

BRITISH MOTORSPORT

MARSHALS CLUB



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SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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Cover Story.

McLaren have found something special in young driver Lando Norris , turning a car that last year was a shocking waste of Fernando Alonso's talent into a solid mid field runner. His qualifying pace in the first 2 G.P.'s of the season was surprised many people and despite only limited testing he has been as quick than his much more experienced team mate Sainz.

Lando was born in Bristol in 1999 and from an early age raced both karts and mini motorcycles. In 2014 he raced in Ginetta Juniors and the following year joined Carlin Motorsport to run in the MSA Formula Series. First year in single seaters he took 10 pole positions and 8 wins to become MSA Champion ! e also ran in the ADAC Formula 4 series taking 6 podium places from 8 starts.

2016 started with Lando competing in both the Eurocup Formula Renault and the Renault 2.0 Nec Championship. By mid season he had won both Championships and when invited to race in the New Zealand Toyota Racing season he jumped at the chance. Over the winter he won 6 races including the New Zealand G.P. to take the Championship. In 2017 he rejoined Carlin for Euro FIA Formula 3 not only winning the Championship but fibishing a massive 53 points ahead of runner up Joel Eriksson. In 2018 Lando signed up as test driver for McLaren as well as racing in the FIA Formula 2 Championship where he finished a close runner up to fellow Brit George Russell.

The signing of both Russell and Norris for 2019 has been a boost for British motorsport but Russell has not been able to show any pace in the woeful Williams car Norris and Sainz are potential point scorers for a revitalised McLaren team .

PININFARINA.

One of the most respected and prolific design houses in the world Pininfarina has been responsible for hundreds of car designs over the years from the humble Austin A40 farina to the Ferrari F40. With Ferrari their main customer , Ferrari 166 inter , 275 GTB 365 coupe , Testarossa and 550 , they also produced several cars for Lancia including the B24 Aurilia , Beta Monte Carlo, etc , Fiat , Peugeot , Volvo and Cadillac have all used Pininfarina to design their cars.

In addition in the mid fifties Pininfarina opened a new factory to build the Alfa Romeo Guilia spider and later the Duetto building up to 20 cars a day and by 1959 production had risen to 4000 cars a year.

During the 1970's 80's and 90's Pininfarina were the stars of many motor shows displaying a range of futuristic concept cars and the announcement that they were designing and building an electric hypercar with almost 1900 BHP was initially considered to be an all new concept car when first shown at the Geneva motor show.

Good news is the new car the Pininfarina Battista is already in production , bad news is the cost of close to £2 million. In spite of this it appears Pininfarina was already several cars on order.



Pininfarina claim the car can match the acceleration of a 2019 Formula 1 car and the stats are very impressive ,

Power up to 1900 BHP Torque 2400nm 0 to 100K Under 2 seconds

Top speed 217MPH four wheel drive with 5 drive modes body full carbon monocoque with alloy crash structure around the cockpit running 21 inch wheels with a special Pirelli P Zero tyre rated to 240 MPH. Have to start buying lottery tickets !!!

Several other interesting cars are due out during 2019.

Porsche Taycan. Started as a concept car the Taycan is an executive 4 door saloon with 4 electric motors and 600 BHP 0 to 60 3.5 secs Top speed limited to 155 MPH.

Audi RS7 Hybrid producing 670 BHP 0 to 60 3.5 secs and limited to 155 MPH.

BMW M850i convertible. 530 BHP X drive 4 wheel drive and 0 to 60 in 3.7 secs.

Ferrari 488 Pista spider. Massive 710 BHP 0 to 60 2.9 secs. Top speed 211 MPH

CLASSIC CAR NEWS.

This 1960 Commer TS Transporter owned by the Scottish Ecurie Ecosse Racing team recently sold for an almost unbelievable £1.7 million.



A rather special TR7.

In 1978 British Leyland supplied a preproduction TR7 to Coca-Cola / Levi's for a competition called "All Summer Long". The prize was a new Coca-Cola TR7 with runners up (500 of them) receiving a pair of Levi jeans. The lucky winner was Englishman David Guest and at the Empire Ballroom in London he was presented with the car complete with a tiny TV in the glovebox, a fridge between the front seats, seats made of Levi denim, matching Tee shirts and a Bradex battery charger fitted to the boot. Coca-Cola valued the car at £7000 more than twice the price of a standard TR7.

Winner David Guest soon discovered it was a preproduction car as at its first service the dealer found 14 separate faults with the car. Once fixed Guest ran the car for 14 years without major problems but by 1992 rust forced him to sell it. The new owner intended to restore it but two years later it was sold again and subject to a rough repaint rather than a restoration. Step in Robsport boss Simon Hebditch a specialist dealer in Triumph sports cars who had intended to restore the car but sold it on to the new Movies n Motors Museum outside Edinburgh in Scotland.

The museum only lasted a year before TR7 collector Chris Turner bought the car and started on a proper restoration. The car by this stage was so rusty that a full body off rebuilt was required and as it not been the original Cola-Cola car it would have been scrapped. Today it is a show winning car and a keeper although Chris admits he is unlikely to even recover the costs of the restoration.



An unnamed Collector in America bought a long nose Ferrari 275 GTB in 1981 for \$47,000 to add to his collection of a 1967 Ac 427 Cobra and a TR6. He employed an experienced engineer to look after his cars but within a year the guy was killed in a motor cycle race. The cars were put into storage and it appears forgotten about as when discovered last year both the Ferrari and the Cobra were infested with mice. In spite of the state of the cars both were sold at Goodings Auction New York the auctioneer being Bargain Hunt presenter Charlie Ross.. Neither car had started for over 30 years but on the day of the auction the team got both cars running although the Ferrari was totally brakeless. The owners \$47,000 buy was a wise investment the Ferrari selling for \$2.3 million and the Cobra selling for \$950,000 !

THE COLLECTOR.

English collector Malcolm Ricketts is a keen fan of all things Lotus and in the 1990's raced a works Lotus in Classic F1 events. The car he used was the ex Jim Clark Lotus 32B. More recently he has raced in Classic events across Europe in a 1960 Lotus 18. He is also Chairman of the Historic Lotus registrar and as well as being the expert when it comes to significant Lotus cars he has built up a small collection of valuable racing Lotus'.

1953 Lotus Mk 9. A successful car in the hands of gentleman racer Dickie Steed. Ricketts found the car in the South of France and has since raced it in the LeMans Classic and the Vernasca Silver Flag Hillclimb in Italy.

1957 Lotus Mk.11. Ex G.P. driver Alan Stacey won the 1957 National Championship in this car and successfully raced it for several years. The car was fitted with a hand throttle after Stacy lost a leg in an accident and when Ricketts bought the car it still had these modifications fitted. The car now races at Goodwood and the annual Spa Classic.

1959 Lotus Elite. Bought as a project the car had a full restoration carried out by Tolman Motorsport. Although built as a race spec car originally the car was rebuilt as a road legal car and Mr. And Mrs Ricketts travel around 1000 miles a year using it as a quick touring car.

1960 Lotus 18. In 1995 he became the appointed driver for Classic Team Lotus and was given the ex Jim Clark Lotus 32 to race. After 14 years he decided he wanted something slower and bought this Lotus 18 which had been raced for many years in South Africa winning the South African Championship in both 1960 and 1961.

1968 Lotus type 58 An ex Graham Hill car this Formula 2 car has been raced and hillclimbed by Ricketts. Graham Hill did not like the car as unlike many Lotus cars it was too heavy !

1973 Lotus Elan Sprint. This tuned road car built by Ian Walker racing is Malcolm's favourite car and the one he will never part with.

Also used as road cars is his 1991 Lotus Excel and a 1994 Catherham 7 fitted with a 2.0 litre Vauxhall Calibra engine and five speed box.

Robert's RallyBuzz

April Come She Will

Paul Simon to thank for this month's title line. A busy time ahead as the rally season reaches the dizzy heights of spring. Hopefully the weather will play ball.

March saw Derek McGarrity win again at Bishopscourt. The Glengormley man has been victorious at this race circuit venue in Co.Down more times than anyone else. This event was round two of the Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship. Although I wasn't there, lots of BMMC marshals helped out on what was a wet and windy day. There were only 7 retirements, 52 of the 59 starters finished the six stages. Steven Wright was fifth but still leads the championship. Check out full rally reports and the current points table at nirallychampionship.com.

The main event for us last month was our annual BMMC/BRMC Northern Ireland Training Day at Kirkistown. Many thanks to lead Motorsport UK licensed trainer Jim Whitaker (observed by Motorsport UK's Bob) who made the long day extremely entertaining. Around 30 people including club members and others attended. Rory and Duncan from our own club also took charge of some of the sessions. I think we all learned something new and hopefully are ready for the coming year's events be they on circuits or stages.

Looking Back

April memories

30 Years Ago.....1989

Jimmy McRae won the BIF Circuit of Ireland for the seventh time driving a Ford Sierra Cosworth. He had a rally long battle with Russell Brooke's in a similar car but finished 21 seconds ahead in the end. The rally started from the Dunadry Inn in Co. Antrim on the Saturday and finished in Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin on Easter Monday. There were 29 stages.

We marshalled at scrutineering in the Valley Leisure Centre and then we were timing as usual. On day one we were at the finish of the Slieve Gallion stage when a Vauxhall Nova driver had a massive accident taking out a telephone pole and rolling several times, thankfully without injury to either of the crew or indeed anyone else! Bill Swan was COC on the event.

20 Years Ago.....1999

We were marshalling at the Ulster Rallycross GP at Nutts Corner in Co.Antrim when Helmut Holfeld took the win in the ex-Will Gollop Peugeot 306.

Austin McHale had a big accident on the AA Circuit of Ireland that year. Roy Bartlem, a BRMC Marshal and member of my timing team, saved Bertie Fisher from a similar fate. We were spectating at the junction on our way to another stage. Roy warned Fisher, the next car on the road, by slowing him down and managing to clear the road of spectators just in time. Bertie won the rally three days later in Bangor. The then Secretary of State for

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Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam had helped us to start the first stage in Bangor's Castle Park. She was great on the flag and seemed to enjoy the experience as she stayed longer than expected!

10 Years Ago.....2009

The Larsen Circuit of Ireland Rally was actually three events rolled into one. An international section of just 30 cars which counted as round two of the Irish Tarmac Championship, followed by 18 competitors in National A taking part in the MSA Asphalt Rally Championship and finally 70 odd runners classified as Nat. B which were in fact participants in the third round of the Hankook Northern Ireland Championship. The organising Ulster Automobile Club had wanted to run the whole thing as one big event but MSA rules dictated otherwise.

I was Chief Timekeeper once again for the two-day Easter event which started and finished in Dundalk. Nigel Hughes was COC and there were just 14 stages. Eugene Donnelly won the main rally in his Skoda Fabia WRC, Kenny McKinstry dominated the NI Championship in a Subaru S8 WRC while Melvyn Evans was victorious in the National A category, winning by 3 minutes in his Subaru S11 WRC.

Rallycross returned to Nutts Corner in Northern Ireland for the first time since 2004. Two rounds of the Fuchs Open Championship, an independent rival to the MSA British Championship, were held. We provided marshalling cover. Kris Meeke and Kenny McKinstry were competing in the RX buggy races with mixed success, Kenny finished up on his roof while Kris won most of his races but crashed out in the last one. Ollie O'Donovan won the Ulster Masters title in the same ex-Gollop Peugeot 306 that Helmut Holfeld had won the Ulster Rallycross Grand Prix TEN YEARS BEFORE at the same venue.

5 Years Ago.....2014

The European Rally Championship came to Belfast as the 2014 Circuit of Ireland was a counting round of the series for the first time. Finnish driver and now WRC star Esapekka Lappi and co-driver Jane Ferm won and their Skoda Fabia S2000 team mates Sepp Wiegand / Frank Christian were second. Robert Barrable finished third in a Ford Fiesta R5. We were covering radio points on both days.

For a change I only had to drive 8 miles from home to my first mid-point location in Loughries Village near Newtownards on Good Friday. This was stage one and 114 competitors started the 18 stage rally (31 Internationals and 83 Nationals). Day two on the Saturday saw us in Lisburn for the two City centre Power Stages. 66 cars finished the rally (19 Internationals and 47 Nationals) Eurosport TV described the Hamiltons Folly stage as "The best tarmac stage on the planet".

The ERC returned to Belfast for the next two years but the Circuit of Ireland Rally hasn't run since then. Rumours of a return and the resurrected event heading for the World Rally Championship have so far proved to be extremely wide of the mark.

Rally Diary

Sat. 6th April Eakin Bros. Brian James Trailers Stage Rally

Round 3 of the Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship organised by Maiden City Motor Club. We are covering radio points plus providing stage marshals on this closed-road rally. Two stages near Dunamanagh in Co.Tyrone will be run 3 times. The rally is based in Strabane with a service park at Canal Basin. Over 90 competitors are due to start.

Sat. 13th April Dungannon Motor Club's Springfling Targa Rally

Yet another Targa Rally. This one, run on mostly sealed surfaces, is sponsored by the Donnelly Group. A full list of 70 entries due to compete. Marshals will be made welcome. Based at the Conhannon Inn 212 Ballynakilly Road, Dungannon. Sign on from 07.30. First car starts at 10.01.

Fri. 19th—Sat. 20th April UAC Easter Stages Rally

Starting from Clotworthy House in Antrim town on Good Friday this closed-road event is round 3 of the Irish Tarmac Championship. Expect a huge entry of R5 cars, almost 30 started West Cork last month. Craig Breen leads that series having won both Galway and West Cork, although why he is bothering with the Tarmac Championship I don't really understand. I suppose he has nothing else on this year having failed to get a WRC drive. Great to see Alastair Fisher and Gordon Noble doing so well. The Tyrone pairing are second in the championship after having taking a year out from rallying. Wastewater Solutions are the Easter Stages sponsors. The Friday stages are in the Antrim area while Saturdays are around Lisburn and Moira. Apart from timekeeping we are covering rescue radio points and stage marshalling.

Sat. 27th April Cookstown Motor Club's Targa Rally

Based at the Shepherds Rest Bar and Restaurant near Draperstown Co.Tyrone. Sponsored by McConville Recovery Services. We will be helping to time some of the various tests, usually held in the area around Davagh Forest. Sign on from 8am. First car starts at 10.30. No less than 90 cars have entered.

Sat. 27th April MGCC Ulster Centre 28th Derek Walker Memorial Classic

Based this year in at the Echlinville Distillery, 62 Gransha Road, Kircubbin, Co.Down. Described as a multi-venue clubman production car autotest. Marshals are welcome to help run the various tests. Sign-on 08.00. First car starts at 10.00. Gordon Buckley is COC. Contact Carol Willis for further information on 07831 345560.

Crap Corner .

Did you see the news story last week about the B.A. from London to Dusseldorf which due to incorrect flight plan landed in Edinburgh ? Best comment on this came from (who else) Ryanair boss Michael O'leary who said he would send B.A. a copy of the book ' Geography for dummies ' !

With unending crap about BRIXIT covering our T.V. screens for hours on end I have gone back to streaming real T.V. programmes like ' Mock the Week ' ' Have I got news for you ' and coming back this week ; The Blame Game'

Mock the Week has some of the best one liners ever and here are a few favourites.....

1. Unlikely lines to hear on a business show

Hello and welcome to Working Lunch, a show for people who are so good at business they're sat at home watching TV in the middle of the day. (Frankie Boyle)

2. Unlikely letters to an agony aunt

Dear Deidre... I'm leaving you. (Russell Howard)

3. Things you don't want to hear from your surgeon

Good Morning, Mrs A... No? Oh, sorry, it seems you've got MRSA. (Andy Parsons)

4. Unlikely things to read in a Valentine's card

To my darling wife – roses are red, violets are blue, Valentines Day is consumerist rubbish, don't you have some ironing to do? (Jack Whitehall)

5. Ads that never got made

Poor and too lazy to cook? That's why mums shop at Iceland. (Michael McIntyre)

6. On the trial of Saddam Hussein

After last week's preliminary hearing Saddam Hussein was asked if he needed anything while in custody. "Yes," he said, "Michael Jackson's lawyer". (Dara O'Briain)

READ: Rory Bremner attacks BBC's Mock the Week

7. *Unlikely things to hear in a horror film*

"Uh, no, sorry Freddy. Your satnav must be on the blink. This is Elm Crescent." (Hugh Dennis)

8. *Unlikely lines to read in the Bible*

And Samson cried: "Lord why have you given me all my strength in my hair?" And the Lord replied: "Because you're worth it." (Frankie Boyle)

9. *Unlikely things for a continuity announcer to say*

Coming up, there's serial killer on the loose... in Balamory. (Hugh Dennis)

10. *Unlikely things to hear on a makeover show*

If you want to feel better-looking and increase your self-esteem... move to Leeds. (Milton Jones)

11. *Unlikely school report cards*

Dear Mr and Mrs Johnson, Boris is a very popular and intelligent boy who should go far, just so long as he's not put in charge of anything complex. (Chris Addison)

12. *Unlikely Lines in a Fantasy Film*

I am Aragorn, son of Arathorn, the heir to Isildur and part of the Fellowship of the Ring... please leave a message after the tone. (Russell Howard)

13. *Unlikely newspaper headlines*

"Complicated Stock Exchange fraud: full details inside" (Rory Bremner)

14. *Unlikely lines to hear on a science programme*

...and that's how God created the world in seven days. (Jo Caulfield)

15. *If this is the answer, what is the question: Up To 18 Months*

How long is a Scottish winter? (Frankie Boyle)

How long does it take Abu Hamza to tie his shoelaces? (Ed Byrne)

16. Worst things to hear over a tannoy system

(In a high voice) "Could someone come to the salami slicer, please?" (Russell Howard)

17. On the Beckhams moving to Los Angeles

When they asked her to be on the touchline for David's first game, Posh thought they wanted her to be a cheerleader ... in fact they needed a corner flag. (Jo Caulfield)

18. Unlikely things for Andy Murray to think (with Murray in the studio audience, just days after his agonising 2012 defeat in the Wimbledon final)

"Oi, Tim, look what I've just won!" (Andy Parsons)

19. Unnerving things to hear at a medical examination

This is one of the healthiest X-rays I've ever seen. But if we compare that with yours... (Frankie Boyle)

20. Lines that would change the atmosphere at a dinner party

"Help yourself to Nibbles... he was our favourite hamster." (Hugh Dennis)

AND SOME MORE IF YOU DONT LIKE ANY OF THE ABOVE...

Unlikely things to hear on Crimewatch

The case was closed in 1974 and never reopened – mainly because the police forgot the combination. (Hugh Dennis)

Unlikely things to hear at an awards ceremony

Welcome to the National Insincerity Awards, and can I just say what a pleasure it is to be here... (Hugh Dennis)

Things you didn't hear at the Queen's Jubilee:

TV presenter: There she is, Her Majesty the Queen. Where else could you see an 86-year-old standing for hours just waiting to be seen? Well, any NHS hospital, actually ... (Hugh Dennis)

