



# S

THE SPRITE  
CAR CLUB OF  
AUSTRALIA



March 2021



# Sprite Car Club of Australia Inc.

ABN: 62879038-526

Club Patrons: John Sprinzel and Graham Healey

## Committee

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**ROD PRINGLE**

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**Librarian: David Lawrance**

**Phone:**

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## Life Members

**1975: Bob Owers**

**2015: Brian Walton, Ian Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Graham Wells, Avis Fowler, Greg Holden, Alan Barlow, Dave Lawrence, Colin Dodds.**

**2016: Barry Taylor (Dec), Ian Jenson, Barry Cockayne, Les payne, Bill McLennan**

**2019: Eileen Barlow (Dec)**

**2020: Leah Holden, David Healy**

### MARQUE MENTORS

**MK1 Sprite: Greg Holden and Colin Dodds**

**MK2 Sprite: Neil Scott**

**MK3 Sprite: Greg Strange**

**MK3 Midget: Colin Dodds**

**1500 Midget: Greg Prunster**

### S.C.C.A

**PO BOX 696 KINGSWOOD NSW 2747**

**Magazine contributions to:**

**embaigent@gmail.com**

**which closes 20th of each month**

**Monthly meetings: The Hills Club 2-6**

**Jenner Street Bulkham Hills 2nd**

**Tuesday of each month starting**

**at 7:30pm.**





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# President's Report



**Will it ever stop raining? March has been dominated by the exceptional rain event that has occurred near the end of the month. I know that quite a number of our members, some of them committee members, have been cut off by the floods and I trust everyone is safe and has not suffered too badly in the storms. Sadly, we had to cancel the Friday run scheduled for March but I am sure you will all agree this was the right thing to do.**

**I am sure that the inclement weather has had most of us hiding our Sprites, Midgets and other classics, away from the elements and perhaps giving them some mechanical attention for later in the year. We have some social runs coming up in the near future, check out upcoming events and keep an eye out for the chimp mails prior to the events. Please come along in any car you choose to use, yes it would be great to see Sprites on the road, but we realise that many of our members have other interesting vehicles which are just as welcome at the social events.**

**Last month I wrote about the transition of my road car into a Motorsport Australia Log booked Group S race car. This month I was able to start the development journey of this car by entering my first race meeting in it. HSRCA were running their Autumn Festival at Wakefield Park on 20th & 21st of March which coincided with the very wet weekend in Sydney. During the week I had studied the weather forecast based on the concern being given by the National News broadcasters but being a bit further inland it appeared Goulburn would be a marginally better place to be than Sydney. I therefore packed the car and all my gear and headed off at 5:30am on Friday morning, driving through some pretty bad weather & arriving at Wakefield Park at 8:00am ready for a day of practice. It was very quiet at the track with just a small number of people taking advantage of the opportunity to practice prior to the event. I had a great time doing 2 sessions in the wet which included a couple of spins and then 3 sessions in the dry as the weather cleared up. The car ran without any issues and the newly rebuilt gearbox, now sporting straight close ratio internals was working perfectly and retaining all its oil - thanks Colin Dodds for the rapid rebuild. From a driver's perspective the car was obviously lacking in power and hence straight line speed but everything else about it was pretty good. A slightly 'long' brake pedal was quickly fixed by adjusting the rear brakes and I was all set race day on Saturday.**

**Saturday was started wet and remained damp all day. The HSRCA Scrutineers descended on me and my car with glee as there first car to be inspected, no doubt because the log book was new it attracted attention. Always a stressful exercise, they picked up a couple of minor things that I fixed there and then and then noticed slightly more play in a front wheel bearing than acceptable. I was a bit miffed at this as I didn't think it was particularly bad but they allowed me to compete, with a note in the log book to repair before the next meeting. Qualifying went reasonably well and I wasn't the slowest car which surprised me. In the first race I started well and managed to avoid the first corner chaos as a Porsche 924 span at turn 2 in the middle of the pack sending cars everywhere to avoid him. I then picked up an electrical misfire as the condenser started to fail.**





# President's Report



I decided to return to the pits but didn't make it that far with the car expiring completely just after turn 9 - I took to the grass to get out of everyone's way so the race could continue. With no time to fix the car before my next race, I tracked down spare parts and with the valuable assistance of Richard Smith, we had the car running again.

Sunday was equally wet and with the car running again, I was able to race reasonably competitively and even overtook 2 other cars only to spin and go back a place. The lack of power was not too much of an issue in the wet and it was interesting for me to see other cars pull away on the main straight but then be able to catch up with them again by the twisty bits. Despite my troubles I really enjoyed the weekend and the general camaraderie of the folk who were racing. They were happy to see a new car there and happy to help me out when things went wrong. On the last week of March we will have some of our members competing in the first CSCA Supersprint of 2021, including some newcomers. Good luck to all stay safe, I shall miss you as I am making the journey to Winton in Victoria for another race meeting.

If all this motorsport talk has got you interested, the SCCA Supersprint is coming up on 8th May and we will need volunteers to assist with running the event. Being a flag Marshall is the easiest way to get a great view of the action, so drop me a line at [president@spriteclub.com](mailto:president@spriteclub.com) if you are interested and I will tell you more.



# MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

**Denue: The Hills Club**  
**Meeting commenced: 7.33pm**

**Present: Committee members: David Baigent, Graham Wells, Les Payne, Leah Holden, Greg Holden, Rod Pringle, Ross Reichardt.**  
**Members: Harley Pringle.**  
**Apologies: Steve Rivett, Carol Dodds**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**  
**Graham Wells circulated the minutes from the previous meeting. Moved accepted Les Payne, seconded Greg Holden. Carried.**

**Business Arising:**  
**None other than items covered later in the agenda.**  
**Treasurer's Report: Les Payne reported.**

**General Account:**

Opening balance	\$32,301.00
Deposits	\$655.00
Closing balance 28/2	\$32,955.00

**Savings Account:**

Opening balance	\$46,100.65
Interest	\$0.39
Closing balance 28/2	\$46,101.04

**Business Transaction Account:**

Opening balance	\$4,565.89
Payments: Bank fee	\$10.00
Closing balance 28/2	\$4,555.89

**Debit Account**

Opening balance	\$3,185.06
Deposits	\$260.00
Payments: S.T. printing	\$217.20
S.T. postage	\$69.24
C.Dodds reimburse rego	\$1,687.10
Closing balance 28/2	\$1,471.52
<b>Total Cash in Bank</b>	<b>\$85,084.45</b>

**Moved accepted David Baigent, seconded Greg holden. Carried.**

**Secretary's Report: Graham Wells reported correspondence:**  
**Incoming:**  
 -ABCC. Change of date for display day.  
 - Magazines/Brochures: Goblins Gazette, Mascot, British Leyland Heritage.





# MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

## Coming Event:

Provisional events for 2021 are:

- Friday, March 19th. Drive to Audley Weir
  - Sunday, March 28th CSCA(CLA) Supersprint at Wakefield Park
  - \*Sunday, April 11th Casual drive TBA
  - Friday, April 23rd. Drive to Cambewarra Lookout.
  - Saturday, May 8th. SCCA Supersprint
  - Sunday, May 16th National Motoring Heritage Day.
  - Friday, May 21st Drive to Mt. Kembla
  - Friday, June 18th. Drive to Bowral
  - Friday, July 23rd. Mystery Winter Drive
  - Sunday, August 15th Shannons Day
  - Friday, Aug 20th Drive TBA
  - Friday, Sept 24th Drive TBA
  - Sunday, Oct 17th ABCC Display Day
  - Friday, Oct 22nd Drive TBA
  - Friday, Nov 12th Drive TBA
  - Friday, Dec 10th Drive TBA.
- \*Greg & Leah Holden volunteered at the meeting to organise this event.  
-Rod Pringle volunteered to organise a run for National Motoring Heritage Day.

Motorsport Aust. & CMC: No report.

Membership: Ross Reichardt reported.

We have 408 financial members.

Six new applications this month.

- Nicholas Brunninhausen who has a 1989 Leyland Moke
- Luke McLachlan who has a 2001 Mazda MX5
- Joel Pierce who has a 1965 Ford Mustang
- Sam Rochlin who has a 1991 Nissan Sylvania
- Zain Warwick who has a 1995 Mitsubishi GT0
- Scott, Kel & Kaiya Gibbs who have a 1960 Sprite.

Moved all accepted Ross Reichardt, seconded Rod Pringle. Carried.

Competition & CSCA: David Baigent reported.

- The HSRCA evening event at SMSP on Thursday February 18th went well. Report in Sprite Torque.
- HSRCA race meeting at Wakefield Park on March 20/21st.
- CSCA first event for the year is CLA at Wakefield Park on March 28th.
- MG Racing at Winton on March 27/28th.

Regalia: No report

Sprite Torque: David Baigent reported.

- February edition went out with the new colour front & back pages.
- Elly Baigent needs more photos and articles.





# MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

## Web-site & Facebook:

- David Baigent reported that the web-site is all up to date.
- Harley Pringle reported we have 615 members. Mainly technical subjects and events being discussed.

## Sprite & Midget Nationals; Greg Holden reported:

Graham Wells has booked 60 rooms at the Adobe Motel/Apartments in Canberra but the sub-committee have concerns over the cancellation policy. Cancellation under 30 days would expose the Club to a \$40,000 liability.

A second option at the Canberra Parkland is slightly cheaper with an exposure of \$9,000 for 15-30 days & \$35,000 for less than 15 days. The meeting considered this a better option.

Graham Wells advised that Queanbeyan motels are too small (18-40 rooms). The one suitable option is yet to reply after a number of enquiries.

There was a general discussion on the possibility of cancellation due to Covid restrictions or lack of interest/bookings. The time frame is such that we have at least until early 2022 to make final decisions.

**Supersprint:** David Baigent reported that everything is booked & an Email sent out to check on availability of officials.

## General Business:

- David Baigent advised that Carol Dodds has reluctantly resigned from the committee due to other commitments.
- David Baigent raised the subject of Conditional Registrations next year. Colin Dodds has advised he wishes to step down as registrar. We will need a new registrar & how are we going to process the large number of renewals? Ross Reichardt suggested combining the Membership & Registrar roles. Do we authorise a number of members in different locations to check & stamp renewals? Are the renewals best sent to individual checkers addresses or to the Club P.O. box address? David will discuss with Colin & seek his suggestions.
- Rod Pringle advised he is running in Beyond Bitumen on May 27-31st. Les Payne moved we sponsor \$500 seconded David Baigent. Carried.
- Ross Reichardt raised the subject of the number of non-Sprite/Midget owners joining the Club. Are some doing it just to get cheap registration? Some are family members of Sprite owners & others are coming in for Supersprint participation. After a general discussion it became obvious that it is a complex issue. The suggestion that we put a line in the membership application asking what is the applicant's interest in joining the Club was supported & Ross will look at this in a revision of the form. Another suggestion was to make participation in at least one Club event a requirement for registration renewal (other clubs do this). Those present felt that we do need to keep a watching brief on this subject.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Next meeting April 13th, 2021 at 7.30 pm. The Meeting Room, The Hills Club, 2-6 Jenner St. Baulkham Hills.





# SCCA Covid Safe Plan

This Covid-19 Safety Plan sets out requirements for members and visitors attending a club event while Covid-19 continues to infect our communities.

## Wellbeing of members and visitors

- Members and visitors who are unwell must not attend any face-to-face club events.
- Attendees at face-to-face events are strongly recommended to wear a face mask.
- Attendees should have at least a small supply of hand sanitiser with them when attending an event.
- Do not allow others to sit in or touch your car unless you have means to disinfect or sanitise touched surfaces.
- Avoid touching things as far as is practicable.

## Physical distancing

- Attendees must book their place before attending a face-to-face event.
- Where reasonably practical, maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing even if wearing a face mask.
- When indoors observe the four sqm per person rule.

## Hygiene and cleaning

- Attendees should adopt good hand hygiene practices.
- The club prefers that any purchases or other payments be made by contactless payment options (credit card).
- Attendees should use hand sanitiser before and after handling objects. Detergent or disinfectant wipes will be available to wipe objects regularly.

## Record keeping

- Attendees must provide their name and a mobile number or email address. For family groups, one contact is sufficient to support contact tracing.

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line for information about COVID-19 on [1800 020 080](tel:1800020080).





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Dates:

## Event Details:

**Feb 19th**

Drive to Berrima for shopping and lunch  
Meet at 9.30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli - depart 10.00am or  
Meet at the Robertson Pie Shop - 11.00am  
The restaurant will be booked so please let us know if you are  
coming. Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**Mar 19th**

Friday drive to have a picnic at Audley Weir  
Meet at 9.30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli - depart 11.00am  
This drive takes us north along the coast line over the famous  
Sea Cliff Bridge and through the Royal National Park.  
Bring a picnic lunch and chairs. Take away food is also available  
at the cafe.  
Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**April 23rd**

Friday Drive to Cambewarra Lookout for lunch  
Meet at 9.30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli for Coffee/chat -  
depart 10.00am. Meet at 11.00am - Kevin Walsh Oval, Jamberoo -  
depart 11.15am. The restaurant will be booked so please let us  
know if you are coming.  
Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**May 16th**

National Motoring Heritage Day

**May 21st**

Friday Drive to Mt Kembla Hotel for lunch  
Meet at 9.30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli for Coffee/chat -  
depart 10.30am. The restaurant will be booked so please let us  
know if you are coming.  
Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**June 18th**

Drive to Bowral (lunch at the Scottish Arms, East Bowral)  
Meet at 9.30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli - depart 10.00am or  
Meet at the Robertson Pie Shop - 11.00am  
The restaurant will be booked so please let us know if you are  
coming. Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**July 23rd**

Mystery Winter Drive  
Meet at 9:30am - Ruby's Beach Café at Bulli for coffee/  
chat - depart 10:15am.  
Contact: Keith Smith 0404 631 200 if you wish to attend.

**Aug 15th**

Shannons Day

**Aug 29th**

All British Day





# ESCA Supersprint Series 2021

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Circuit:</b>	<b>Host Club:</b>
Sunday 28th March	Wakefield Park	Club Lotus Australia
Sunday 18th April	Pheasant Wood	MG Car Club
Saturday 8th May	SMP South Circuit Under Lights 5:00pm- 10:30pm	Sprite Car Club of Australia
Saturday 17th July	Pheasant Wood	MG Car Club Newcastle
Saturday 14th August	SMP Gardner	Morgan Owners Club of Australia
Saturday 18th September	Wakefield Park	Triumph Sports Owners Assoc
Sunday 31st October	SMP North	Jaguar Drivers Club of Australia



# HSRCA Series 2021

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Circuit:</b>
20 - 21st March	Autumn Festival	Wakefield Park
12 - 13th June	Sydney Classic	SMP
28 - 29th August	Spring Festival	Wakefield Park
27 - 28th November	Summer Festival	SMP





# SPRITE NATIONALS

**SCCA will be hosting the Sprite Nationals over the Easter Break in 2022 (not this year but next year).**

**While this is over a year away, our organising team are looking for volunteers to make this a great event for all.**

**The Nationals will kick off on Thursday night, 14 April 2022 and will conclude on Monday morning after breakfast. The event is planned to be held in Canberra - the Nations Capital.**

## **Volunteers Needed.**

**We are looking for a co-ordinator for the concourse (car display and judging for the best of the best in Sprites and Midgets as well as some members to help with the social aspects of the event.**

**We have four full days of social activities and it would be really nice to have some fresh faces involved in the Nationals.**

**New members would be made to feel very welcome and it would be an exciting new way to meet more members and get out in your cars more.**

**To be on the committee and in fact, to go on a run with us you do not need a Sprite or midget.**

**You could drive an FJ Landcruiser or a Mercedes 300SEL if you like**

**If this sounds interesting please contact Greg Holden on 0408 777 936**

**Kind Regards,  
Greg Holden  
Dice - President SCCA**





# Meet the Editor



I have grown up around Sprites and Midgets, I can't actually remember them not being in my life. My dad (David Baigent) has always had at least one Sprite/Midget plus a body shell lying around at home. When I was younger, I would hear a yell from the garage and dad would want me to help him out with the car, I reluctantly agreed.

My first-time driving was actually in a Sprite Mk111 that dad built. He had entered me into a super sprint and I had just turned 14. I had no idea how to drive a car and we spent time driving up and down the driveway and across the front yard. I can't say I was any good. Next minute I know we are at Wakefield Park and I'm going down the main straight with my Dad next to me yelling at me to go faster and change into 4th year. This was a daunting thought because I didn't want to change from 4th to 3rd to 2nd round the bend. Before I have time to stop him or put my foot on the clutch Dad had pulled the gear stick into 4th gear. Let's just say I wasn't impressed, and this was my first experience driving and I didn't drive again till I got my L's.



So my 16th birthday comes around and I get my L's my dad is determined for me to learn manual but the only manual car we have is my dad's Midget. Learning to drive isn't easy, learning to drive manual isn't easy either, learning to drive in a 50-year-old car wasn't easy either. I think the most memorable experience learning to drive was taking part in the Sprite Car Club drive to Woy Woy for Fish & Chips. It was not a smooth ride at all plenty of stalls and embarrassing moments for me and my dad. Dad drove on the way home as he said I had given the car "too much of a hard time".



Then I turned 17 and had completed my 120 hours to go for my licence. I passed my test and day handed the keys to his Midget over. I drove this car to school every day for a year, I had some trust issues with it at first. Would it start? Would it overheat? Would it just not turn on? Will someone steal it or damage it? It was not the normal first car for a person to be driving I got a lot of looks at school parking it. It was around this time I started super sprinting regularly, the nerves were definitely there in the beginning but the more I did it the more comfortable and slightly faster I became.





# Meet the Editor

I finished high school in 2019 and became more interested in my dad's cars and have spent significantly more time with him in the garage learning how to look after these cars. I follow him to every super sprint, race, car club event I can.

I have become more active within the car club in the past year I am now the editor for Sprite Torque. If you have any articles, stories or photos please send them in!

Elly Baigent





# Meet The Club Cars & Owners!

**The Sprite Car Club has 380 members, almost all have a special car. Would everyone like to send in a photo and a paragraph about their car to put in SpriteTorque.**

**Please email this information to: [editor@spriteclub.com](mailto:editor@spriteclub.com)**

**Thank you Les Payne for the idea.**

## This Month let's meet: Les Payne's Cars

**1967 MG Midget.**

**I purchased my Midget some 17 years ago. I had been a member of the Sprite Car Club for a number of years with an AC Aceca, but felt I would like a Midget. I spoke to Colin Dodds and he found a car that was in my budget. Ivan and I were to meet the owner with the car on a Saturday morning. Colin offered us his Sprite to go to Penrith, as a comparison to the car we were looking at. Just before the Kingswood turn off on the motor way we ran out of fuel, how could this be as the gauge still showed nearly a quarter of a tank. Phoned the owner we were to meet and he offered to bring us some fuel. Then off to see the car. Looked good, sounded good but on our test drive there was a vibration that I did not notice, Ivan diagnosed it as tail shaft. We negotiated a price and picked it up a few days later. The tail shaft was replaced and the vibration disappeared. This car has been a real delight, in 2004 we travelled to Tasmania, 3300 kms and I did not top up oil or water. The Midget has been used on car rallies, social drives, Hill climbs, All British Day, Shannon's Day, 25 laps around Mt Panorama which would have to be one of the best outings and for the past 12 years super sprints at Wakefield Park, Winton, Oran Park, Eastern creek all circuits, Pheasants wood and Morgan park. We have had our share of burnt pistons, Gearbox rebuilds, heads and cams but all in all exceptional fun. The car has not been resprayed in this time and still looks ok.**





# Team Sprite Beyond Bitumen 2021

Well it's that time of the year again and I am doing Beyond Bitumen 2021. Paul will be not be doing it this year as he wants to have time off, I have a mate that is going with me, Boris he is a good friend of mine. The Corona Virus is on its way out, so hopefully we won't have to cancel our trip in May. They are doing two runs this year, one in April and one in May, we have decided to do the May trip.

This year the rally will be around the Hunter Valley region starting @ Mangoola Coal Mine, Castle Rock just outside of Muswellbrook. Ending @ Forster Main Beach. We will be meeting up at the Eaton's Hotel on Thursday the 27/05/21 @ 6pm to get our run sheets and have dinner, hopefully having an early night ready, to start the next morning after breakfast



First day we will be leaving from Mangoola Coal Mine leaving @ 8.00am lunch will be at Ellerston Public School where we will be having lunch provided by the School P&C. Then, finishing about 5pm at the Longarm Hotel Tamworth.

Day 2, we will be leaving at 8am from the Longarm Hotel after having breakfast supplied by the Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light. We will be off to Barraba where we will have lunch provide by the Lions Club of Barraba. After we have lunch, we will be on our way to Armadale. There will be plenty of dirt roads and dust.



Day 3, we will be having breakfast @ Curtis Park supplied by the Backstreet Boys (Keeping Kids Alive & Out Of Jail), and leaving Curtis Park at 8.00am through to Kempsey for lunch supplied by the West Kempsey Rotary Club. After lunch we head off down the back roads to Port Macquarie, for our Awards Dinner & Auction.





# Team Sprite Beyond Bitumen 2021



## Kempsey

**Day 4, Breakfast will be @ the Sails Resort, Port Macquarie, leaving at 8.00am on our last leg of the Rally, through to Harrington, and inland to Wingham, than on to ending at Forster Main Beach for Lunch. Than we head back home in Sydney.**



## Port Macquarie

**If you wish to donate go to BEYOND BITUMEN 2021, go to bottom of page & find DONATE HERE, find TEAM SPRITE & donate there. Please donate to Beyond Blue.**

**Rod Pringle  
Team Sprite  
044 8009223**



# Under the Lights

**Under the lights track evening organised by the Historic Sports & Racing Car Association (HSRCA)**



**On Thursday, 18 February, I had the opportunity to have a track evening on Druitt (North) Circuit at Sydney Motorsport Park in my Sunbeam Alpine that was organised by the HSRCA. Driving Solutions, the motor training and event operation at the park, ran the evening on behalf of the club. Driving Solutions were very organised with clear directions, quick and efficient registration, straight forward instructions, great communication and excellent overall coordination of**

**the evening. The whole night went smoothly with maximum track time.**

**All up we had five sessions on the track with each session being 5 to 6 laps. We commenced at 6:30pm sharp and ran till a little after 10.30pm with one car having to be recovered. A little shower of rain as we commenced, followed by intermittent spots in the first hour with water running over parts of the track made very interesting and challenging driving. Everyone drove within their limits considering the wet track with no major incidents (yes! one or two did a little spin). As the conditions were so varied, I don't think I have concentrated so intensely ever before!**

**The first session was run under normal light and as an evening progressed; the sun/light faded as the track lights came into effect. This gradual change allowed us to adjust our eyes and the result was being able to drive very efficiently under fantastic lighting. I latched on behind Richard Cardew, the past President of the HSRCA, also in a Sunbeam Alpine, and took the opportunity to improve my performance and learn from Richard. I must mention that Richard and his team at HSRCA have been very generous in their support and encouragement to my racing career.**

**The other attendees from the Sprite Club were David Baigent our President - Midget; Nick and Andrew Sebesfi - Midget with Lance Godbee in his Sprite. Had a quick chat with David who had to leave early due to an oil leak on his new Group S car, who still thought the short experience was worthwhile. His car is actually the wonderful old car he has carried around the world and he has squeezed absolutely every pound [and dollar out of it!**



**Me personally, I had a fantastic evening with some very close racing with Richard Cardew. [OK - I did have to leave work a little early on Friday for a recovery nap!]**

**Conclusion: Highly recommended, well organised, great track time and incredible comradeship as usual!!!**

**I cannot wait until the Sprite Club CSCA meeting on 8th May ..... under lights .**

**Cheers  
John**



*SPRITE*  
*TORQUE*



*SPRITE*  
*TORQUE*





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