

# BRITISH MOTORSPORT



# MARSHALS CLUB

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SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

Issue 2

Feb. 2020



2019 Champion Stephen Wright.

NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE

# Newsletter

**Issue No. 2**

**Feb. 2020**

## **Cover Story.**

**Champion Stephen Wright had an impressive 2019 , competing in not only the Irish and Northern Ireland Tarmac Championships in his Ford Fiesta R5 but returning for the third time to his favourite overseas event the German SezoensRally. In spite of the fact his R5 will be five year old this year he continues to impress with his stage times and was a worthy 2019 N.I. Champion.**

**Local driver Callum Devine got a nice Christmas present thanks to Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy and the Hyundai Customer Racing Team , a new Hyundai i20 R5. Callum will contest all 8 rounds of the European Rally Championship aiming or the ERC 1 Junior Title. Good luck to him !**

**More good news on the Rally front , M-Sport are supporting the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship with up to 3,000 Euro's worth of parts for top three class finishes in a Ford Fiesta R2 at every event. Expect to see an increase in new Fiesta R2 cars in Ireland this year.**

## **British Motor Museum.**

**It is 25 years from on a visit to relatives in England I visited this recently opened Museum in Warwickshire. I remember they had the very first Land Rover , the first Vauxhall and the first Rolls Royce , old No.1 a Sporting car built by Morris Garages and badged as an MG , alongside a nice selection of Brooklands 1920's and 1930's British Racing Cars.**

**Since then the museum has expanded to some 300 cars including some of the most important racing and rally cars in British Motoring history.**

**They have managed to acquire the first Metro 6R4 , all three Monte Carlo winning Mini's , Jaguar LeMans and IMSA winners etc.**



**If you happen to be travelling up or down the M6 it is well worth a visit !**

### **CLASSIC CAR NEWS.**

**Respected classic car insurers Hegerty carry out an annual review of the market every December to reflect current values and 2019 proved to be a difficult year for Ferrari , air cooled Porsche sellers , Lamborghini and Aston Martin. The sky high prices paid for early Porsche 911 cars in 2017 / 2018 no longer applies and many buyers from that period have seen their cars drop up to 20% in value. Likewise Ferrari with models valued at £150,000 a year ago now selling for around £110,000. In contrast Sierra Cosworth's , Mk2 3.8 litre Jaguar's , early Mini Cooper's and Saab**

**99 and 900 Turbo's are in high demand ( Silverstone auction recently sold a minimal mileage 3.8 Jaguar last year for a record price close to £70,000.) Ford Capri and early Fiesta XR2 cars are rising in value month on month as are Toyota Supra cars valued under £10 grand two years ago but now touching the £30,000 mark for low mileage unmolested examples.**

**There are of course exceptions , a 1994 Aston Martin Virage Volante was sold by Bonhams in December for £235,750. Why ? Easy answer , the car with only 35,000 miles on the clock was on loan to Prince Charles from 1994 to the end of 2007 and has covered minimal mileage since.**



**A more exciting exception is this 1996 911 RS Clubsport lightweight chassis , full roll cage , racing seats and the 300 BHP 3.8 engine. To be sold by RM Sotheby this month it is expected to sell for £300,000.**

**Derek Walker .**

**Managed to escape the dogs to see several tests on this popular event , maybe it's my age but have the tests got harder or just rougher ? There were a couple of places where I would not have risked driving a 50 year old car , no matter how well prepared.**

**However all seemed to enjoy the day and it was a big thank you to the marshals as the day was dry but bitterly cold ( 9 degrees when I left Belfast and 4 degrees on the coast road at Cloughy ! )**



**Derek Walker winner Will Corry with Robin Lyons taking second place and elder statesman Norman Ferguson in a well deserved third place. Well done all !**

**MAZDA RX7 EVO.**



**One of the world's rarest cars has just come up for sale. Mazda spent a fortune in 1984 / 1985 building the WRC RX7 . Although a Mazda car did run in the Acropolis Rally Group B was banned before this car turned a wheel. With a 2.2 litre rotary engine and 300 BHP and minimal mileage owner David Sutton has decided to sell the car. The car has just been road registered and is as good as the day it left the factory. What a piece of history , it is offered at £169,000 which is less than the build cost , the question is would you use it or salt it away for profit ? I hope the new owner will be brave enough to use it if only on demonstration runs .**

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**Robert Glenn “ Junior” Johnston 1931 to 2019 R.I.P.**

**One of the original ‘ good ol boys’ of American motorsport died last December. His life story is stranger than fiction and has been the basis of both the Film ‘The Last American Hero’ and a Tom Wolfe novel.**

**Junior was born into a whiskey distilling family who were well known to the police and federal agents. Long before he was old enough to own a driving licence young Junior was chased by the Police many times when running moonshine. They never managed to catch him.! His driving ability saw him racing with considerable success on dirt oval and speedway races and in 1953 he got his first NASCAR drive.**

**However in 1956 , after winning five Grand National races , his past caught up with him and he sentenced to 2 years for illegal production of whiskey. Returning to NASCAR in 1958 he continued to top ten places in National races. In 1960 driving an underpowered Chevrolet Impala he amazed commentators by driving mere inches from the back bumper of faster cars for lap after lap before undertaking them in the final laps of the race. He perfected this to win the Daytona 500 and his art of slipstreaming is still a major feature of NASCAR racing today.**

**He won 50 National races before retiring in 1966 and setting up his own racing team. In 1969 he guided his driver LeeRoy Yarborough to NASCAR's first ever triple crown wins and in 1971 after T.V. tobacco advertising was banned he persuaded Winston Cigarettes to promote the Winston Cup , a series which may well have secured the future of NASCAR racing in America.**

**In 1986 President Regan issued a Presidential Pardon to Junior over his 1956 conviction and in 2007 he worked alongside the legal Piedmont Distillers in North Carolina to produce his old family recipe of Moonshine called Midnight Moon . Clearer than Vodka and stronger than whiskey it is sold across 50 states in America and has a dedicated following.**

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**Formula 1's silly season.**

**January saw f1 rumour mill get up to speed with all sorts of stories , some far fetched , but some that might just have some merit.**

**First Fernando Alonso stating his intention to return to an F1 Team next year (something I would like to see) but with no reaction from any F1 team he may find it hard to get a seat.**

**Then there is the rumour that with Hamilton 's £40 million contract running out this year that Mercedes may pull out of F1 all together. This rumour is not helped by the fact that Team boss Toto Wolff has been tipped to replace Chevy Chase as F1 boss in 2021. Just to muddy the water further Wolff has also been linked to a stake in the 2021 Aston Martin F1 team.**

**One thing is confirmed Racing Point has been the subject of a multi million pound deal between the owners Stroll family and Aston Martin and Aston Martin will return to F1 after a gap of 59 years.**

**Although it has been strongly denied rumour persists that Hamilton will replace Vettel at Ferrari sooner rather than later. Again to muddy the water Michael Schumacher's son Mike has been tipped for a F1 seat and has after the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix tested both the Ferrari F1 car and the F1 Alfa Romeo.**

**With Aston Martin moving into F1 next year it means RED BULL lose one of their main sponsors . We know Verstappen is staying but what effect this will have on the team remains to be seen. Below Aston Martin's last G.P. car 1960.**



# Robert's RallyBuzz

## Start of the N.I. Season

February sees the start of the rally year proper in Northern Ireland. First up we have the Pacenotes Rally Magazine Stages on Saturday 15th. This is round one of the new look Northern Ireland Rally Championship. Just five sealed surface rounds are scheduled to take place between now and the middle of July. If a round should fail to run there are NO reserves events planned this year.

The other major series to start in February will be the Association of Northern Ireland Car Club's Gravel Rally Challenge. Four rounds are planned with the Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown first off on the 22nd of the month. The other events will not run until September and November.

Looking further ahead: After an absence of four years, a famous name is back on the calendar. The Circuit of Ireland Rally returns at Easter (10-11 April). Not a proper "Circuit" of old though, so the name is misleading. The UAC organised Northern Ireland based event will use virtually the same stages in counties Antrim and Down as last year's Easter Stages Rally. This will be round three of the 2020 Irish Tarmac Championship.

The three-day Donegal International Rally will take place in June (19-21) and the one-day-only Ulster Rally is back on Saturday 22 August. Both these events are part of the ITRC. The Ulster is a counting round of the 2020 British Rally Championship.

## Looking Back

### 30 Years Ago.....1990

Colin Rossborough presented Kenny Colbert with the BMRMC(NI) 1989 Driver of the Year Award at the ANICC do in the Carngrove Hotel in Portadown. Also in January, Dermot Carnegie was the star performer at the second round of the Roma Hamills Restaurant sponsored Kirkistown Winter Rallycross Championship. The event was dominated by Metro 6R4 drivers with Denis Biggerstaff second and Robert Moffett third. All of the drivers agreed that Kirkistown had the best Rallycross circuit in Ireland.

### 20 Years Ago.....2000

Wesley Patterson won his first ever rally as he claimed victory in his Ford Sierra Cosworth on the 2000 New Year Stages at Kirkistown in January. We had over 20 marshals helping with timekeeping and other duties on the day. More than 50 competitors finished the six-stage event.

### 10 Years Ago.....2010

Derek McGeehan dominated the 500 MRCI New Year Stages at Kirkistown in January 2010. The Draperstown preparation expert was driving Tim McNulty's new state-of-the-art Subaru Impreza S12B WRC. McGeehan would be fettling the car this year for Tim as he mounts yet another challenge for the Irish Tarmac Championship. The New Year Stages started back in 1997 and in 2010 had a field of 72 competitors. Amazingly there were 69 finishers after the six stages.



In second place, just 23 seconds back from McGeehan, was 21-year-old Stuart Biggerstaff. This was a remarkable result for the young Dromara man as he was driving in his FIRST EVER RALLY! The son of former NI Champion Denis Biggerstaff, Stuart was in his Dad's Subaru Impreza S9 WRC, quite a bit older than the winning S12B! Back in 2006 Denis Biggerstaff won the New Year Stages with young Stuart in the co-drivers seat.

Making in a Subaru 1-2-3 was Gary White who increased his pace in the later stages to finish third in his Impreza Gp.A 555 example. Mark Massey was top Gp.N finisher in fourth place with his Mitsubishi Evo.8. The husband and wife team of James and co-driver Heather Kennedy won the opening round of the Pacenotes 2WD Challenge in their Mk.2 Escort.

I was Chief Timekeeper for the New Year Stages and had support from Goff, Fel, Billy, Rory and Victor. We were really struggling for marshals that year, but every stage ran on time and without any major problems. Ronnie Mitchell was COC and said after the event, "If it wasn't for the BMMC timekeepers there would be no rally, simple as that"!

## Rally Diary

### Saturday 8th February Rosspark Hotel Targa Rally

Organised by Mid Antrim Motor Club this event starts from the Rosspark Hotel in Kells. Expect the usual big entry of Mazda MX 5's plus many others. We will be helping out with timing. Sign-on from 7am.

### Saturday 15th February Pacenotes Rally Magazine Stages Rally

The first round of the 2020 Motorsport UK McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship. The six-stage single venue 95% sealed surface rally takes place within in the confines of the Kirkistown Race Circuit in Co.Down. Sign-on from 7am. The first car is due to start at 09.30. We will provide rescue personnel plus stage marshals on this North Armagh Motor Club event. The entries include current champion, Stephen Wright.

### Saturday 22nd February Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown

Round one of the new 2020 ANICC Gravel Rally Challenge. This event will use four familiar loose surface stages (run twice) to the south of Fivemiletown in Co.Tyrone. The rally should get a viable entry. We are covering radio, rescue, timekeepers and stage marshals. The rally is based at Fivemiletown College and Community Youth Annexe. Omagh Motor Club are the organisers and the first car is due to start at 9am.

### Saturday 7th March McGrady Insurance Bishops court Stages

Second round of the NI Rally Championship. Yet another sealed surface single venue rally. Based entirely at the Bishops court Race Circuit in South Down. We will be providing marshals and timekeepers on the day. Sign-on from 7am. The organisers are Ballynahinch and District Motor Club.

**CRAP CORNER.**

I am sure that any school teacher with a sense of humour must be in stitches over these answers . All come from either AEB exam results or from school quiz teams for 14 to 16 year olds.

**History. Why was Sir Walter Raleigh sent to the tower ? Because he invented smoking. ( He was imprisoned for getting married without the Queens permission.)**

**Science . What is a vacuum ? A large empty space were the Pope lives.**

**American Quiz What is the Christian name of fashion designer Lauren ?**

**Answer POLO.**

**Science. Describe the properties of Nitrogen. Answer. There is no nitrogen in Ireland as it cannot exist in a free state.**

**Science. Explain what hard water is ? Answer ICE.**

**History. What sports were held in the ancient Olympics ?**

**Answer Running jumping and throwing the biscuit.**

**American Quiz. Name six animals that live inside the Arctic Circle.**

**Answer 2 Polar bears and 4 seals.**

**U.S. History. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed ?**

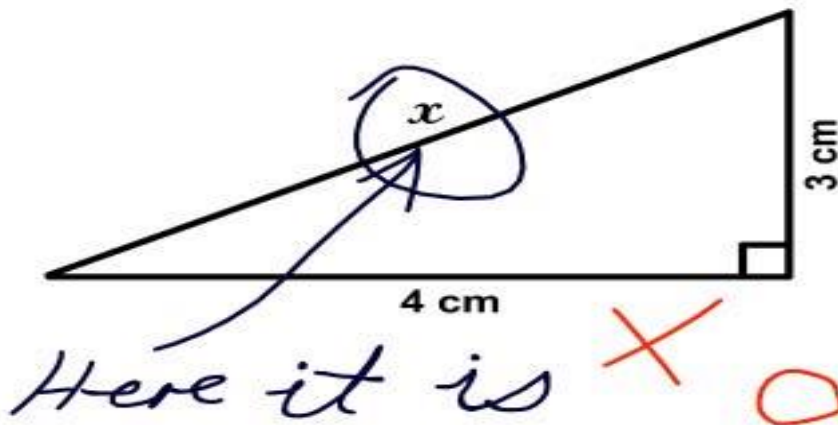
**Answer .. At the bottom.**

**Science. What is the highest frequency detected by the human ear ?**

**Answer Mariah Carey.**

**U.S. History . What ended in 1933 Answer 1932. ( correct answer was prohibition )**

**3. Find x.**



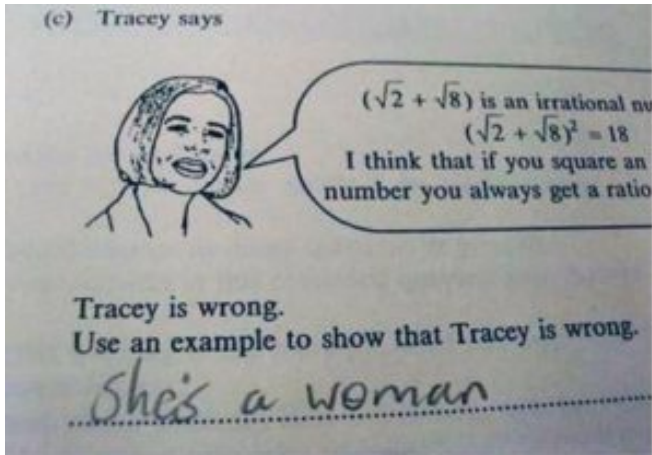
Ocular Trauma - by Wade Clarke ©2005

**Science Solid matter liquid matter gaseous matter. In which state do particles move the most ? Answer California.**

**U.S. Quiz Under 11's. Bob had 36 Hershey bars and 17 orange bars . He eats 29 Hershey bars and 9 orange bars , what has he now ? Answer diabetes.**

**Science. Explain the rings on Saturn. Answer God liked it so he put a ring**

**on it. Teacher This is a science question not a pop quiz young lady !**



**Maths How would you convert centimeters to meters.**

**Answer rub out CENTI**

**From a U.S. High School.**

**In the space below please write any overall comment about this course or today's lecture.**

**If I had only 1 hour to live I would attend this course as it seemed like an eternity.**

**Science. Name the properties of a basic element ?**

**Answer Density melting point our electric kettle.**

**Literature. What was Runyard Kipling famous for ? Answer He invented jam tarts.**

**Geography 60% of the Niagara Falls are in which Commonwealth Country ?**

**Answer Middle of Africa.**