

# BRITISH MOTORSPORT



# MARSHALS CLUB

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SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

Issue 1

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE !!!!

NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE

# Newsletter

**Issue No. 1**

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## **Cover Story.**

**Sounds like the stories you read about where Trading Standards take some dodgy motor dealer to Court for clocking cars or selling some old motor with a false M.O.T.**

**This is rather different but has Lawyers on both side of the Atlantic reaching for their Law books.**

**Respected Ferrari collector and dealer Gregor Fisker paid \$44 million dollars ( over 37 million pounds ) for the Ferrari on the cover , the second 250 GTO to be built and now the most expensive Ferrari in the world. It was bought from the U.S. based Carl dealership but shock , horror , it was delivered with the wrong gearbox.**

**This dispute has lasted for more than a year Fisker claiming the correct and original gearbox was part of the deal ( not surprising given the car cost him £37 million) but Carl claims the gearbox is owned by another American collector and that any additional costs of obtaining the gearbox and shipping it are not his responsibility. No doubt the lawyers will get well paid for this one irrespective of who wins. Arthur Daly eat your heart out !**

## **NEW CAR NEWS.**

**2020 will be a good year for new models. Although electric cars are making the news there are still a lot of high powered petrol engines being produced and given the cost of producing an all new engine the market expects good old petrol power to be around for years to come.**

**However we start with a couple of significant electric cars !**

### **Lotus Evija.**

**First talked about at the end of 2018 the car goes on sale mid 2020 at £1.7 million. Not a joke , this million pound Lotus is a huge step for Lotus**

**The car is powered by 4 powerful electric motors producing 494 BHP each , that's 1972 BHP and 1700 nm of torque.. 4 wheel drive gives 0 to 180 MPH in just 9 seconds with a top speed well over 200 MPH.**

#### **Tesla Roadster.**

**This car due out late 2020 has a similar theme. No power output quoted by the electric motors provide a 0 to 60 MPH in 1.9 seconds and 0 to 100 in 4.2 seconds. Again top speed well over 200 MPH.**

#### **New Porsche 911.**

**With a new 443 Bhp flat six and torque up to 390 nm the car is both lighter and quicker than the current car. Only available with a PDK autobox Porsche promise a manual later in the year. The Carrari 4S version goes 0 to 60 in 3 seconds.**

#### **Aston Martin DBX**

**Aston join the luxury SUV class with 542 BHP and 700 nm of torque**

#### **Ferrari 812 GTS.**

**This V12 convertible celebrates the 50th. Anniversary of the famous Daytona Spyder announced at the end of 1969. Expect over 600 BHP from this new V12 convertable.**

#### **Lexus LC F**

**Another sports car with a new petrol engine , a large twin turbo V8 with 600 BHP. No electric power here but it comes with all sorts of electric toys.**

#### **BMW 760i**

**Top of the range new 7 series has a V12 engine and 600 BHP , offered in both rear and four wheel drive. Cheaper versions include a six cylinder and a new V8.**

#### **Porsche Cayman Coupe.**

**Porsche have also gone for a twin turbo V8 for its mid range SUV. Power is now 541BHP.**

#### **Honda Accord Spirior.**

**Much more down to earth and currently only available in the U.S. is an all new Honda Accord. This BMW 5 series rival comes with a 3.5 litre V6 Vtec engine , semi auto gearbox and a host of innovative ideas inside.**

**Sorry to hear recently of the death of one of best loved figures of British Rallying , Andrew Cowan at the age of 82. Andrew born in Duns Scotland the son of a farmer lived close to the Clark family farm and soon developed a close friendship with Jim Clark both very interested in cars. They were driving cars in fields and narrow county lanes long before they were old enough to get driving licences and both joined the local Berwick and District Motor Club in the 1950's with Clark setting his sights on car racing and Cowan entering local rallies.**

**After finishing the 1960 RAC Rally in a Sunbeam Rapier he won both the 1962 and 1963 Scottish Rallies in a 1725 cc Rapier and became a works driver for the Rootes Group.**

**He excelled in long distance events winning the 1968 and 1977 London to Sydney Rallies , the Australian Southern Cross Rally in 1972 , 1973 , 1974 , 1975 and 1976 , a record as well as the 1977 Ivory Coast Rally.**



**Cowan and the winning Hillman Hunter 1968.**

**After enjoying much success in the early 1980's driving a Mitsubishi Lancer he set up Ralliart Europe the base for Mitsubishi' rally team. He developed the Mitsubishi Evo into a winning car and with Tommi Makenen he won the World Rally Championship in 1996 , 1997 , 1998 and 1999.**

**He retired in 2003 but was retained by Mitsubishi as technical advisor and sporting ambassador.**



## **Forgotten Hero's.**

**One driver who should never be forgotten is Winston ( WIN ) Percy.**

**Win Percy was first noticed at the televised rallycross series held in 1973 . He was an unknown driver who won every round of the series and only a year later he became a professional driver successfully racing a Datsun 240Z Sumari. He won the BMSCC championship at his first attempt.**

**He first entered the BTCC in 1975 finishing 2n. Overall and class win in a Toyota Corolla and repeated the feat in 1976. After a lean couple of years TWR offered him a TWR Mazda RX7 and e repaid them by winning the BTCC Championship in 1980 and 1981. In 1982 he rejoined Toyota with the new Corolla GTI and once again became Champion.**

**1983 saw a new challenge driving the TWR Jaguar XJS in Europe and winning the Group A Championship. He went one better in 1984 winning the European Touring Car Championship and the Spa 24 hour race. For 1985 TWR were building Rover Vitesse cars and Win was 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the ETC and also 3<sup>rd</sup>. In his first visit to Bathurst in Australia. 1986 saw another successful season taking 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the ETC.**



**Win in the 1984 TWR Jaguar.**

**1987 TWR withdrew without any warning and Win raced Ford Sierra RS and Holden V8 cars in Europe and Australia. In 1988 he was back to winning ways taking the ETC Championship in the new Nissen Skyline. 1989 was a mixed year but he again won the Spa 24 hour race this time in a Ford Cosworth RS 500. After Racing in the 1990 Bathurst 1000 he decided to stay**

**for a while and after taking 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the 1991 race and his Class win at Bathurst in 1992 racing a Holden Commodore he enjoyed several years there before returning in 1997 to the BTCC in a works Nissan and at the same time managing the Mazda BTCC team. He also in 1997 won the new Jaguar XJ 220's first race.**

**Getting on a bit , his words not mine , he turned to Classic and Historic racing and with an ex works D Type won several international events including the LeMans Classic.**

**In 2003 Win suffered an accident at home and was rushed to Hospital where a serious medical error left him paralysed from the waist down. Two years later West Dorset N.H.S. admitted their mistake and paid compensation of £1.55 million.**

**No longer able to compete ( although he drives a modified automatic Daimler Dart SP 250 on the road ) Win still attends most BTCC rounds and Classic Silverstone and Goodwood events.**

**A rural family in the Mid West U.S.A. expect to become millionaires early in the new year. 20 years ago they bought a rough Mustang 350GT which for years was used by the wife ( a school teacher )as her daily driver. It was then laid up for some years before it was discovered in 2018 to be the missing Steve McQueen Bullitt car driven by McQueen in the famous car chase through San Francisco. The family have put it up for auction with a reserve of over \$2.2 Million. According to the market \$3 million is the sort of price it should sell for making it the most expensive Mustang ever !**

**In other news dealers are having difficulty shifting E Types and early Porsche 911 cars as the market has too many up for sale. In contrast early Minis , Mk 1 Lotus Cortina's , Singer Imps and Imp Californian cars are seeing a steady rise in value as are 1980's and 1990's BMW cars.**

**At the NEC auction a newly restored 1991 BMW 325i Sport set a new record selling for £51,000 and an 1988 BMW M5 with 100,000 miles sold for £38,080 way above estimate. Brighwells offered a nice lower mileage BMW M5 with a £35,000 estimate and it has set a new record selling for £51,000. Two years ago late 1980's M5 were selling for well under £20 grand !**

**Terminal rust has killed off most Fiat 127 Sports , Fiat 128 SP Coupe and X19 cars but the ones that have been saved has seen their value more than doubled in only two years and another surprise , more of a shock , is that Jaguar XJS cars both V12 and 4 litre are in demand several selling last year well above estimate.**

# Robert's RallyBuzz

## Happy New Decade

Right, a new year begins with rallying in crisis. The pinnacle of our chosen sport, the World Rally Championship has just TWO proper manufacturer teams (Toyota and Hyundai) signed up for 2020. Ok M-Sport is officially classed as a manufacturer team but we all know the Cumbrian based squad is really a private effort without Fords big money support.

The Monte Carlo Rally, running from Thursday 23rd until Sunday 26th January, will see Sebastien Ogier start as favourite in his Toyota Yaris WRC. The former champ will have Elfyn Evans as his submissive "wing man" this year. A third Yaris will be driven by young gun Kalle Rovanpera. Jari-Matti Latvala will drive on selected events (including Sweden). Takamoto Katsura "the wee Japanese fella" will contest eight rounds of the WRC in yet another Toyota Yaris.

Ott Tanak will be in the leading Hyundai i20 WRC. Question is will Thierry Neuville be happy to support the new World Champion in a team he has headed for so many years? Second question is will Tanak smile this year? Dani Sordo and Sebastien Loeb will share the third i20. There may be yet another Hyundai for Craig Breen and or Andreas Mikkelsen, although nothing was confirmed as I write this on the 3rd of January.

M-Sport have Teemu Suninen and Esapekka Lappi driving their full-time Ford Fiestas in 2020, with Gus Greensmith doing nine rallies.

A worrying time then for the WRC in 2020, but new more flexible regulations in 2022 could see more manufacturers become interested. Hear's another question for you. How many people outside rallying know the WRC even exists? TV coverage is banished to an obscure terrestrial channel. Only those subscribing to WRC+ or other pay channels can get total coverage of all rounds of the championship.

Back here in Northern Ireland nothing of note happening in January but then February sees the start of the new-look McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship. Confined to five tarmac rounds, three single venue circuit type events plus two closed-road rallies. Also next month the first round of the NI Gravel Rally Challenge takes place in Co.Tyrone.

## Rally Diary

Saturday 25th January      MGCC Derek Walker Memorial Classic

The annual Derek Walker Clubman Production Car multi-venue autotest is organised by the MG Car Club (Ulster Centre) Based for the second time at the Echlinville Distillery, Gransha Road, Kircubbin, Co. Down. We as a club are always asked to help run the various tests. Sign-on 8am.

Saturday 15th February      Kirkistown Stages Rally

Round one of the 2020 Motorsport UK McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship. Organised by North Armagh Motor Club the single venue rally takes pace within the confines of the Kirkistown Race Circuit in Co.Down. Sign-on 8am. The big question is how many competitors will sign up to



the five-round series? The word on the street is people aren't happy with the costs involved. Time will tell. Let's hope Derek McGarrity doesn't get it all his own way yet again! Mind you Stephen Wright is the current champion so I would hope to see him back to defend his title this year.

Saturday 22nd February    Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown

This is the first of four rounds of the new 2020 ANICC Gravel Rally Challenge. Omagh Motor Club are the organisers of this gravel rally based in County Tyrone at Fivemiletown College and Community Youth Annexe. We are covering radio, rescue and timing plus stage marshals. Rally starts 9am.



**The late great Russel Brooks in the good old days when the Circuit was a five day rally!**

**Early Notice.. Take a note , our 2020 Training Day will be held at Kirkistown on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. March 2020.**



## **CRAP CORNER.**



### **COLEEN ROONEY SOLVES NORTHERN BANK HEIST CASE !**

**Celebrity detective Coleen Rooney has stunned the PSNI by uncovering the truth about the infamous Northern Bank robbery of 2004 , using only the power of social media.**

**Mrs. Rooney 33 , told the Ulster Fry that she had been investigating the £26 million heist for some time. “ I decided to reopen the case in 2015 and at first employed normal detective methods , but was getting nowhere.” “Then suddenly it hit me , all I had to do was post something on Instagram and wait for the culprits to come to me.”**

**Mrs. Rooney then announced to her thousands of followers that she had taken up notaphily – the hobby of collecting old banknotes- and asked if anyone had any Northern Ireland notes to add to her collection. “Pretty soon I was getting loads of replies from all over the country” she explained “and I began to narrow down my search.”**

**“ This old guy in Belfast , Gerry I think his name was , told me he knew someone with over a million quid’s worth of Northern notes under the mattress , but I ruled him out because he had a beard and posted funny things on Twitter.”**

**As more and more followers sent her pictures it soon emerged that the real culprit was much closer to home. “It’s been tough keeping it to myself and not making any comment at all , however I had to. Now I know for certain who did it.” “I have saved and screenshotted all the banknotes sent to me and it clearly shows only one person could have done it ..... it was Rebekah Vardy”**

**Mrs Vardy immediately denied the allegation pointing out she was only 14 when the crime was committed , but she was arrested by the PSNI and sentenced to 20 year in Maghaberry yesterday.**

**From the archives.. Headline News June 2019.**

**Confusion as East Belfast man does “FLEG” run to Spain.**



**Much of East Belfast will be decorated after a local loyalist misunderstood an instruction to smuggle 20,000 fags from Majorca.**

**It is understood that William ‘Wilkie’ Bunting instead bought a huge number of flags an error which has threatened to leave his paymasters well out of pocket.**

**“ Wilkie decided to sell them anyway” we were told by one drinker in the Beaten Socket pub on the Newtownards Road. “So when he landed in here announcing he had cheap flags on the go we all decided to buy one”.**

**“Next thing we knew the street was plastered with them.”**

**“ No one noticed at first as there are new flags out every Twelfth but then big Geordie said he had seen flags like that on his holidays and he looked up Spain on his phone”.**

**“Turns out Spain is full of Catholics and we might as well have hung out tricolours !”**