
WESSEX NEWS

Preserving the marque in Hampshire

**** Change of monthly run dates from June 2014 ****

The monthly runs have, for some years, taken place on the 4th Sunday in the month and the monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday. This results in two group events taking place within either 2 or 5 days of one another. In addition, there is a clash between a run and a Bank Holiday weekend in May most years.

Therefore from June 2014 the monthly run will take place on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

This is my third edition of Wessex News and it is bursting with news and dates for your diary. The weather has finally changed a bit and we have been blessed with some glorious days, perfect for getting out and about in the TR. We have had three club events this month, all covered here, which have been enjoyed by a lot of the members. It's nice to meet new people at the events.

The diary at the end has lots of new entries but I know that there are other things going on that members may wish to attend. If you know of any event happening over the summer that you think should be included, please can you email wessextrnewsletter@gmail.com and let me know so that they can be added. Lots of the towns in the New Forest now include a Classic Car element at fete's and summer fairs and I am sure it is the same in the rest of our area.

We are certainly looking forward to a fun summer in our car and hope that you are as well.



A word from our leader

Liz and I attended the TR Register Winter Ball in Chesterfield earlier in the month. We've attended previous Winter Balls when they were held in Llandrindod Wells in Wales but this was our first time to the Derbyshire Dales and we had a wonderful weekend. We used the TR7 which is much more comfortable for long journeys than the '4, and it cruises quite happily on the motorway with occasional bursts to 80+mph for overtaking. I'm pleased to say the car ran faultlessly for the 600 mile round trip despite its lay-up for the whole of 2013, and I'm looking forward to using it more this year. The TR4 hasn't been neglected either, I used it for our February run to Lepe Country Park and will use it more when the sun shines and I can enjoy some open-top motoring.

We had a great turn-out for our Skittles night on February Club Night and after 3 legs there were some very respectable scores on the board. Sadly, I was not among them. Lorraine has written a report on the evening later in the newsletter so you can see who the winners and losers were this year.

March is traditionally the month when we hold our annual Duck Race and we were expecting the stream to be in flood, similar to how it was last year. To our amazement given the amount of rain we've had the stream was very benign with water levels quite low. The very welcome sunshine added to the occasion and we had a great turnout to this ever-popular event. Next year is the 25th anniversary and I'm sure Neil will be planning something special to celebrate.

The weather seems to be improving and we've enjoyed some sunny days already since the near-continuous rain we've endured for most of the winter. Hopefully we'll have a sunny day on Sunday for our Mad March Hare Run over to Hayling Island. We're meeting-up in Fareham so make sure you see page 13 for all the details.

For those interested in Historic Racing we've been offered 8 tickets for free entry to the Thruxton Easter Revival over the Easter bank holiday weekend. Thruxton was famous in the late sixties for the Easter bank holiday F2 race meeting, where then-current F1 drivers raced in the impressive F2 category. The inaugural event was held last year and – similar to Goodwood and Classic Le Mans - aims to evoke the racing of the period with classic grids and a huge variety of championships battling it out at the fastest circuit in the UK. Our tickets are for Easter Sunday, 20th April, and in exchange for the tickets we've been asked to display our cars again at the main entrance, so please contact me if you'd like to display your car. See more details at:

http://www.thruxtonracing.co.uk/easter_revival.html

Club Night on Tuesday is back to the Nondescripts Club for one of Roy's quizzes to exercise the grey matter, so I look forward to seeing you there.

Nigel



A “Lepe” into the Unknown

By Kevin Warrington

Looking back at the diary, the weather has been so bad that the last Wessex Sunday Run that actually took place was back in September last year; everything else has been cancelled because of this dreadful weather we’ve been experiencing.

For the first time ever, and to the horror of many for whom it is the highlight of the year, the Cream Tea Run was cancelled and New Year cobwebs couldn’t be blown away unless we exchanged our beloved sports cars for amphibious vehicles. February’s run was going the same way, but at the last minute, Jim and Lorraine put a message on the group’s Facebook page and Nigel sent round an email suggesting that we could meet up at Lepe Country Park for a bracing walk along the foreshore and an excuse to get the TR’s out.

So, braving puddles and floods, that is exactly what we did. My TR hasn’t been far since September and was very willing to get into the spirit of things. So much so that we overshot the A36 junction off the M27, intending to head down towards Calshot and thence to Lepe, and rapidly found ourselves approaching that confusing sign at the end of the motorway that tells you there are no right turns for miles (except for the next two). Never understood that one. A slight detour via Cadnam brought us to Totton and the bypass roundabout slalom, through the Forest and eventually to Lepe via Exbury.

There were two TRs already in the car park; Nigel’s TR4 and Andrew Jackson had brought along his TR3, bravely with the roof down. Jim and Lorraine had come in their m*d*rn car as their TR6 was sulking once again.

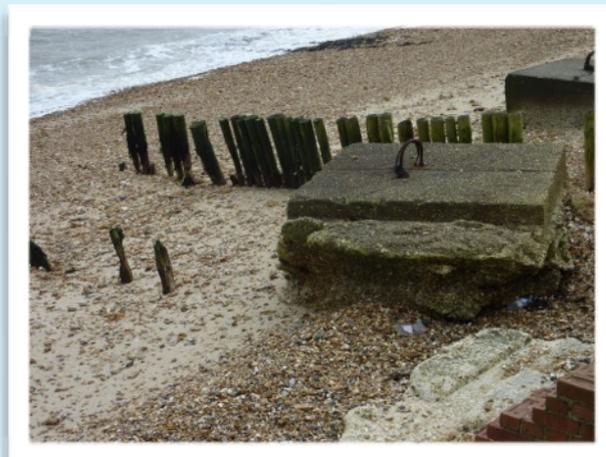


With the café being closed due to flooding, we went for a brisk walk, just the five of us (Jim, Lorraine, Nigel Ann and Kevin) under the direction of “TR Dog”, Gibson.

The weather could be described as “bracing”. Although it wasn’t quite blowing us off our feet, it was making talking difficult. We turned back at the D-Day memorial, thinking of the supreme sacrifice made for our freedom nearly 70 years ago.



Lepe was a makeshift military port where tanks and soldiers were embarked on landing ships as well as being the mustering point for the Mulberry Harbour sections and also one of the terminals of the Pipeline Under The Ocean (“PLUTO”).



Walking back, Nigel spotted a pair of heavily corroded pliers on the shore. We thought at first that these may have been a left over artefact from the War, but closer examination revealed plastic covered handles and so were more likely to have been lost in recent times.

Finally back at the car park, it was time for a picnic lunch. In February. You don't have to be mad to own a TR, but it clearly helps. Ann had thoughtfully brought along a jar of drinking chocolate powder, but others politely refused it when Kevin observed a "best before date" of 2000.

With luck, someone will have captured what happened next as we stood up from the picnic table and we will be starring in a future episode of "You've Been Framed". Ann and Nigel had been sat one side; Jim, Lorraine and Kevin the other. Lorraine got up from the table, followed by Ann. Nigel stood up, leaving Kevin and Jim sat on the other. At this point, the Earth rotated slowly through 90 degrees so that the sky was now in front of us with backs becoming cold and wet and our heads at TR Dog level. Yes, you have guessed it – we had overbalanced the picnic table and were now laying on the ground, legs up in the air with a picnic table on top of us. Once they stopped laughing, Ann and Lorraine helped respective husbands to their feet. All Nigel has to do is stand up and two Wessex TR blokes are on their backs on the floor. So, be careful – it is the quiet ones that are dangerous...

Editors Note :- Sadly no photographic evidence of the picnic table disaster is available as I was laughing so hard I was unable to use the camera quickly enough. Never mind , maybe next time.

For Sale

A former member of the Wessex Group, Andrew Deacon, has contacted us to see if anyone is interested in some bits and pieces he still has. They are for TR4 & TR4A.

New parts include :-

- Left hand trunion
- Distributor doctor points
- Condensor and red rotor
- Distributor cap
- Speedo cable
- Oil pressure pipe
- Old style fan belt
- Sump casket
- Hood poppers and 'lift the dot' fasteners

And there are also a selection of second hand parts and books available



If you are interested please email the editor at wessextrnewsletter@gmail.com and I will let you have Andrews contact details. He will take offers.

Skittles at the Phoenix Inn

February club night arrived and it was time to get into shape rapidly for the competition. After a few warm up exercises sweeping and mopping the kitchen floor, it was time to jump in the car and head to Twyford for the yearly skittle evening.

A good crowd was gathering and the skittle alley was warming up quickly, now in view of the fact that last year it had been freezing, I had decided not to be caught out and wore several layers too many of clothes. The competition was going to be hot in more than one sense.

We were split into two teams with partners on opposing sides, and the competition began. There was much banging and crashing as skittles began to fly around the lane. There were loads of different styles in evidence none of which seemed particularly skilful.





The half way point was reached and we stopped to enjoy our traditional pub grub tea of “soup in a basket,” well not quite but you get the idea.. and the bar was doing brisk business as glasses were refilling.

The game restarted and competition was close. The victors finally by a reasonable margin was Nigel’s team.

The board was then wiped clean and after a bit of debate about the rules and number of rounds, a game of Killer commenced. Three lives were awarded to each player and only 1 skittle placed in the alley. If you missed you lost a life. Sadly I was the first to lose all three lives and be knocked out. I shall have to practice for next year.

As the game was taking rather a long time it suddenly became a knock out contest. If you missed you were out. The players quickly fell by the wayside until a champion was found.

So who won ?



Stuart Thompson Mens 2014 Champion



Ros Alderton Ladies 2014 Champion



Bill Schofield 2014 Killer Champion

See you next year for another fun night out



What's the best way to spend a warm Sunday afternoon in March? Having a duck race, of course!

One month ago, all we could say was that it was "nice weather for ducks" but how it all changed, just before the race! On Sunday, it was brilliant weather for ducks (and their owners) - in fact, I was greeted at the car park by our illustrious GL, Nigel, with the astonishing news that it was hotter than Ibiza. 18 degrees and a cloudless sky will do very nicely, thank you.

As usual, I had checked out the course a couple of days before the race and the conditions were absolutely idyllic; the stream was running neither too fast nor too slowly and there were plenty of hazards to challenge even the canniest of canards....with eddies, banks undercut by erosion, shallow sections, a funnel and two places where the stream divided around small islands - so which route would be faster, left or right? And....for the first time in years, we actually had clear water from start to finish.





It was great to see so many of you there and I want to thank everyone who helped, especially Geoff for bringing his waders, Piper for helping with the presentations, my sister Emma for helping me to extract the ducks at the end and Jim, Kevin, Tony and others for taking loads of photographs and for videoing the whole event (which I think is a first),

I also want to commend all the entrants for the extremely high standard of presentation this year. People obviously went to a great deal of effort to paint and decorate their ducks, so thank you all for your dedication - it made my job of judging very difficult. It's made me think that next year, we need to have some different prizes and perhaps some judging before the race starts, to recognise all the effort that has gone in.



As all the entries were so good, it would have been unfair to have singled out any particular duck for "best design" but I did make the "best dressed duck" award to Piper Reynolds, whose duck was wearing a very natty tie. The prize this year for "best effort" went to Geoff and Jane Glover, as they were the only ones who also supplied bird 'flu vaccination certificates for their ducks (you see, it does pay to follow the rules!)



Talking of rules, I must also commend everyone for the lack of (overt) cheating, possibly for the first time ever! The honour of the last place went to your esteemed Wessex News editor - better luck next year, Lorraine!

Finally and sadly, there were a few ducks that never made it to the finish. They're either still there, waiting for the next bout of winter flooding, or they're now on the high seas. I wonder if all the ducks we've lost over the years end up at the same place?

And perhaps yet another first....no-one fell in!!! However, I was reliably informed that both Ann and Lisa Warrington fell in the mud, and so it seemed only right and proper that they should receive the "best entertainment" award.

Definitely (maybe) a first was that there were no entries in the Children's Class. I know that the average age of the membership is on the rise and I guess the same is going to be true of their family members - so I shall take note for the future.

The race itself was, I think, one of the best. The leaders kept chopping and changing and, as it was almost entirely a field of standard entries, they were all fairly well bunched together. The eventual winner of the Standard Class was Charlotte Austin and it was good to see a new person pick up the coveted trophy.



As for the Modified Class, there were very few entries this year and only one motorised duck, entered by Neil James. True to form, this high-tech duck was not quite a match for the gruelling challenges of this race and it gave up half-way down the course, when its batteries ran flat. However, by then, it had acquired such an insurmountable lead that it was able to keep ahead until the end. Neil was therefore a worthy winner of the Modified Class. However, my abiding memory of this race will be of Neil, trying to extract his duck from the overhanging bank using the aerial of his radio remote control as a prodding stick. Now there's a proper use of technology



So, all over again for another year. You've probably worked out that next year will be the 25th enactment of this annual bit of fun. Where on earth did that time go? So get preparing your ducks NOW!!!! I want it to be the biggest and best one ever.

Neil Winscom

Results:



Standard Class Winner -
Charlotte Austin (trophy and box
of chocolate eggs)

Modified Class Winner - Neil James (trophy and box
of chocolate eggs)



Children's Class Winner - no entries



Best Dressed Duck Winner -
Piper Reynolds (box of chocolate
eggs)

Best Effort - Geoff and Jane Glover (box of chocolate eggs)



Best Entertainment - Ann and Lisa Warrington (Venetian waterproof overshoes and box of chocolate eggs)

Booby Prize - Lorraine Pullen (toilet duck)

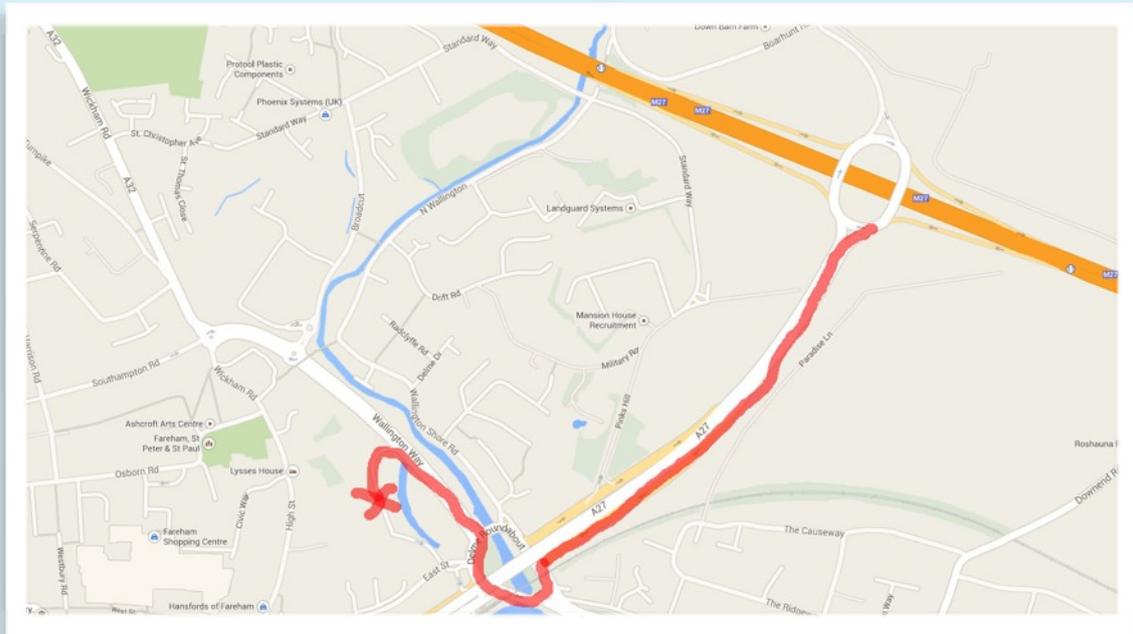


The Wessex TR “Mad March Hare”

The date of this run has changed from that published in the February Newsletter its is on the 23rd March .

The run in March is going to be to somewhere different. A lot of our days out tend to take us around the New Forest and to the west of our area, so for a change, we are going to explore the extreme south-eastern corner of our “patch”. Which means we will need to change our meeting point to somewhere a little further to the east.

So, for this month, we will meet at the Lysses Long Term Car Park in FAREHAM, just off the M27 at 11 am, ready for an 11:15 or thereabouts departure. To find this car park, exit the M27 at junction 11, the main exit for Fareham town centre. Head South, signposted to Gosport, but as soon as you exit the junction roundabout, take the left lane to go down a slip road. Once onto the slip road, take the right lane. You will be wedged between the A27



on your right and the railway viaduct on your left. At the roundabout (traffic light controlled) at the end of the slip road, take the 4th exit onto Wallington Way (dual carriageway). After about 200 yards, there is a left slip road into the car park. It is marked as a long term car park and you will pass under a height barrier to get in. We'll meet close to the entrance.

The suggested route takes us up and over Portsdown Hill with views if we are in luck across Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour, to the hills around Goodwood, across Portsea Island to the Isle of Wight and northwards to Butser Hill. We'll pass a number of points of interest – Fort Nelson, one of Palmerston's “Follies” containing part of the Royal Armouries collection, Nelson's Monument and a number of highly secret defence establishments. It is reputed that Portsdown Hill has housed many secret Admiralty establishments over the years, many of which are only now being revealed.

Further on, between The Churchillian and The George Public Houses, just prior to crossing the old London Road we pass a Cold War era secret command bunker, disguised for many years as a British Telecom training centre. The fact it was on a red MoD road sign was always a bit of a giveaway!

Next, we'll skirt Bedhampton, once a standalone village, but now absorbed into the urban fill-in between Havant and Portsmouth and we'll go through the town centre of Havant. This is an interesting little town to explore, founded on a history of parchment making and famous for the "Battle of Havant", a commercial dispute between two railway companies resulting from arguments over the use of a joint route.

Then over the bridge onto Hayling Island. The bridge dates from the late 1950's and replaced an old toll bridge owned by the railway. The remains of the old railway bridge can be seen to the right; there's not much left now as the wooden trestles were destroyed by fire some years after the line closed.

To the left, if the tide is out, you may see a Roman causeway. We'll drive right across the island to the sea and find somewhere to park close to the funfair. There is plenty of parking, but we might have to pay. Lunch options are varied, but I'll be heading to the Fish'n'Chip café close by. It claims to sell the best Fish'n'Chips in the area. The famous "Hayling Billy" train ceased in 1963, but there is a narrow gauge railway running along the sea front and if we are in luck, it will be running.

Hayling is a very quiet resort. There are a number of Holiday Camps and large caravan parks, but in all other respects, it is a very low key area for traditional family "bucket and spade" holidays. I don't suppose that we'll be going swimming, though.



Wessex and New Forest Triumph Run

For our club run in April, we will be joining the Triumph Sports 6 Club for their annual run in the Forest and surrounding areas . This years event takes place on **Sunday 6th April**. It starts at Avon Heath Country Park, Ringwood and this year, ends on the seafront at Bournemouth.

Entry is £12 per car with an optional £1.50 for a commemorative plaque. All entries must be submitted by **31st March 2014**.

The entry form can be downloaded from the events website, or if you don't fancy doing that I have a copy which I will email on request. via the newsletter email address :-

<http://www.triumphnewforestrun.co.uk>

or

wessextrnewsletter@gmail.com

Thrupton Easter Revival



Once again Wessex Group will be attending the Thrupton Revival on Easter Sunday the 20th of April . if you would like to attend with your TR please speak to Nigel, more information will follow as we get nearer the date. Those who went last year will know what a great day's entertainment it was, although a little chilly.

further information can be found on the event website

http://www.thruptonracing.co.uk/easter_revival.html

Basingstoke Festival of Transport



Sunday 11th May 2014

11am to 4pm

War Memorial Park, Basingstoke

We will be joining with other southern TR Register groups for a club stand at this event. If you wish to attend you should complete the entry form on the next page and send it to Nigel by **25th March 2014** so that the group application may be completed.

Post to

Nigel Jordan
47 Broomfield Drive
Alderholt
Fordingbridge
Hampshire
SP6 3HY

There are now only 2 places left so get your application in if you want one of them



THE THORNYCROFT SOCIETY LTD.



Basingstoke Festival of Transport

At the War Memorial Park, Basingstoke

Sunday 11th May 2014.

Car Club Vehicle Entry Form.

NAME OF CAR CLUB:		
REG. No.	VEHICLE MAKE & MODEL.	
DATE BUILT.	ENGINE MAKE & SIZE.	
BRIEF HISTORY OF VEHICLE;		
OWNERS NAME.	Tel. No. Day.	Evening.
ADDRESS.		Post Code
Insurance Co.	Policy No.	Expiry Date.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHAIRMAN OR COORDINATOR

Festival Specialist Car Club Contact:

Mr Garry Bone, 19, Foyle Park, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3HD.

01256 352862.

Conditions of Entry:

1. There will be no movement of vehicles between 11.00am to 4.00pm. Between these times, Vehicles only to leave the site in an Emergency, or Abandonment of the Event and then only with the Rally Organisers Permission and under supervision of Rally Marshalls.
 2. **Entry Number to be displayed to gain entry onto the Rally Site.**
 3. Entries must be entered in a clean, complete & safe working condition. Substitute entries only allowed by prior arrangement with organiser.
 4. All entries must be INSURED against all THIRD PARTY RISKS, fully licensed and tested in accordance with the regulations applicable to that type vehicle for road use. The organisers reserve the right to ask for proof of these items. Entries MAY NOT BE RUN ON TRADE PLATES.
 5. Steam wagons & engines will only be admitted if the owners can show proof of boiler insurance & annual inspection to the Festival Organiser.
 6. Owners must ensure that all drivers are fully qualified in law to handle the class of vehicle entered. No unlicensed persons to drive on site.
 7. NO VEHICLES TO BE RUN ON SITE ONCE POSITIONED. All unattended vehicles shall be left securely braked and/or chocked.
 8. A speed limit of 10 MPH shall apply to all vehicles, in all event areas off the public highway. NO WHEEL SPINNING ON THE GRASS.
 9. Drivers must pay full regard to marshals instructions & conduct themselves in a manner which will not inconvenience other road users or other persons at any time.
 10. Private cars built after the 31st December 1980 will not be accepted unless otherwise negotiated with Section or Rally Organiser.
 11. NO PETROL GENERATORS TO BE USED ON SITE.
 13. The closing date for entries is 1st April, 2014. Any entries accepted after 1st April will not be entered in programme or entitled to a rally plaque.
- Please sign that the above conditions are understood & will be adhered to.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Closing date for entries is the 1st April 2014, late entries may or may not be accepted, but will not appear in the Rally Programme or receive a Rally Plaque.

2014 Diary of Events

March 2014

23rd **THIS DATE HAS CHANGED** from that published in Feb Newsletter

Club Run - The Mad March Hare

This run has a different meet point - See page 13 for details

25th Club Night - A two part Quiz hosted by Roy

April 2014

5th Revington TR Open Day - Middlezoy, Somerset

6th The New Forest Run - entries by 31st March see website for details
<http://www.triumphnewforestrun.co.uk>

This event will take the place of our April Club Run

20th Thruxton Easter Revival - Contact Nigel if you wish to attend
http://www.thruxtonracing.co.uk/easter_revival.html

22nd Club Night - Scalextrix racing at the Nondescripts Club

May 2014

11th Basingstoke Festival of Transport - Applications to Nigel by **25/03/14**

17th - 18th Spring Auto jumble at Beaulieu
<http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/beaulieu-events/spring-autojumble>

25th Club Run - Awaiting Details

27th Club Night - An evening at the Pub. Join fellow members for a drink and chat at The Queens Head PH, Fishers Pond, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 7HF

June 2014

8th Club Run - Awaits Details

24th Clean car night at the IBM Social Club, Hursley, Hants, SO21 2JN

July 2014

4th - 6th Classic Le Mans - visit the TR Register micro site for further details

<http://www.tr-register.co.uk/CLM2014/>

13th Club Run - Awaits Details

22nd Invited car night at the IBM Social Club, Hursley, Hants, SO21 2JN

August 2014

8th - 11th International Weekend
The Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate
More details to follow

24th Simply Classics - Beaulieu National Motor Museum

<http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/beaulieu-events/club-rally/simply-classics>

26th Club Night - Awaits Details

September 2014

12th - 14th Goodwood Revival Meeting

<http://www.goodwood.co.uk/revival/welcome.aspx>

14th The Concorde Club Classic and Sports Car Show
We will be having a group stand at this show - details to follow

<http://www.concordeclassics.co.uk/index.html>

23rd Club Night - Barbecue at the Nondescripts Club, Lyndhurst

All events are covered in full on the Wessex Tr Register facebook page and any late updates or cancellations will be published there.