

The thrills and spills of autograss

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Hereford Autograss Club in Marden, Hereford is an association founded in 1966 is forever flourishing with racers from age 12+.

HAC (Hereford Autograss Club) currently races at Lugg view raceway, Marden. The establishers of HAC are Phil Dyke and William Dyke (Bill) and even after four generations William Dyke's great granddaughter still races at HAC. We learnt from an interview, with Bill's great-granddaughter that "racing is fun, yet gruelling, it can be an extremely expensive sport; reaching expenses of as much as a couple of thousand per car."

The sport enables the driver to have many different cars, varying from class 1, a small mini, the engine reaching a capacity of 1000cc. Whereas class eights, nine's and tens consist of 2 motor bike engines, which can exceed speeds of 100mph. This, on an oval race track, is very fast. The sport also offers cars for 12 to 16 year olds, the junior cars use Vauxhall Corsa 1200cc engine, plus specified Vauxhall gearboxes.

Although it is a non-contact sport, Autograss can be very dangerous; the drivers are safely strapped in their cars wearing protective clothing including a helmet and goggles. However, risks of crashes or rolls are possible. Hereford Autograss Club, along with many other Autograss clubs, enable paramedics to be on the venue as well as caterers and activities. Some meetings can be as long as three days and fairs and beer tents are located at the site.

Throughout the years, the sport has greatly evolved, creating cars that are much lighter, have a greater agility and have much better suspension. The images show a car (on the left) from the 70's compared to a car from the recent years (on the right).