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MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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Summertime Bliss !

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Newsletter

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Cover Story.

August seems to be THE month when the classic car brigade come out to play. On the 2nd. August the Carrowdore run , held in perfect summer weather had its annual evening run with around 150 cars taking part. Thanks to member Jimmy Graham for some fabulous pictures. Cover picture is a superbly built Austin 10 special.



The photo's were taken in the grounds of Lord Dunleith's estate on the way to Ballywalter , then to Millisle and returning to Carrowdore.

On the 5th. August , in spite of changeable weather , over 100 cars and motorbikes left Lisburn for the Dundrod circuit at the start of the Bike G.P. week.

Thankfully the promised showers held off long enough for the run to be completed !



Good turnout for the annual G.P. run to Dundrod.

The Carrick Show 17th. Was effected by the weather with a small entry, Dry in the morning I would have been home before the rain arrived had it not been for a busload of I think Chinese tourists , off a cruise liner , who appeared at lunchtime and wanted to take hundreds of pictures of the cars!
 In spite of a disappointing turn out one car , not only rare but unique , was worth going to see.

It is many years from I have last seen a DAF 55 on the road. When I moved from what was the BELFAST Corporation in 1973 my new boss in the housing Executive owned a Daf 55 . When he discovered my interest in cars he let me drive it. At the time all automatic cars had either 3 or 4 gears but the DAF with varoimatic transmission had potentially up to 12 gears. Only a lack of horsepower stopped it from continually changing up to a higher gear. DAF soon overcame the problem with both Rally and Rallycross cars using 1300 Renault Alpine race engines and this little known Dutch company became a force in the mid seventies with cars with enough power reaching speeds of well over 100 M.P.H.
 DAF made much of this success selling road versions of the 66 Monte Carlo and Marathon models in the late 1970's. In spite of this the truck side of the business was so successful that DAF stopped car production to become one of Europe's biggest truck makers.

One thing I do remember clearly was that within 3 years the burnt orange paintjob was slowly turning red with rust on both front wings, bonnet and front and rear valances. So to see a solid one 50 years later was special.

I say unique as this 1973 Daf was not only fully rally prepared by its little 50BHP engine had been replaced with a tuned 1.8 Mazda MX5 engine, mated to a Mazda 6 speed conventional gearbox mated to a MX5 back axle with LSD, all beautifully engineered.



1973 DAF 55
Rally car.



Two prewar Austin's on show at Carrick Castle.

McLaren F1

Last year actor Rowen Atkinson made a killing when he sold his £550,000 McLaren F1 road car for just under £8 million , in spite of the fact it had been heavily crashed , not once but twice.

So the unnamed American collector who in 1994 paid the full price of £540,000 for his car must be over the moon , the car selling for a record \$18,990,000.



Not only that but designer Gordon Murray has recently agreed to design a follow up to the F1 , an all new P50 V12 Supercar , lighter and even faster than the F1 , no price yet but buyers are lining up to buy a car which could well double its value at a rate of 30% per annum !

This car selling for \$18.9 million is not only a record but a reminder of the buoyancy of the classic car market in recent years. Had the guy put £540,000 in the Bank He could have got an average of 2.5% , invested in gold 9% , bought an early E Type almost 15% , but the McLaren returned an unbelievable 27% per year.

As if to prove a point both the Audi Quattro and the later Quattro 20v are selling at auction for up to 40% more than in 2017. 1960's Mini Cooper's and S type have also jumped by around 25% in two years at a time when Porsche 911 cars are selling well below estimate. It does seem that the demand for Porsche has run out of steam , many recent 911 owners owning cars worth less than they paid a year ago !

New Car News.

Coming soon is the all new Aston Martin DBX. Aston hope to break into the luxury SUV market with a 5 litre V8 SUV costing around £140 grand.

After a few quiet years BMW's official tuner Alpina are set to produce the Alpina B7 a 600 BHP version on the 7 series saloon and Coupe prices starting at £115,000.

BMW also have a new 850i Gran Coupe coming a 4.4 litre turbo with 523 BHP and a price tag , less than expected , of £85 grand.

Aston Martin at the end of the year start selling the DSS Volante , an all new supercar V12 engine twin turbo with 712 BHP costing £225,000.

Volvo are taking on Tesla with the new Polestar 2. This 4 wheel drive electric car has 390 BHP and an price tag of £35,000 a price Tesla cannot hope to match.

Porsche have started production of the Taycan a luxury saloon with 4 wheel drive 4 electric motors and 600 BHP . No price quoted but it will not be cheap !

A few years ago I had the pleasure of owning a Focus ST 5 cylinder car with full Mountune upgrades, power was up 20% and torque 30%. The fact that Ford engines can take the extra power is a testament to good engineering. Mountune have just announced they have developed kits for the 2019 Focus RS with amazing results , for £2995 the Mountune kit raises the BHP to 444 BHP but if that is not enough the RS M 520 results in 513 BHP for £5,975 a car which will worry Ferrari's and Porsche 911's on any B road. There are a lot of seriously quick cars on the market right now , most of which cost at least £100 grand so Ford , if you are happy to ignore the fact that it is a Ford (as I was initially) you could have a four door four seater saloon supercar for just under £40,000 !

BMMC Rescue Unit.

None of us are getting any younger ! If we are in the long term to run our Rescue Unit as a successful project we need and deserve support of younger members , we are currently looking for at least 2 trainees to join the Unit , covering Rally ,sprints ad hillclimbs initially . Experiences gained at such events will allow you to serve on Units at race meetings both locally and nationally. Join us we are a friendly Bunch !

FORGOTTEN HERO's Giorgetto Giugiaro.

Still working aged 81 Giugiaro is the man behind Ghia , Italdesign and GFG design studios. Named Car Designer of the century in 1999 his name was added to the World Automotive Hall of Fame in 2002.

So who is this quiet man ? Best remembered for his range of supercar designs few disagree that he more than anyone else turned around the fortunes of both Fiat and VW. Aged just 21 he designed a Coupe body for Ferrari which became the Ferrari 250 GT Berlinetta. He was then contracted to Alfa designing the 2000 Sprint Giulia Sprint the Alfetta GTV and the Alfasud. At the same time he designed the Aston Martin GT Bertone and the Lancia Delta. His work for Maserati included the 5000GT , the Ghibli , the Bora and the 3200 GT car. Gordon Keeble's GT was penned by him as was the Iso Grifo , and the De Tomaso Mangusta. In 1971 Giugiaro designed his

first road plus race car the BMW M1 . The Lotus Esprit and the DeLorean are his as is the modern Bugatti EB12 and EB118 (Vyrón) .

The difference with Giugiaro is he would bring his talents to basic family cars , spending the same effort to find the right product. His design of the VW Golf Mk1 was a masterpiece with the car and the GTI outselling production. The Golf and his Scirocco sold in huge numbers although he did express disappointment about later Golf models , in particular the Mk 4 and 5 which were overcomplicated , overweight and overpriced. The VW Karmann Ghia designed by him opened up the U.S. market for VW who up until then were only selling a modest number of Beetles in the States.

Similar story at Fiat , the little 500 past its sell by date and other models not attracting buyers Giugiaro started with a brief to design more interesting cars. He started with the little 850 Spider and the Fiat Dino followed with the Fiat Panda and Fiat Uno both selling very well.

The Renault 19 and 21 were designed by him as was the Saab 9000.

Not content with car design he has a long standing relationship with Nikon , the F4s , the F6 , the D4 and D800 cameras all designed by Giugiaro as was the Seiko Speedmaster range of watches.

His motorcycle designs include the Ducati 860GT , the MV Agusta 350S and the 1975 Suzuki RE5.



Rather more of a surprise is his work for the Beretta Gun Corp. Giugiaro has designed several guns for Beretta including the CX4 Storm sniper rifle above left and the Neos pistol range above right , widely used in law enforcement world wide.

A remarkable man and a remarkable life.

Robert's Rally Buzz

From Pentti Airikkala to Craig Breen

The Belfast Telegraph International Ulster Rally 1979 was a two-day event. The rally, a round of both the Tudor Tarmac and Sedan Products Open Championships, started from Craigavon Leisure Centre at 4pm on Friday 19th October. It ran continuously for 24 hours finishing in Larne at 4pm the next day. There were 26 different closed-road special stages covering most of Northern Ireland.

This was my first experience of motorsport marshalling. My next door neighbour at the time Neil Boulton was an experienced rally marshal and timekeeper. He asked me to help him on the Ulster on Friday night. Basically Neil showed me the ropes on the stop control of SS 3 Carnanee near Belfast International Airport. That was the extent of my training. Next day I was left on my own to man the stop control on one of the final tests. Luckily my brother-in-law helped out.

The 1979 Ulster was won by Pentti Airikkala and Risto Virtanen in a Vauxhall Chevette. They were followed home by Dealer Team Vauxhall/Castrol team-mates Jimmy McRae/ Frank Main in a similar car. Stig Blomquist and Bjorn Cederberg brought their Saab 99 Sedan Turbo home in third ahead of Ernest Kidney and Nicky Moffett's Escort.

Among the retirees were Henri Toivonen and Phillip Boland. Their Total Oil backed Escort RS 1800 ended up in a field on SS2. Malcolm Wilson /Terry Harryman were forced to retire their similar Total Oil Escort after an off on stage four. Russell Brookes and Paul White crashed their Escort out of the event on SS12.

There was huge entry list of 130 competitors. Clerk of the Course was Roy Sloan while Bill Reilly was Chief Timekeeper.

Fast forward 40 years and I was covering a mid-point radio point on the 2019 Today's Ulster Rally. After running as a two-day rally since it started back in 1976, this year the competitive element of the event moved to one single day, Saturday 17th August. There were just 10 daylight hours of action. A total of 9 stages, three repeated three times all in Co.Down near the Newry HQ, was the extent of the new set up. The event was the penultimate round of both the British Rally Championship and the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship.

Our stage was the longest of the rally. At 13.45 miles, SS2/5/8 Bronte Homeland would take no prisoners. A mixture of fast sections and narrow slippery technical roads the stage would catch out some of the top crews. Our location was at junction 19, a chicane 10.88 miles into the test. This particular stage was last used on the Circuit of Ireland Rally in 2014 when the event was part of the European Rally Championship for the first time.

Four Hyundai i20 R5's started the Ulster Rally and three of them crashed out on our stage. James Wilson (SS2) and Tom Cave (SS8) both removed wheels in their heavy accidents but thankfully no injuries were incurred. Cave was chasing Edwards for British Rally Championship points and had been lying third at the time. The third i20 was driven by Alan Carmichael in the National section of the event. Alan went off on a right hand bend on SS2 and was unable to continue.

In complete contrast, Craig Breen led from start to finish in the fourth Hyundai i20 R5. He and co-driver Paul Nagle, fresh from finishing seventh on Rally Finland two weekends previously, sealed the 2019 Irish Tarmac Rally Championship on the Ulster. The Waterford/Killarney partnership have an unassailable

lead with one round still to run. The final round of the 2019 ITRC, the Cork 20 Rally, takes place on Saturday 28/Sunday 29 September.

The first Hyundai win ever on the Ulster Rally was perhaps a forgone conclusion but well deserved. Second were BRC top runners Matt Edwards/Patrick Walsh in a Fiesta R5 while Callum Devine/Brian Hoy had another great result to claim third place overall and second ITRC crew to finish. Former Northern Ireland Champion Stuart Biggerstaff had a great win in the Ulster National Rally. This was only his second rally in the McKinstry hired Fiesta R5 and the Kinallen man, with the experienced Anthony Nestor co-driving, beat the on-form Escort Mk.2 of Damian Toner by 7 seconds. David Condell was third in his Escort. He and Toner will go head-to-head for the National title on the Cork 20 this month. There was also a great win for Stanley Orr/Graham Henderson in the Historic section. The Ford Escort Mk.1 crew from Northern Ireland took maximum points in the British Historic Rally Championship. There were 102 starters and just 67 cars crossed the finish ramp in Newry on Saturday evening. The new look Today's Ulster Rally was a great success and the weather had been excellent all day long.

Earlier last month we attended the Dogleap Rally run by Maiden City Motor Club. At the last minute Victor and I agreed to help with radio cover on the single venue event. The clubman rally took place on the runways of the former Shackleton RAF base in Ballykelly, Co.Derry. We hadn't been here for some years but the place looked just the same. Due to be developed for housing in the future the airfield complex is still available for motorsport on certain days of the year. 57 cars started the six-stage tarmac rally, by the end of the day there were 46 finishers. Winners were Aaron and Noelle McLaughlin in a Ford Fiesta R5. The rally ran to schedule with no major incidents and the weather was dry for most of the time with just one heavy rain shower.

Rally Diary

Sat. 7th September Lakeland Stages Rally

Organised by Enniskillen Motor Club this gravel rally is round five of the Northern Ireland Rally Championship and the final round (7) of the Irish Forest Rally Championship. We are covering rescue and providing radio crews on this event based in the usual forests near Derrygonnelly in Co.Fermanagh. No less than 99 cars appear on the Trailer Parts and Spares sponsored Lakeland Stages entry list headed by Sam Moffett in his Fiesta R5, Desi Henry is at 2 in a Fiesta WRC while third on the list is Vivian Hamill's R5 Fiesta. Derek McGarrity in a Fiesta WRC is at 6 and Kenny McKinstry in his first appearance driving a Fiesta R5 starts at number 8. Championship contender Derek McGeehan starts at 10 in his MINI WRC.

Sat. 14th September Cookstown MC Targa Rally

Starting and finishing from the A1 service station Dungannon Road, Cookstown this is the club's third Targa Rally this year. We have been asked to provide timekeepers. The event is sponsored by a local company, Finch Retail. Sign on from 8am. First car leaves start at 10.00.

Sat. 21st September Bushwacker Rally

Omagh Motor Club are the organisers of this classic gravel rally. Sponsored for the eleventh year by Castlederg firm McKelvey Asbestos. Based at the Silverbirch Hotel, Gortin Road, Omagh. Round six of the Northern Ireland Rally Championship always attracts a huge entry. The stages are in West Tyrone and include Lough Bradan, Carrickaholten and Killeter Forest. We will be covering rescue, radio points and timekeepers. Sign on at the hotel for breakfast at 8am. Dinner will also be provided after the event.

Sat. 5th October Laharna Lanes Rally

Larne Motor Club are organising this annual Targa Rally sponsored by Autodock. No other details at present. If you are available to assist the club contact is Chief Marshal Derek Dixon

CRAP CORNER.



TRUMP set to buy Greenisland after Greenland knock back !

After the collapse of his plans to purchase Greenland Donald Trump has turned his attention to the East Antrim village of Greenisland, the Ulster Fry has learned. The President is keen to expand U.S. territory , says Trump advisor Ashton Kutcher. "Clearly the vast natural resources of Greenland interested him , but Greenisland sounds kinda the same and has both a Mace and a Costcutter so it's a pretty attractive alternative".

People in the village are cautious about the possibility of becoming the 51st. State. "Is their leader not a bit of a mad fella ? big red face, talks loads of crap" asks local man Moyard Garden , "although I suppose Sammy Wilson is our MP , so it mightn't make that big a difference.

The news has sparked a wave of interest around the globe , with other foreign powers considering a bid for towns and villages. " We understand the Chinese are looking at Pomeroy , and the French are interested in Craigavon as they have heard it is the wine capital of the North" says Estate Agent Myrtle Bricks. " The United Arab Emirates want to buy Fermanagh and export all the rain and the Russians have made a move on Larne as it reminds them of Chernobyl !"

With the news full of the latest petition on Brexit other petitions which have also received much support have been withdrawn from the Government's official petition website.

One petition from a 'leave' supporter calls for a rematch of the Battle of Hastings as they are unhappy with the result . Many Anglo Saxons believe they should have won the 1066 battle.

A second petition supported by several M.P.s from both sides of the House are calling for a "Redraw of last weeks National lottery on the basis that they did not win anything"