

Sarah Forsyth

The previous authors of this piece in recent magazines have started with why they joined the club. At least they had the choice!! I hadn't realised until recently, when reading one of Colin's 'As It Was' articles, that my arrival into the world was reported in the club magazine at the time when my father, Colin Rolls, was on the Committee and my mother, Pauline, had served as Club Secretary some years before. So, whilst growing up, weekends were spent attending every sort of event the club ran. Early memories include sitting in the corner of the Clerks van at Wiscombe, whilst father was running the events, being given a pen and paper to write the car numbers down as they went up the hill to keep me entertained. In a similar vein, I recall keeping a log of the cars as they came through the Meerhay Holding Control in a layby just outside Beaminster on the Hardy Classic Trial, as it is now. By the late eighties father decided I needed a more energetic job and so arranged for me to be a runner for the Timekeepers at all of the Wiscombe events. In those days the written times needed to be taken from the Timing Van to the Results Van every 20 cars or so, to be written on a board in the paddock for the competitors to view. Hard to believe now, when the times are immediately displayed all over the venue and around the world on the internet as soon as a car crosses the finish line! By the 5 Clubs meeting of 1992 the Timekeepers thought I ought to time a batch (much to my reluctance!) and I have been an MSUK licensed Timekeeper and timed at every Wiscombe weekend ever since! On the competition side, by the early '90s father and I were competing in Car Trials and Autotests in a Mini (before I was old enough to take my driving test) and then Vauxhall Novas that I drove to University and then to work. We also entered the 12 car navigational challenges, which took us to some of Devon and Dorset's deepest and darkest corners, as did marshalling on the club's section of the Exeter Classic Trial each January! After marrying Andrew, we campaigned a Citroen AX in Car Trials for about 10 years, the highlight being the odd occasion on which I beat him!! When I returned from University in 1998 my future father-in-law, who was then Chairman, persuaded me to become Club Secretary, a post I held until 2011, then becoming Vice Chairman and Chairman last year. Obviously, my first year as Chairman has been a challenge, but we have managed to run some events and more importantly, welcomed 4 new members to the Committee. Hopefully we can encourage more members to become involved in helping to run our events in the future. To return to my opening comment about not being given the choice to join the club, I wouldn't have had it any other way, as it has taken me to some fantastic places (not just muddy fields!) and introduced me to some wonderful people, none of which would have happened otherwise.