

SOUTH WALES AGROUND!

WITH THE 'CONFISCATION' OF Pontypool Park as our hill climb venue, the South Wales Centre at the moment is rather like a boat when the tide's gone out. We can play on board, but can't go anywhere, so to speak.

However, with suitable (we hope) proposals to the local authorities, the tide might come back in again and set us afloat for 1979.

In the meantime, with the recent additions to our committee, we can now boast a social committee, who, making some relief from our arm tilting sessions at the Angel Hotel in Abergavenny each first Wednesday of the month, have with the help of Mervyn Thomas, organised a 'rally on foot' around the village of Usk! This is scheduled for the July club night. It would be nice to see club members other than the committee show up. We have no intention of letting the Centre die whilst sorting out a new competition venue, and the support of our Centre members at the social events was never more a need. The Centre Newsletter will once more be reincarnated to inform our members of these events.

MIKE NICHOLAS

S. Wales Centre

Over the question of the future of Pontypool Park, I think we should say that we are feeling cautiously optimistic. The Borough Council carried out a Noise Survey at our event on September 15th, and the report seems to state that the levels recorded were no higher, and in many instances less, than the normal volumes from road transport. The people who carried out the survey, and the Director of Leisure Activity for the Borough who is overall responsible for events in the Park, are going to recommend to the Council that we continue. In fact the Council, in the main, have no desire to stop the events, but their first responsibility is to their residents, and they have to decide whether the complaints are justified.

We did everything possible to keep noise to a minimum, silencers

on in the main paddock, engines off and marshals pushing everybody out of the holding paddock (which caused great delays in the running of the event, but the end justified the means, a point which missed the Motoring News reporter, who must have been staying out of the rain all day; I hope they don't send him again!)

The committee is to consider possibly running three events only next year, as we are very pressed with Llandow as well, and also regulating for silencers on all production based cars, which should help even more.

The highlight of the Welsh social calendar again fell flat on its face; yes, I'm talking about our annual 'do'. In fact those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and a very entertaining evening was put on by the 'Liquid Light Road Show'. Support from

the membership though was a mal, and so disheartening for hardworking committee. We again have to put our heads together to try and scheme up some way of making our social activities more successful.

We have some doubts about the accuracy of the Centre's membership register; on the list alterations that come through from Head Office, we have had or two alterations concerning members we didn't know we had and therefore were not communicating with. Obviously we have to check through the register to correct this, but in the meantime if you consider yourself a South Wales Centre member, are not receiving anything in way of newsletters, free paddock passes to the British Grand Prix or any of the other paraphernalia that we distribute from time to time, please contact us at the address on Page 2 of the BA News.

1976 / 1977

SOUTH WALES CENTRE
THE SOUTH WALES CENTRE HAS had a good year on the competition side with four Speed Hill Climb meetings at Pontypool Park. The April meeting was a round of the Guyson BARC Hillclimb championship. The meeting was run on a Saturday, which added to the organisation problems. The reason for the change to the Saturday was owing to the BBC using the Sports Complex on the Sunday for recording of a local opera singer, who had returned to Pontypool for this recording. The meeting had a good entry but in the afternoon the weather turned very wet.

The July meeting was a round of the RAC Hillclimb championship together with a round of the Leaders championship. With a full entry, what a good day's sport was had by all. This being the Centre's Tenth Anniversary meeting at Pontypool made it a great day to remember.

The August meeting was round 12 of the Guyson BARC Championship with a full entry, and a lack of officials made for a hard meeting to run.

The September meeting was a Club meeting shared with the National Sprint Association, and also included a round of the Welsh Speed Championship — with a smaller entry for this meeting it went very well. At this meeting we were being observed by Torfaen Borough Council as to the running of the meeting and also the monitoring of the noise level.

Throughout all the meetings we were always short of marshals; to all the people who did help at the meetings a sincere thank you. Also in September, the Centre tried to organise a Concours d' Elegance event but due to a lack of entries being received the meeting had to be cancelled.

Turning to the Social side of the Centre during the winter months, the Centre organised its dinner and dance which was quite well supported. The Club nights are now being held once a month and have tried to take the form of something different each month — this has worked very well.

During the last year there have been some changes on the Centre Committee with Colin Williams and Robert Graham joining the Committee, and then in September the resignation of Rees Gilchrist due to moving to North Wales to work. Our sincere thanks to Rees for all the work he has done for the Centre.

The Centre thanks the Committee for all the work they have done during the last year.

YORKSHIRE CENTRE
WHILST 1976/76 MAY HAVE BEEN A year of retrenchment according to our last report, 1976/77 saw a return of our old problem — finance.

The loss made by the Centre this year is due almost entirely to a substantial decrease in the money we took "at the gate", the main reason being the effect of inflation on most people's disposable income.