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MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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Vettel gets a new contract !

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Newsletter

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MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ROY AND THE COMMITTEE !

N.E.C Report.

I have visited the N.E.C. Classic Car Show several times in recent years and one of the attractions is the annual Silverstone auction. There appear to be three types of buyers , the serious collectors , the private buyers who get carried away by the event and the guy who is smart enough to see a car undervalued. I have observed both the collectors and the bargain hunters , on my first visit around 8 years ago I saw three Yorkshire farmers who looked as if they had not a penny between them bid and win a Bugatti 57 Atlantic Coupe for well over £5 million pounds . At the same sale I guy I worked with many years ago , together with his brother bough a low mileage one owner , Rolls Royce Silver Spirit for under £15,000. This metallic blue car with cream leather piped navy blue and a host of extras had cost over £150,000 new.

This year was no different , and I leave you to decide who got the real bargains and who let their heart rule common sense.



A 1976 Alfa Romeo Montreal stored for the last 15 years are needing loads of work sold for £39,375. With good cars selling for around £70 grand this owner has to complete a full restoration for £30 grand or less .

Impossible !

One of the last Subaru WRX STI cars (the 2017 run out edition) is a limited edition but valued at £20,000 someone paid £34,595 for it.

In contrast a 1999 Aston Martin Volante with 50,000 miles 16 A.M. service stamps in the book , a full service and M.O.T. in September 2019 together with the fitting of a new hood sold for £20,800 , with the service and hood costing over £6 grand this was a lovely Aston for under £15,000/.

A nice Mk 1 Lotus Cortina was on the money at £51,750 but both the 1991 BMW 325 i sport and the 2012 BMW 1M sport were way over the top the 325 selling for £21,375 ad the 1M for £52,800, last year a year old 1M was worth about £30 grand so paying £52 grand for an old one is silly.

Ford Escorts continue to command top prices so it was no surprise to see a nice Mk1 RS 1600 sell for £58 grand or a Mk2 Escort RS 2000 reach £60 grand..

I might be wrong but the TR2 ex works LeMans car owned by King Hussian of Jordon in 1957 and with multiple owners since has to be a risk at £258,000 a new record for a TR 2. Another record was the sale of an original condition (auctioneer speak for needs welded , needs body work etc, etc ,) 1978 Toyota Land cruiser , it sells for £30,375 WHY?

Back to my mate who bought the Rolls someone spotted a 1990 Bentley Turbo R with full service history including the thousands of pounds of receipts for a complete overhaul in 2018. Full M.O.T. and on the button this car should have sold for £20 grand but a lucky buyer only paid £12, 000. Just use it as a weekend car , keep the mileage under 3,000 a year (which you need to do at 12 MPH) and the experts expect low mileage Bentley Turbo R's to hit up to £50,000 in a couple of years.

In contrast MGB cars both roadsters and GT's have seen little movement in the market in the last few years . The problem is volume there were well over half a million cars built over half of which are still on the DVLA data base so it is not unusual for a nice 1974 MGB GT V8 to come up for auction , nice but not exceptional this car had a chequered history , a lot of replaced items as you may expect from a 40 year old car so £31,500 is top money.

For the Archives.

Just by chance I came across an auction report from November 1994 , exactly 25 years ago . This was just before Classic car auctions really took off and at the time I owned the Vincent and also a Rover Vitesse. The auction prices indicate that serious buyers were starting to see investment opportunities as 1994 / 1995 prices were the last chance to buy things like E Types for less than the cost of a 3 series BMW.

**Coys Auction November 1994 1963 E Type Coupe £18,900
1956 Jag XK140 £17,600 1958 MGA roadster £6,700 1966 A.M. DB6 £11,700
Austin Healy 100/6 fully restored and upgraded to FIA Historic Rally spec £21,300 (Value today £150,000+)**

**Brooks Auction 1994 1967 Sunbeam Alpine Mk5 £6,900 1979 Mercedes
450 SEL low miles £1760 1976 Lancia Fulvia Coupe £950
1978 Triumph Dolomite Sprint £990**

**Sandown Auctions. 1974 Aston Martin V8S one owner £16,000
1962 Ford Consul 375 Convertible , new hood £3050 Jag XK150 £10,000
1967 Mini Cooper S low miles £4800 1975 Triumph Stag Mk2 £2800
1970 Triumph Vitesse older restoration £1,400**

No way of knowing which of these cars still exist but some are worth at least 10 times their value.

Russell Brooks.

Just too late to put into last months mag was the very sad news that Russell Brooks had passed away on 30th. October . In 1986 as Chairman of the Region I spend an evening with Russell and British Rally Champion Mark Lovell both of whom gave up their time to help us (BMRMC) raise money for a licensed Rescue Unit. It was a privilege to meet them and we had quite an entertaining evening together. Anyone around in the early to mid 1980's will have fond memories of titanic battles between Brooks and McRae at a time when the Circuit of Ireland was a full 5 day rally and considered one of the toughest tarmac rallies anywhere in the world. Russell Brooks R.I.P.

The Collector .

As a child German Roald Goethe first saw pictures of John Wyer's 1965 Gulf Oil Ford GT 40 around 1966. Like many thousands of kids he had a poster on his bedroom wall (I admit years ago having a poster of a Gulf Porsche 917 in my spare bedroom !) 40 years later Goethe , a self made millionaire commissioned respected English car dealer Adrian Hamilton to find him a Gulf GT 40. It was to be the start of one of the most unique car Collections in the world.

1965 Gulf Oil Ford GT 40 .

Car with LeMans and Spa history driven by David Hobbs / Bob Bondurant and Umberto Maglioli.

1971 Porsche 908 /3

**A remake of the car which won the 1970 Targa Florio
Raced by Derek Bell and also was successful in the early 70's in the European Hillclimb Championship.**

1971 Porsche 917.

A very famous 917 raced by David Hobbs and Mike Hailwood , also by Jo Siffert , Brian Redman and Derek Bell . The car finished second at LeMans in

1972 drivers Attwood and Siffert before racing in World Interseries and other events. The car has now being totally restored to its original LeMans spec and repainted in Gulf Oil livery.

1975 Mirage GR8.

This Gulf Oil car won the 1975 LeMans race driven by Jacky Ickx and Derek Bell .

1975 Mirage GR8

This is the second Gulf oil car entered for the 1975 LeMans race with drivers Vern Schuppen and Jean-Pierre Jaussaud. It failed to finish but when it came up for sale Goethe just had to buy it.

1997 McLaren F1 GTR Longtail.

In 1995 McLaren won LeMans at its first attempt but rule changes in 1997 favoured the new Mercedes CLK-GTR so McLaren had to redesign the F1 to improve the aero at high speed. Although the car won the Spa 1000k race the Mercedes won the Championship with drivers Steve Soper and J J Letho in the McLaren a close second.

2008 Aston Martin DBR 9.

After years of trying driver Darren Turner and David Brabham won the GT battle at the LeMans 2008 race beating the all conquering Corvettes. It was returned to the factory at the end of the year and in its original battle scarred state was bought by Goethe. Today it still wears the mud , oil , and dust from a years hard racing and Goethe intends to keep it that way.

2009 Lola Aston Martin LMP1.

Driven by Darren Turner at a time when the rule book favoured Diesel cars (Both Audi and Peugeot had spent millions developing LeMans diesel engines that between them they could win every endurance race !) this car consistently finished as the top petrol car finishing fourth at Lemans and third at Sebring.

1967 Mercedes 0317 Transporter.

This huge transporter , one of three built , was used to carry Gulf Oil cars to race tracks between 1968 and the early 1970's. It was later bought and used by the Rothmans Rally team. Hamilton traced it to Florida still in Rothmans livery , bought it and sent it to WHF Ltd. Who supply units to Red Bull and McLaren . It cost £300,000 to restore and more than that to buy but after 14 months work including rebuilding the 10.8 litre straight six engine the Transporter is reunited with the Gulf Oil Porsche 917 it carried round Europe in the 1970's.

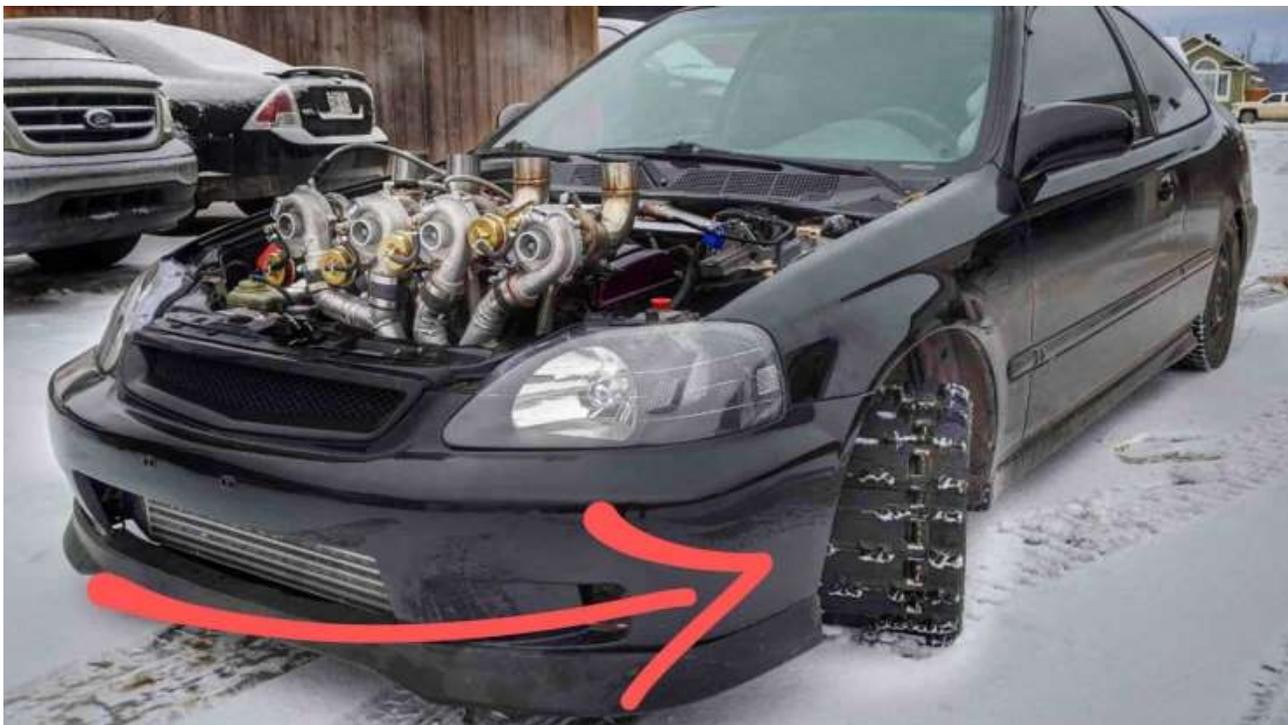
Current value of the collection is not known but its unique nature means many , many millions of pounds with the cars an appreciating asset.

EXTREME CAR NEWS.

The weather in Northern Canada is , like Northern Norway prone to extreme winter

conditions with snow and ice almost guaranteed from late October through to the end of March.

So in Canada this young engineer has built an off road Honda Civic Type R with 4 turbochargers and replaced the wheels and tyres with metal tank tracks. Fun in the snow !



The AJLANI DRAKUMA.



This weird and wonderful supercar was unveiled last month in Dubai by the new Ajlani Motor Group.

Powered by a mid engine 1200BHP twin turbocharged V8 , the same as a Vyrion , Ajlani claim that the body made of lightweight but rigid composite materials means it is significantly lighter than the Bugatti.



Robert's RallyBuzz

Wright Wins NI Championship

Stephen Wright has become the first driver from the Republic to win the NI Rally Championship. Following the cancellation of the Glens of Antrim Rally last month the Monaghan man has been confirmed as 2019 Champion. Wright and Derek McGarrity finished the series level on points but on a tie-break Wright got the nod having won more rounds. Derek McGeehan finished third but his son Mark won the co-drivers championship. Desi Henry was fourth and James Kennedy in fifth was the top 2 wheel drive finisher.

The Glens event would have been the eighth and final championship round, but Mid Antrim Motor Club were forced to cancel due to a lack of entries. This was the last year of the Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship in its current format. Next year there will be just five tarmac rounds. A separate ANICC Gravel Rally Challenge features four events. (See the full details in Rally Diary).

October also saw the cancellation of Rally Australia the final round of the WRC. The devastating bush fires of New South Wales meant the organisers of the Coffs Harbour based event had no option but to call off the rally. Ott Tanak had of course already been crowned champion in Spain but Hyundai beat Toyota to the manufacturers title as a result. Kris Meeke finished a disappointing sixth in the drivers table this year, he had perhaps a chance of fourth but we will never know if he could have managed that.

Citroen have withdrawn from next years WRC leaving just three manufacturers to fight for the 2020 title. Sebastien Ogier is heading for Toyota to lead Tommi Makinen's team. The former champion will have Elfyn Evans as his team mate along with young Kalle Rovanpera. A fourth Yaris will appear occasionally for "the wee Japanese fella" just to keep Toyota president Akio Toyoda and his paymasters happy!

The big question is what happens to Jari-Matti Latvala and Kris Meeke? It doesn't look good for them or indeed Citroen's Esapekka Lappi. There is only one seat remaining as I write. That is at M-Sport/Ford, and I can't see Meeke going there. Craig Breen is also without a drive as all Hyundai seats are filled. All this means only 9 full blown World Rally Cars on most WRC entry lists next year and possibly no Irish interest. Disappointing or what?

Looking Back....2019

Highs and lows of the year

FEBRUARY..... NI Championship first round at Kirkistown.

Stephen Wright was the unexpected winner of the Pacenotes Stages Rally after early leader Derek McGarrity retired on the final stage. We marshalled the event. The week before I was on radio cover at the gravel Fivemiletown Rally, the first event of the year for us. That event was sponsored by Martynas Samsonas from Lithuania. His spectacular 2-wheel Drive BMW was the star of the show, retiring from third place after a great early run. He would return to set fire to the Co.Tyrone forest stages later in the year!

APRIL.....New Maiden City Event and Easter Stages Rally

The Maiden City Stages was a new road closed round of the NI Championship based in Strabane. We covered radio and club members were out in force as usual. Desi Henry won setting up a title challenge. The Easter Stages was a round of the Irish Tarmac Championship and Craig Breen won in his Fiesta R5. Based at the Dundrod Ulster GP pits, the two-day event used closed roads in counties Down and Antrim.

JUNE.....Tragic Donegal

We were timekeeping on the three-day Donegal International Rally. Sadly local hero and three time winner Manus Kelly was killed on the final day when his Hyundai i20 R5 crashed on his favourite Fanad Head stage. This was the low point of the year for us.

JULY..... Armstrong wins Down Rally

Victor and I were covering a radio point on the closed-road NI Championship Down Rally near Hillsborough. Young Jon Armstrong won his first rally. He was driving a hired Mini WRC. Stephen Wright scored maximum championship points. Also in July we were covering radios on the Loughgall Country Park Rally where Escort Mk.2 driver Damian Toner won for the fifth year in succession. Toner also won the modified section of the ITRC this year.

AUGUST.....Compact Ulster Rally

This year's Ulster Rally was a one-day event for the first time. Just 9 closed road stages in South County Down were on the menu. Still a counting round of both the British and Irish Tarmac Championships the event was won by Craig Breen and Paul Nagle in a Hyundai i20 R5. Breen was confirmed Irish Tarmac Champion 2019. Second place for Matt Edwards made him favourite for the BRC title which he went on to win. Tom Cave crashed out his Hyundai just passed our mid-point radio location, virtually ending his challenge to Edwards there and then. At the start of August we covered rescue and radio on the Dogleap Stages Rally at the old Shackleton Airfield in Ballykelly.

SEPTEMBER.....Henry Wins On Gravel

The Lakeland Stages in Co. Fermanagh in early September was a round of the NI Championship and the final round of the Irish Forest Rally Championship. We were covering rescue, timekeeping and radio on SS 1/4 Belmore. Then later in the month I was timekeeping in Killeter Forest near Castlederg on the NI Championship Bushwacker Rally. Other club members covered rescue and radio points.

Martynas Samsonas was back, and surprised everyone on the Bushwacker. Leading from the start in his now converted to 4-wheel-Drive big red BMW until he lost time on the penultimate stage with overheating problems, the Lithuanian still finished an amazing second overall.

Desi Henry won both the Lakeland and the Bushwacker in his Fiesta WRC, bringing the Co.Antrim driver right back into contention for the championship.

OCTOBER..... Final NI Championship Round and WRC Trips

In total I managed just 16 days marshalling this year. My last job was covering stage end radio points on the final round of the NI Rally Championship. The Tyrone Stages Rally was held on closed private military roads at Magilligan Point in Co. Derry. Derek McGarrity won the event but of course lost the championship to second placed Stephen Wright on a tie-break. Desi Henry's challenge came to an end as he could only finish fourth. Although the Tyrone Stages was my last marshalling event of the year, I managed to spectate on what turned out to be the final two rounds of the WRC.

Wales Rally GB was wet, very wet but I managed to see four days of gravel action. Ott Tanak won GB and then headed to Spain where of course he finished second and became World Champion. Spain was dry and again Victor and I managed four days of spectating. Interestingly Rally Spain was almost disrupted by pre-event floods and then Rally Australia was cancelled because of bush fires.

NOVEMBER.....McCormack Wins His Third R.A.C.

Congratulations must go to Draperstown's Marty McCormack and his co-driver Barney Mitchell. The Ulster pairing have just won the extremely difficult Roger Albert Clark Rally for the second time. McCormack is the first driver to win the event three times. The historic event started on Thursday 21st November with two days in Wales, then moved up to Carlisle with stages in Kielder and Scotland before finishing back in Carlisle on the Monday. There were 32 demanding gravel stages over 5 days. McCormack led from SS3 all the way to the finish his Mk.2 Ford Escort. He was 52 seconds ahead of the similar car of Jason Pritchard. The conditions throughout were challenging with heavy rain most of the time. 126 cars started and remarkably 91 finished. Another crew from Northern Ireland, Davy Greer and Brian Crawford, finished 33rd in their Opel Manta 400. In a tribute to the late Russell Brooks the Manta was decked out in the iconic "Andrews Heat for Hire" colours.

Rally Diary

Fri. 27th December It's Not The Boxing Day Rally

The annual UAC Targa Rally. Based at the Edenmore Golf Club, Magheralin, Craigavon the entry list is full at 90 competitors (46 of which are Mazda MX5's). Marshals are always welcome. Sign-on from 7am. Sponsored by Jordan Concrete.

Sat. 28th December Turkey Run Rally

Maiden City Motor Club are running this annual tarmac single venue stage rally at the Shackleton Airfield in Ballykelly. We are covering rescue and stage marshalling. Sign-on 7am. The entry list stands at just 15 as I write so the event may not run. Check with the organisers if you intend going.

2020 Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Tarmac Rally Championship

Sat. 15th February	Kirkistown Stages	North Armagh MC (single venue)
Sat. 7th March	Bishopscourt Stages...	Ballynahinch MC (single venue)
Sat. 25th April	Dogleap Rally	Maiden City MC (single venue)
Sat. 6th June	Tour of the Sperrins.....	Magherafelt MC (closed road)
Sat. 18th July	Tyrone Stages Rally.....	Cookstown MC (closed road)

2020 ANICC Gravel Rally Challenge

Sat. 22nd February	Fivemiletown Rally.....	Omagh MC
Sat. 5th September	Lakeland Stages.....	Enniskillen MC
Sat. 26th September	Bushwacker Rally.....	Omagh MC
Sat. 14th November	Glens of Antrim Rally.....	Mid Antrim MC

CRAP CORNER.

So Mary says to Paddy “ I see Christmas day is Friday this year” “God no” says Paddy hope it doesn’t fall on the 13TH.”

Paddy says to Mary “ Let’s be really naughty this year and save Santa the trip”

How did Mary know Jesus weighed 7.3 pounds at birth . They had a weigh in a manger.

Bought my wife a fridge for Christmas , Can’t wait to see her face light up when she opens the door.

I stopped believing in Santa when I first got socks for Christmas.

Did you hear about the Dyslexic witch, she sold her soul to Santa.



A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralysed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.

