

Dukeries Motor Club wins MSA Club of the Year

The Motor Sports Association is delighted to announce Dukeries Motor Club as the Alexander Forbes MSA Club of the Year for 2003. Club officials will be presented with a prestigious trophy and a £1000 donation towards club funds at the Motor Sports Association's Night of Champions on Friday 16th January 2004.

This prestigious national award is always keenly contested by motor clubs from around the country and enjoys generous support from the MSA's insurance broker, Alexander Forbes.

"Our congratulations go to Dukeries Motor Club," confirms Allan Dean-Lewis, Head of External Affairs at the Motor Sports Association. "This year, clubs were initially screened on the basis of their competitive activity and successes, with entry to the first stage of the competition by nomination from one of the MSA Regional Associations. The awards panel was unanimous in its choice of a clear winner, although the high standard of entries is reflected in the fact that just seven points separated the second and tenth placed clubs."

"We are delighted to receive this award," says Anthony Northcote, chairman of Dukeries Motor Club. "It reflects the success of our events and the work we've done to try to support the sport across the whole of the East Midlands. This recognition is entirely due to the efforts of the 200+ members and it's great to be part of such a dedicated team."

Formed in 1954, the Dukeries Motor Club enters its Golden Jubilee year with an unrivalled reputation for organising events. The club caters for all levels of experience from competitors entering the club's own free to register championship, right up to Phillip Mills, now the 2003 FIA World Rally Championship co-driver.

The club has run its own Dukeries Rally for 44 consecutive years and was one of the first clubs to use the new MSA Rally Marshals Register to increase the marshalling support available for the event through personal invitation.

Winner a decade ago, Knutsford & District Motor Club finds itself runner-up to a worthy champion for the second year running, but the club continues to offer a range of championships that cater for a wide age range of members and is instrumental in providing marshalling and other assistance to clubs in the North West of England and in Wales.

In its 80th year, the Wigton Motor Club claims third place as it continues to thrive with nearly 500 members and a focus on speed events and historic/classic rallies, while initiatives to recruit new members include the running of a novice programme.

Farnborough District Motor Club, Whickham & District Motor Club and Wolverhampton & South Staffs Motor Club were all highly commended by the Motor Sports Association.

Past overall winners:

Knutsford & DMC (1993), Aberdeen & DMC (1994), Ilkley & DMC (1995 & 1999), Port Talbot MC (1996), Torbay MC (1997), Woolbridge MC (1998), North Devon MC (2000), Magherafelt & DMC (2001), Scottish Rootes EC (2002).

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