sarah Howells at the top of the Ultimate Power table & take the championship!! Will he make it? Mike Cresswell & the FreQ's **"Living the Dream"** slingshot started with a strong 11.007 @ 119.13 mph, but on the second run the half shaft broke & sidelined him for the rest of the event - he was gutted but determined to be back with us real quick. 'Crazy' Chris Hartnell & his 8-second **"Backdraft"** slingshot were looking for more 150mph+ runs! His first at 8.956 brought 149.14 mph & was his best non-breakout ET of qualifying putting him in 7th spot. He surpassed his previous PB mph with one of his runs netting a 151.49 mph & a breakout to the tune of a wheels-up 8.782 @ 150.63 mph! Tony Wynne-Jones' was in his beautiful **"Welsh Raider 2"**. Saturday's first run still had misfire problems so Tony didn't come out again until the fourth round but put in a breakout & much improved 12.425 @ 108.99 mph. He qualified in 12th place. Alec Coe was back the Mad R's **"Shy Talker"** blown slingshot & their goal for the weekend was to run over 160 mph & deeper into the 8's. On the second run they did both with an 8.528 @ 164.49 mph! Qualifying in 11th place, they were all really chuffed with the car's performance. Helen Smythe was raring to go in the hot seat of Team Twisted's **"Hell's Belle"** altered. With a mixture of runs all in the 10's, Helen's best in qualifying was a 10.087 but that was a breakout so her 10.147 on a 10.08 dial took her into fifth spot! Darren Law & the team's sparkly **"Wicked Lady"** Rear-engined dragster missed the Saturday runs to be a family wedding, so Sunday was Darren's first run. He posted a 9.75 dial-in but came off the line too early not recording a time. Back out for the fifth round he posted a 13.137 @ 104.32 mph ... but he was in the show for Monday! Sarah Howells was running in Bernie Nicholas' **"Destiny's Angel"** altered. She was on the back cover of the event programme with a beaming smile & looking to keep Tony Smith behind her in the championship! She provisionally secured #1 Qualifier late on Saturday with a 9.610 on a 9.60 dial & hoped to cling to it during Sunday's rounds...which she did!! Neil Ward was back in the **"Andromeda"** slingshot. Running a best of the day 9.692 @ 135.20 mph the team decided it was time to turn on the NOS! Dialing in 9.00, Neil recorded a new PB E.T. of 9.320 @ 145.45 mph, also a new PB speed. Another PB followed with a 9.186 @ 145.19 mph to qualify in 9th place overall, but the

team were thrilled with how well the gas worked! Phil Sweeney was in his **first ever MSA** event in the **"Antisocial"** slingshot. He broke out in the first two rounds, his best a new PB 13.059 @ 100.27 mph



Not so Antisocial!

also his first time over the ton! Phil qualified in 6th place overall, so was quite pleased with that and rightly so! It was a welcome return to competition for Darryl Howells in the **"Chemical Reaction"** slingshot. PB's came thick & fast with a best of 10.187 @ 136.60 mph. Fair play, Darryl! He qualified in 10th place & was really pleased with the car's performance & the fact that he had more tickets than wife Sarah with 'Winner' on them over their races! Steve Field was hoping for some more good runs in **"The Black Pig"** altered. He & Lesley dialled in 10.05 for the first qualifier with Steve posting a great 10.090 @ 140.80 mph but there was better to come! A new PB of 9.698 @ 141.42 mph! Steve qualified in 4th place overall. Roy Wilding was in wife Angie's **"Chariot of Fire"** altered with a completely new engine after the last one expired at the Mini Nats in July. Roy started off with a checkout pass in the first round & missed the second with an oil pump pickup problem. His best non-breakout run of 11.964 @ 116.43 mph on an 11.80 dial put him in 8th place overall but he was just pleased to be back out racing. This was the **first ever MSA** event for Sid Slattery in his beautiful **"Destiny"** slingshot. He had to shut down on the first run with an oil leak but came back with a great 11.321 @ 111.32 mph off his 11.30 dial in. That put him in second qualifying spot! Fair play Sid! Trace Froome had brought the **"Sunburst"** Radical Funny Car out only to spend much of Saturday sorting minor issues. He joining in the third qualifier posting a 9.75 dial-in & running a troubled 14.780 @ 80.24 mph. They diagnosed starter motor & flywheel problems which couldn't be fixed at the track so Sunburst was sadly sidelined for the rest of the event.

And so to race day where a 15 strong Wild Bunch field were due to appear for 7 races & a bye. Sadly, Darryl & Sarah Howells had to leave the track due to a family emergency (but were back later in the day to support & cheer on the rest of the Bunch!) so **Round 1** went from 7 races & a bye to 3 pairs plus single runs. Tony Smith was due to face Darryl, so advanced with his 11.561 @ 111.72 mph solo run. Tony Wynne-Jones was matched in a close race with Helen Smythe. Helen took the win by .082 with Tony winning the "Best Radical /Dragster" Spot Prize & the toolbox prize from Mad

R's for the Closest Runner-up! Crazy Chris should've faced Trace Froome, but with Trace broken Chris ran through on a solo with a 9.360 @ 146.97 mph. Darren Law was matched against newcomer Phil Sweeney & Phil took the win with a 13.327 on a 13.12. Neil Ward was paired with Sid who had also unfortunately broken. Neil made further progress with the NOS, dialling in at 8.80 & running a PB 9.141 @ 146.24mph. Steve Field & Alec Coe should've been a great match-up, but Steve was forced to push back after the burnout. Alec ran a strong 8.699 @ a new PB speed of 165.11 mph! Roy Wilding was also on a solo pass as he should've faced Mike Cresswell. Roy ran an 11.983 on an 11.94 dial-in showing promise for the next round. **Quarter-Finals** & the first pairing saw Roy against Alec. Alec lost fire after the burnout leaving Roy to run solo but in compensation the Mad R's beautiful slingshot was awarded "Best Engineered" by the scrutineer. Helen also had a solo with no Sarah to race, she dialled in 10.08 running a 10.202 @ 129.47 mph. A classic match up of Tony Smith versus Crazy Chris saw Chris post an 8.95 dial & record a 9.045 @ 149.13 mph. He had a slight reaction advantage to take the win over Tony (*which crowned Destiny's Angel as this years Ultimate Power Wild Bunch Champ! Thanks Chris!!*). Neil Ward & Phil Sweeney were last to go, with Neil posting an 8.95 dial-in & running a PB E.T. of 9.057 @ 145.65 mph whilst Phil in the other lane ran a 13.418, but took the victory by virtue of a good reaction time! **Semi-Finals** the first of which saw Roy taking on Phil. Roy dialled in at 11.95 & ran his best pass of the weekend, a breakout 11.915. This meant that Phil took the win with a 13.281 on a 13.15. The second semi was due to be Crazy Chris against Helen, but Helen couldn't fire-up in the pairing lanes due to a starter motor problem. Chris dialled in at 8.95 & ran a strong wheels-up 8.928 @ 148.57 mph to reach the Final. Roy finished 3rd for the event and Helen took 4th place. This was Roy's first Top 4 placing with the new altered, welcome back, Roy!! **The Final** saw Phil, in his first ever, matched with 'Crazy' Chris, now in his second decade of racing! It was superb to watch as Chris dialled in 8.95 running a nice wheels-up 8.916 @ 145 mph but it was Phil who got the start line advantage with a "Best Reaction" of .101 & a Perfect 13.180 E.T. on his 13.18 Dial-in! Pretty impossible to beat!! He took the £50 **eurodragster.com** award for a Perfect Dial as well as the Wild Bunch "Closest to Dial-in" Spot Prize! A great result & the team also took home the "Best Slingshot" Spot Prize for their great showing! Sure to say it was a great Wild Bunch event all round with the Evolution Racing Team's "Destiny's Angel" emerging as overall Wild Bunch Ultimate Power champion for 2005!



This fantastic & notoriously busy event was an absolute beaut for many of the Bunch! 4 racers ran PB E.T.'s and 3 racers ran PB Speeds! We welcomed a new member, Lee Birch, in "The Collie-bosher" buick-powered slingshot recently bought from Lee Gallimore. We also had three sets of fathers & sons driving at this event plus the highlight of a Wild Bunch group photo shoot! 15 cars, drivers & teams assembled for the pic organised by Sid Slattery of SNS Racing as part of the Wild Bunch 10th Anniversary celebrations. Amongst these were 5 cars which ran in the very first full season of the Wild Bunch back in 1996! A ramble through the weekend's highs goes like this! Dave Williams was taking a turn driving "The Cunning Plan" altered on Saturday. He put in some good runs with a best of 11.654. Dave then handed the wheel back to Tony Smith for Sunday's rounds & Tony dialled in at 11.65. Spot on as usual, he started with a great 11.652 @ 111.72 mph, just 2 thousandths off his Dial! A good run in the second round was keeping him in excellent contention but in the third a deep red light showed on the tree & Tony didn't record a time for the run which put him out of the Top 4. "Crazy" Chris Hartnell was back in the "Backdraft" slingshot. Losing traction off the line on his first run to a 10.087 @ 144.36 mph, his second was only a slightly improved 9.960 @ 146.08 mph. Something didn't seem quite right so on the next fire up Chris did a compression test & found a cylinder down. The culprit, a blown head gasket forcing Chris to park the car for the rest of the weekend. There was some consolation however, as Chris has finished in 2nd place overall in the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Cars Series, so congratulations to him! Youngest Wild Buncher Mark Hartnell & the "Awesome 4-Some" slingshot sported a new engine, shiny new race-tuned exhaust system & some trick-looking induction trumpets! Trainee crew Nige & of course Mark were hoping for low 13-second runs but started off in the 16's. Adjustments to the fuel & ignition brought an improved 14.545 @ 96.96 mph but Sunday saw disappointing runs for Mark sustaining gearbox damage on the last run. He finished in 7th place however, & with a surprise prize of a tool box, donated by the Mad R's team! Pete & Gavyn Loveridge were sharing the driving of their "Herr X" slingshot. Dialling in 10.70 for Sunday, Pete put in a strong 10.687 @ 124.79 mph in the first round followed by an 11.360 from Gavyn at a new PB Speed of 126.06 mph. Pete finished with a 10.672 @ 125.00 mph to put them 6th overall. Tony Wynne-Jones and the "Welsh Raider II" Radical arrives at the track Sunday morning after adjusting the cam & the timing to hopefully rid some gremlins. Dialling in blind at 12.30, he posted a 12.874 @ 97.99 mph, running the car back in. Round two saw a great new PB E.T. of 11.214 @ 119.39 mph, to celebrate his

birthday in style! Tony didn't make the queue for the third round but was awarded the "Best Radical" Spot Prize by the commentators, so was very pleased with his day! Alec Coe was again at the controls of the Mad R's methanol-burning "Shy Talker" slingshot but only for Saturday! An 8.679 @ 162.03 mph was his best on the day & then it was over to Tom who had only driven the car once before. With a previous best of 9.0 at over 157 mph, blew his 8.90 dial in to pieces with a great 8.560 @ 165.92 mph! The second run was even better - 8.441 @ 166.62 mph, the quickest the car has ever run! This won a special spark plug trophy from the NSRA for the "Quickest Wild Bunch car" of the weekend plus won him the "Most Improved E.T." with a .649 improvement. The gorgeous car also came away with the "Best Slingshot" Spot Prize from the commentators. What a weekend! Helen Smythe was running the Team Twisted "Hell's Belle" altered. Consistent runs on Saturday of 10.349, 10.359 & 10.516, all at 128 mph, pointed to a Sunday dial in of 10.34. Each run went under the dial with a best on the day 10.120 to finish in 5th place overall. Helen was doing some sterling burnouts in her altered giving R 'Smokin' Joe a good run for his money!! Colin Stevens was back in his well-turned out

second runs on Saturday dialled in 9.95 on Sunday. With an initial 9.737 in the first round followed by a 9.744 @ 140.42 mph in the second Steve was looking good but an unfortunate record of a deep red light against Tony Smith in the third round also scuppered his chances of a top 4 placing. Sid Slattery was running his lovely Jag-powered "Destiny" slingshot & started very well on Saturday, with a new PB E.T. of 10.604 @ 122.17 mph! Hoping for even more improvement he dialled in 10.55 for Sunday but had a problem in the first round & recorded a 12.128. He improved to a 10.881 @ 123.42 mph in the second round but did not make the third round. The team were awarded the "Best Appearing Team" Spot Prize for their smart and professional appearance. The top four... Darryl Howells in the D.A.S.H. Racing "Chemical Reaction" slingshot put in 4 strong passes on Saturday including a new PB ET 10.182. Dialling in 10.10 for Sunday's rounds, he was secretly hoping to run even better! With a 10.209 in the first round he then scored a great new PB E.T. of 10.028 @ 134.61 mph! Finishing with a good 10.250 in the third put him in 4th place overall for the weekend! Darryl was also chuffed to be awarded the "Driver's Choice" Spot Prize, voted for by all the WB drivers attending the event! Fair play, 'Shag'!

Roy Wilding was again in the hot seat of the "Chariot of Fire" altered. He put in several runs on Saturday, including an 11.822 @ 114.63 mph, and dialled in at precisely 11.685 for Sunday's rounds! With an 11.831 at a new PB Speed of 118.49 mph in the first round, an 11.666 and an 11.775, Roy finished in 3rd place overall for the event! He was also rewarded with the "Best Altered" Spot Prize by the commentators because of his consistent runs and beautifully turned out car. Sarah Howells was running Bernie Nicholas' "Destiny's Angel" altered. Sarah started with an 11-second pass Saturday, having to back out of the run on a cold track but then went on to run down to a near PB 9.48 on the last run of Saturday. Dialling in at 9.57 for Sunday, Sarah only managed consistent mid 9.6's but it was enough to put her in 2nd place overall for the weekend! Another great result! Joe Stevens & his "Back in Black" altered were as ever looking for that a nine second pass for the Shakespeare track. With a series of low 10's on Saturday, he concluded to dial in 10.04 for Sunday's rounds ... & there it was, the 9 second run! A great 9.976 @ 131.38 mph, followed by two more good runs of 10.023 & 10.026, both at 130 mph. He finished with an average difference from dial-in of just .032 to win the event! 'Smokin' Joe was also awarded the "Best Burnout" Spot Prize by the commentators so fair play, Joe! This means that Joe wins the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Cars Series for the 4th year in a row!! Many congratulations to him on this achievement!



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"Golddigger" slingshot, which is now up for sale (see advert on back page). After a couple of good 12 second passes on Saturday, Colin displayed the lovely slingshot in his T-shirt stall for the rest of the weekend. What a great advert for the stall! Phil Sweeney was in his "Antisocial" slingshot fresh from his "Allstar Nationals" win! He arrived Sunday morning & dialled in blind at 13.40 & ran a 13.384! A red light in the second round put him out of the top four which was such a shame when he ran 13.398 in the third, just 2 thousandths under! Lee Birch, a newcomer to the Wild Bunch but with a very familiar car, the ex-Roy Wilding buick-powered slingshot! Renamed "The Colliebosher", a spray job is planned over the winter to recreate it's identify! An 11.543 @ 111.59 mph was the best of Saturday & 11.80 off 11.50 the best on Sunday with Lee having a great time! Andy Solley was a welcome sight in the "Repeat Offender" altered hoping to make a few quick runs with the nitrous on! Saturday's passes had a couple of 'dizzy' associated problems but Andy dialled in 9.85 on the Sunday. He posted a 10.0 in the first round but sadly wasn't able to take part in any others. Steve Field was running "The Black Pig" altered & with three 9-

warded with the "Best Altered" Spot Prize by the commentators because of his consistent runs and beautifully turned out car. Sarah Howells was running Bernie Nicholas' "Destiny's Angel" altered. Sarah started with an 11-second pass Saturday, having to back out of the run on a cold track but then went on to run down to a near PB 9.48 on the last run of Saturday. Dialling in at 9.57 for Sunday, Sarah only managed consistent mid 9.6's but it was enough to put her in 2nd place overall for the weekend! Another great result! Joe Stevens & his "Back in Black" altered were as ever looking for that a nine second pass for the Shakespeare track. With a series of low 10's on Saturday, he concluded to dial in 10.04 for Sunday's rounds ... & there it was, the 9 second run! A great 9.976 @ 131.38 mph, followed by two more good runs of 10.023 & 10.026, both at 130 mph. He finished with an average difference from dial-in of just .032 to win the event! 'Smokin' Joe was also awarded the "Best Burnout" Spot Prize by the commentators so fair play, Joe! This means that Joe wins the Roy Wilding Nostalgia Race Cars Series for the 4th year in a row!! Many congratulations to him on this achievement!

** Important **

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New Chassis rule information for 2006

The chassis rules are changing for 2006 for MSA-sanctioned events! Now all race cars running between 10.00 and 12.99 seconds must comply with the *same* chassis specifications as cars running between 8.50 and 9.99 seconds. (Refer to the MSA Drag Race Supplement Book for the specs).

The chassis inspection itself is free, and the pass sticker is also free of charge - *for a race car running between 10 and 12.99 seconds.* In order to obtain a chassis inspection, you must contact the UK Tech inspectors, Geoff Martin or Mark Norton, and arrange for them to inspect your chassis. Please be advised that if they need to travel to your car (other than if it is at a

racetrack where they are in attendance) then there will be a travel charge to pay. They can be contacted via e-mail through Geoff Martin who is on chassis1@onetel.com. They are very happy to give you advice on the rules, and information on any changes that would need to be made if your chassis does not pass the inspection.

Oct 1st & 2nd

Santa Pod National

WILD BUNCH R7,
REAL STEEL R9

D.A.S.H racing were officially the first Wild Bunch team to arrive at the gates of Pod, they were outside at 12 o'clock, slightly premature for the 3pm gate opening! With really wet weather on Friday night, it was still damp Saturday morning, but the track crew had started the drying process nice & early! 2 full cycles of qualifying were put through on Saturday, with the second one running late so the Bunch got a really fun dusk/night-time qualifier at about 7pm! This was a cliff hanger event for some & it lived up to expectations in more ways than one!

Current WBI, Tony Smith was leading both the Wild Bunch & Real Steel Series in **"The Cunning Plan"** Minivan altered & was hoping to secure another Wild Bunch Championship. With an 11.791 @ 107.89 mph off his 11.62 dial in the second round he qualified in 4th place overall. _WB3, Mike Cresswell in the **"Living the Dream"** slingshot was running 2nd in both the Wild Bunch & Real Steel Series, right behind Tony. He was keen to improve his position from that of his rookie season! Ooohhhh, it was going to be a fun weekend! He dialled in 11.25 for his first qualifier & ran a good 11.208 @ 111.67 mph but it was a breakout & with him 'bogging' off the line on the second run he qualified in 12th place. Tony Wynne-Jones was running his **"Welsh Raider 2"** Radical Corvette & hoping to have put all the misfiring behind him he dialled in 11.20 & exactly equalled his previous PB with a great 11.214 @ 117.77 mph! His second run was just as consistent & the Good Dr qualified in the Number 1 Spot! It's been a while Tony but oh my it was worth the wait! Alec Coe was



round but ran an 8.932 @ 147.08 mph on a conservative first run for the car at the Pod. The second run was stronger, an 8.533 @ 161.23 mph, which earned him the "Quickest E.T." Spot Prize for the best Wild Bunch time of the weekend. Alec qualified in 7th place. Helen Smythe piloted the Team Twisted **"Hell's Belle"** altered & with her attendance at all events had leapfrogged into 3rd place in the Wild Bunch Series, ahead of Crazy Chris, who was absent due to block damage in the "Backdraft" slingshot. Hubby & crew chief Dean had been gradually tuning the car back up since the Summer Nationals & Helen had progressed back down to the low 10's/high 9's mark. This weekend the team were looking to let her fly! Helen dialled in 9.40 in the first round of qualifying & ran a 9.994 @ 133.18 mph. In the second round she ran a similar 9.904 @ 134.31 mph to qualify in 8th place. Darren Law was running **"The Wicked Lady"** sparkly Rear-engined dragster and he dialled in at 9.75. Darren put in a troubled 13.718 @ 103.21 mph & the team set to work on the problems. Darren later ran an improved 11.373 @ 125.64 mph on the same dial & qualified in 10th place. Another first for Phil Sweeney & his **"Antisocial"** slingshot, their first event at Santa Pod! He dialled in 12.98 for the first round & recorded a 13.664 @ 93.92 mph, trying to get a handle on the track. He then changed the Dial to 13.25 and posted a better 13.459 @ 95.90 mph in the second round, qualifying in 5th place. Darryl Howells was in his first event at Santa Pod this year with the D.A.S.H. Racing **"Chemical Reaction"** slingshot. He dialled in 10.10 for the first qualifier & ran a 10.390 @ 130.05 mph. He later raised the dial to 10.20



a 10.194 @ 129.59 mph in the first round with a very consistent 10.191 in the second to qualify in 3rd place. Roy Wilding was at his first event at Santa Pod for over 12 years! With the **"Chariot of Fire"** altered, he dialled in at 11.82 & ran a 12.492 @ 109.19 mph, familiarising himself with the track. With an 11.980 @ 111.61 mph off an 11.85 dial, his second run put him in the Number 2 qualifying spot, great going! Yet another driver in his first event at Pod

was Sid Slattery's first time at Santa Pod with his beautiful **"Destiny"** slingshot. With the team this weekend was the original car builder & driver Richard Dawson who soon got

stuck in crewing for the team! Sid dialled in 10.60, but didn't make the run due to a fuel surge after the burnout. He qualified safely in 9th place with a 12.101 @ 76.92 mph in the second round. It was one debut after another, this time for Trace Froome in the old-style Monza-bodied **"Sunburst"** funny car. Shut down on the first run after the burnout, he ran a problematic 16.436 @ 65.38 mph to qualify in 11th place overall. **Sunday (Race Day)** and all 12 Wild Bunch cars qualified for racing, even the weather had dramatically improved!

Round 1 saw Tony Wynne-Jones paired with Alec Coe. Their reaction times were similar but Tony ran an 11.275 on an 11.18, he proved too hard to catch with Alec slightly off his 8.20 dial running 8.933. The next race saw Roy facing Helen. Helen broke-out with a 9.748 @ 126.10 mph, on 9.88 dial-in, handing the win to Roy who posted a 12.269 @ 111.91 mph on an 11.80. Next up a huge upset. Tony Smith broke out by just .027, recording an 11.593 @ 101.78 mph on an 11.62 dial, to opponent Darren Law's 11.773 on a 10.75. This left the door open for Mikey Cresswell to try to take the WB Championship, if he was able to

raring to go in the Mad R's **"Shy Talker"** slingshot. Keen to take the car's best time record back from son Tom he dialled in at 8.30 in the first

& ran a 10.427 @ 131.17 mph, to qualify in 6th place. Steve Field was also at his first ever event at Santa Pod with **"The Black Pig"** altered. He posted a 10.05 dial-in & ran

NATIONAL FINALS CONT

progress to the Semi-finals! Steve Field faced Sid Slattery, and only one of them could take their first round win at the Pod! Sid left first, but had electrical problems, recording an 11.575 whilst Steve took his first ever round win with a 10.481 to advance to the quarter-finals. The next race saw Trace versus Phil but Phil couldn't fire. Girlfriend Abby raced to the rescue to find the jump leads, but stand-in crew 'Crazy' Chris bump-started the car instead! Phil put in a 13.897 to take the win over Trace. The last race saw Darryl paired with championship contender Mikey in a battle of the slingshots, which soon turned into a battle of the breakouts! Darryl recorded a very strong 10.156 @ 127.82 mph on his 10.30 dial but it was Mikey that just took the win by .035, with an 11.091 on an 11.20. Darryl however, was awarded the "Best Slingshot" trophy by the commentators for his lovely-painted rail. Quarter-Finals The first pairing was Tony Wynne-Jones against Darren. Darren on a lower than normal 11.65 dial due to fuel problems ended up running better

than expected with an 11.332 @ 123.55 mph, whilst Tony also broke out in the other lane, with a new PB E.T. of 11.077 @ 120.65 mph! It was Tony that went through to the Semi's where he'd earned a Bye-run! Roy was facing newcomer Phil, Roy ran a breakout 11.713 which handed the victory to Phil who ran a great 13.431 on a 13.40 Dial-in. This was also good for the "Closest to Dial-in" & meant Phil was through to another Semi-final! Roy finished the day in 4th place & was also pleased to be awarded the "Best Altered" Spot Prize for his well-turned out machine! The last race of the round saw Steve paired with Mikey. Steve went out to run a great 9.922 @ 110.07 mph, but broke out on his 10.05 dial-in, so Mikey took another win with an 11.104. Semi-Finals & the first saw Tony taking his Bye run. He was free to go for a good time & he sure did that, recording his first ever 10-second pass with a great 10.911 @ 120.95 mph, very near his best speed ever. Tony was as thrilled with this as he was with getting to the Final! The only race of the round saw Mikey against Phil. At this point, when Mikey staged &

broke the beam he would take the Wild Bunch Championship but of course he did more than that! He ran a new PB ET of 10.952 @ 118.36 mph, breaking out & progressing Phil, who ran 13.541 @ 83.37 mph, to another final! Mike finished 3rd for the event and took the WB Championship by just one point! Congratulations, Mikey! The Final was a good matchup between Tony Wynne Jones & Phil, with Phil leaving first on his 13.40 dial-in. He had a good reaction & ran close to his dial with a 13.474 proving too much of a headstart as Tony raced down the track after him recording an 11.052 on a 10.90. Another victory for Phil! Tony was also thrilled as he was awarded the "Best Radical/ Dragster" Spot Prize by the commentators for his well-turned out car and a really great performance, his best weekend of the year! So there we are, the last MSA event of the year - congrats to Phil for his 2nd victory, watch out for him next year!!



Wild Bunch 10th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 26th November is the date for the 10th Anniversary Wild Bunch Dinner Dance. As last year, it's being held at Drayton Manor Tower Ballroom & promises to be a fantastic night. Tickets are on sale now from Chris or Claire at £22 a go. As the time is racing away it might be an idea for you to email or phone through with your order...it's only just over a month away! A list of local hotels is also available if you need to book them too, just ask! 01454 773350 to book by phone with Chris or Claire or catch them by email on chrisandclaire@backdraftdragracing.co.uk

Dear Mum & Dad,

We just wanted to show you a picture of us at York having breakfast in one of the Wild Bunch pits! It was really nice & the bacon was very lovely. We were careful not to get too close to the stove & were properly supervised at all times by some lovely people - we think you know them but can't quite remember their names now!

We've been to lots of places recently - will send you the pics soon!! The last place we went was lovely & warm - we nearly got a tan!!

Lots of love

Pooky & Penny xxx



Raffle Donations

If you fancy donating a prize for this year's Wild Bunch raffle then please feel free to do so!

Bring them along on the night or give them to Sarah Howells before hand, either way make sure you let Sarah know so that she can include you in the nights programme.

07796 937869 to catch Sarah on her mobile or email her at sarah@dashracing.co.uk

Gold Digger - For

To make way for the next project, the Gold Digger

slingshot of Colin Stevens is up for sale. Coming complete with trailer & spares this gorgeous slingshot has new Whitewall slicks, wheels, harness, bodywork plus 'almost new' Edelbrook 500's.

Pictured in American Rodz & on Front Engine Dragsters of America & Custom Car.

£5'000

Might consider 350 Chevy, box & 9 inch in px.

Colin on 01992 634262

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NEXT ISSUE DUE DECEMBER