

2010 Motex Bentwaters Gymkhana Introduction

Welcome to the third running of the Motex Gymkhana – this year located at Bentwaters airfield and running on Sunday February 28th.

Chelmsford Motor Club has been running gymkhanas successfully for eight years. The original Javalin's Jumbo Jymkhana was based at West Raynham in Norfolk and, being the only gymkhana of the year, was always oversubscribed. West Raynham is now being developed and is no longer available, so after a couple of years at Sculthorpe we have for the last few years been running gymkhanas in Suffolk.

A gymkhana is a clubsport event – meaning no competition licence is needed, just a club card. The events run on a certificate of exemption from the requirements of the blue book and are defined simply as events held on private land where there is an equal balance of driving and skill tests, timed to an accuracy of within five seconds.

Chelmsford Motor Club gymkhanas are 'fun' events but have a very competitive side as well. They are split between low-speed driving tests – essentially scaled down versions of the tests run on historic and endurance rallies – balanced by the need for accurate navigation and tests of skill and knowledge such as the famous 'cup of water test' and the ever popular Highway Code quiz. The overall results are calculated by summing penalties from each type of test, meaning that it is not always the driver with the longest handbrake lever or the most power who wins the event.

Each of the club's three annual gymkhanas contribute towards the annual Clubman's Championship in 2010 – this championship encourages members to compete in as many disciplines a possible and is always hotly contested.

The full event regulations can be found on the club website
<http://chelmsfordmc.co.uk/Gymkhanas/Motex2010>

Technical regulations are always complex and section 7 of these regulations deals in detail with requirements but the following summarises the cars allowed to compete:

Gymkhanas are open only to standard [factory specification] and road-rally legal cars. Petrol-engined turbo cars are not permitted, although turbo-diesels and four-wheel drives are. Tyres must be road legal and not competition or moulded slicks or knobblies. Body kits, sign-writing and go-faster stripes are not permitted.

We would encourage crews to try to marshal on at least one event each year, and would ask that competitors hoping to enter larger events such as the TRS Bentwaters Stages, Lumenition East Anglian Classic, Hutton Kitchens Woodbridge Stages and EACS Endurance show their support for the club by making the effort to come out and marshal on a gymkhana. In 2010 there will be a club marshalling championship and each event will have a prize draw of £100.