

BRITISH MOTORSPORT



MARSHALS CLUB

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SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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Mirror , signal , manoeuvre , Oh Bugger !

NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE

Newsletter

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Cover Story.

Let battle commence ! Only two weeks to the start of the 2020 F1 season starts and it does promise to be an interesting season with Vettel under pressure from LeClerc , Red Bull claiming a big step forward with it's 2020 car and Mercedes still beset with rumours that the team may pull out at the end of the year. The proof is in the pudding , as they say , so if Mercedes still invest big bucks in developing the car then the rumours are nonsense but if funding becomes an issue both Red Bull and Ferrari will be there to take advantage . It will be interesting to see who fans of the Fantasy G.P. put their money on this year.

Thank you Father Christmas !

This year my daughter treated me to metal model kits from a small company I had never heard of , South Eastern Finecrafts. This company produces die cast kits of racing cars in 24th. Scale with such a level of detail that you will need a magnifying glass to identify the smallest pieces some only a 1/10th. of an inch.



The leaf springs and the lever arch shock absorbers together with the tiny dials on the dash board take ages to get right . Above is Enzo Ferrari's first car the P3 Alfa Romeo Monza.



The biggest challenge to Ferrari came from Prince Bira of Siam in his ERA. The ERA was not as powerful as the Alfa but its suspension system and lighter weight mean it a real contender. Neither car could compete with the mighty Silver Arrows of Mercedes or Auto Union but in non championship races both clamed a number of podium places. The two cars represent a little bit of early G.P. history.

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GERTIE LORIMER Died 20th. February 2020.

Sad to report the death of Gertie who with husband John and her son Keith were members of the Club for many years . To sisters Molly (Mrs.Chris Wilson) and Doris (Mrs Colin Wilson) long time members of the Club , and other family members , our deepest sympathy.

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JOY RAINEY 1952 to 2020 R.I.P.

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The sudden death of Joy Rainey in January has robbed motorsport of one of the greatest , but almost unknown , hero's of modern motorsport. Born in Geelong Australia , the daughter of 500 cc Champion driver Murray Rainey Joy was born with a rare genetic condition which both effected her growth and stopped her legs from developing normally . As a child she was consigned to wear metal leg braces for

several years but in spite of this she was fascinated by motor sport. Aged thirteen she saw a young Bruce McLaren testing a racing kart and started competing in a kart built by her father. Her success meant that Rainey Karts soon became a business venture winning several Australian Championships .

When the family moved to England Joy continued to compete and between 1979 and 1981 running a 250 BHP Dastle sports racing car she never failed to finish a hillclimb and was a top three finisher in the 1600cc class at every event. She also competed in the Castrol Midland Classic Hillclimb Championship driving her father's prewar Alfa Romeo 6c grand prix car , a massively powerful machine in which against all odds she won the Championship in 1983. In 1985 she entered the RAC British Hillclimb Championship driving for the first time a car designed and built specifically for hillclimbing a new Pilbeam- Hart. At Shelsey Walsh she set a new Ladies Record which was to stand for the next 22 years.

As she got older Joy turned her attention to long distance and vintage events competing in the London to Sydney marathon in a tuned Morris Minor before becoming the first driver to cross America , and later Australia , in a single cylinder motor car , a 1904 Oldsmobile.

Clearly a very , very special person.





Hardly able to see over the steering wheel of her fathers pre war Alfa Romeo Grand Prix car Joy set some impressive times in the 1980's British Hillclimb Championship !

New Car News.

In the late 70's early 80's I was a real fan of Toyota owning a gen 1 Celica 1600 ST followed by a Gen 1 Celica 2000 GT and later a Gen 2 Celica 2000 Fastback. I admired but never owned the Corolla fwd 1600 GT hatchback or the fantastic Corolla twin cam Coupe which in its day was winning the 1600cc class in both international and national rally championships. Today over 30 years later the twin cam coupe is a much sought after collectors item with a number still appearing in rallies in Ireland. The Mark 1 and 2 MR2 sports cars were also well received by the motoring press of the day. I lost interest when the Celica became front wheel drive and for the last thirty years Toyota has concentrated on safe dependable small and medium sized saloons and hatchbacks all of which were and are terminally boring.

Al that's about to change with the new GR Yaris. Built in conjunction with Toyota's Yazoo racing team the car , based on the current WRC car , has a very light but rigid carbon fibre / alloy body , an all new 1600 3 cylinder turbocharged engine , claimed to be the most powerful 3 cylinder engine ever produced with over 270 BHP , a new design of turbo which provides boost at lower revs and a trick 4 wheel drive system which can be adjusted between a 50/50 split to a rear wheel drive mode . No price yet but is expected to undercut the Golf GTI and the new Hyrundai hot hatch.

Alfa Romeo have a new mid range SUV due later in the year with a choice of petrol or diesel engines and for the first time an Alfa hybrid power plant. In a different market is the new Aston Martin DBX , a large SUV powered by a 4 litre twin turbo engine built by AMG. With 542 BHP and a price tag of over £160,000 it is up against Bentley and Lambourghini. After 50 years the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette finishes a long , long run of front engine rear wheel drive muscle cars. The new Corvette is a mid engine supercar with 495BHP and a 0 to 60 time of only 3 seconds. In the States the price is under \$70,000 which is way below Porsche and Ferrari prices.

CLASSIC CAR NEWS.

Only one word to explain the Classic Car market in January and February 2020 , bonkers , totally bonkers. As predicted Jaguars ,especially E.Types , air cooled Porsche cars and most Ferrari's lost value from the dizzy heights of 2018. E.Types and Porsche dropped by over 10% with some Ferrari's dropping close to 20% . As a result in spite of what dealers are still asking , it's a buyers market with some cars sold for less than the restoration costs. At the other end of the market it is a different story with some buyers spending silly money. A nice if unexceptional MGB GT V8 in January sold for over £40,000 against a top estimate of £28,000.

Even more bizarre was the sale at ACA's Jan. Auction with a 1986 Audi Quattro 10 valve selling for £28,994. This model , the least desirable of the Quattro range , may have been valuable if it was a one owner , low mileage , example but this car had 7 owners , over 76,000 miles on the clock and the price defies belief. Equally odd was Anglia's sale of a 1988 BMW M3 Evo LHD. Yes these cars are much sought after but this one had 135,000 miles on the clock and in spite of this sold for over £69 grand.

Very few modern classics are showing any increase in value but 3 that are in demand at the moment are , the run out Saab 9-3 Turbo X the final car built in the SAAB factory with only 500 rhd versions produced. With 4 wheel drive and 276BHP these cars are becoming collectable. Fiat 20V turbo Coupe were selling for 4 grand a couple of years ago but low mileage rust free examples have almost doubled with good examples offered at around £7 / 7500. Still considered a bargain. Last but not least good Reliant Simitar GTE SE6 models are in high demand up 20% in a year.

Little known Irish Collector John Campion has decided to sell his collection of Lancia cars with a reserve price of £7.75 million ! The 6 cars are all rather special.

- 1. Lancia Beta MonteCarlo Turbo Group 5. Won the World Endurance Championship in both 1980 and 1981.**
- 2. Lancia LC1 LeMans. This car raced in both the 1982 and 1983 LeMans race.**
- 3. Lancia LC2 Group 6 Another car raced at LeMans in 1983 with open bodywork.**
- 4. 1984 Lancia 037 Rally Group B Recce car for the 1000Lakes before joining the Jolly Club Rally team.**
- 5. Lancia Delta Integrale S4 Group B. Won the 1986 1000 Miglia Rally and awarded Best of Class at Amelia Island.**
- 6. Lancia Integrale 8V Group A. Winner in Portugal and Greece Miki Biasion won the 1988 World Rally Championship in this car.**

All cars have been properly restored to original spec. And are expected to sell well above estimated value.

Robert's RallyBuzz

Wright Off To A Flyer

For the second year in succession, Monaghan's Stephen Wright, driving his usual Ford Fiesta R5, won the opening round of this year's Northern Ireland Rally Championship. The current champion saw off challenges from Derek's McGeehan and McGarrity at the Pacenotes Rally Magazine Stages. Wright says he doesn't intend to contest the full championship, but he said that last year and then went on to win it! Watch this space!

The event was held in atrocious conditions at Kirkistown Race Circuit in County Down. 74 cars started the windy, rain-soaked, six-stage rally and there were 61 finishers. Spare a thought then for the many BMMC/BRMC marshals who braved the weather to stand out for the duration of the North Armagh MC event.

Top of the many two wheel drive cars was the Mk.1 Escort of Keith White after a rally long battle with the Mk.2 version of James Kennedy. An interesting new category has been created for Nissan Micra's and of the five entries Philip White (son of Keith) was the first winner from the legend that is Stevie Whitford.

Fast forward one week and we had the Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown. This gravel event was round one of the new for 2020 McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Forest Rally Challenge. Lots of marshals from our club were out in force on this Omagh MC rally. The weather was typical for late February, wet, cold, windy and dry. Unfortunately this year I wasn't able to attend Kirkistown or Fivemiletown (don't miss many of them).

Last year there was a poor entry in Fivemiletown, but this time, perhaps due to the raised profile and increased stage mileage, there were 70 starters. The sponsor, Lithuanian Martynas Samsonas, was back with his BMW M3 E36 which almost won the Bushwacker last September. This time he had a team-mate in Janis Vorobjovs from Riga. Although both were in four wheel drive BMW's Vorobjovs Car was labelled as an M3X and in a different class. This was Janis's first time in the car and his first visit to Fivemiletown.

Samsonas had no luck this time out, his M3 stopped on stage seven, but the other unique German-based machine of Vorobjovs went on to win the rally by five seconds from the Fiesta R5 of Irish Forest Champion Cathan McCourt. In third place at the end of the rally was the Hyundai i20 of surprise entry of Calum Devine, who was warming up for his big European Rally Championship attack this year.

Top two wheel drive finisher was the Escort Mk.2 of David Condell ahead of Ryan Barrett's similar car. Altogether 44 cars finished the 10-stage event.

Here is a question for you all. Can anyone tell me the last time a BMW won a gravel rally in the British Isles? I don't know the answer. Anyhow it was great to see a completely different car from the normal WRC's, R5's or Mitsubishi Evo's win what was truly an "International" Rally!

Apparently Martynas Samsonas was inspired to build both these spectacular four-wheel-drive M3's after watching Andy Burton's home-built 4x4 Peugeot Cosworth special which delighted spectators some years ago on the gravel stages of England and Wales until it was banned. Let's hope the same fate doesn't befall the BMW's!

Finally this month, what about Elfyn Evans? Did not see this one coming! Joint top of the WRC standings following a third place in Monte Carlo and then a start to finish win in the shortened Rally Sweden. The little Welsh dragon put his senior Toyota team mate Seb Ogier firmly in the shade. Alongside young teenage sensation Kalle Rovanpera, Evans looks to be a real threat this year. First Welsh World Champion? Far to early to say but not impossible. Mind you the ever-threatening spread of the Coronavirus may kill off some WRC events. Rally Mexico is next up, due to run from 15-17 March and ironically sponsored by Corona beer!

Looking Back

30 Years Ago.....1990

Derek and Roisin Boyd won the GMW Single Venue Rally based at the Ballymena Showgrounds last month. We provided marshals for the nine stage event run by Mid Antrim MC. Davy Greer in a Toyota Corolla was second and Stephen Mawhinney third in his Sunbeam. Dominic McNeil crashed his Peugeot 309 GTI into the perimeter fence.

Dermot Carnegie won the third round of the Kirkistown Winter Rallycross Championship in his Metro 6R4. David Francis and David Patton were second and third in their Ford Escorts. Our club members were marshalling as usual.

20 Years Ago.....2000

On a cold Saturday in February we had 15 club members assisting with the running of a stage on the GMW Gravel Rally in Tardree Forest. The clubman event was organised by Mid Antrim Motor Club.

Larne MC described their Ulster Rallycross GP at Nutts Corner as “The motorsport highlight of the year”. It wasn’t. Disappointingly there were NO top class competitors in British Rallycross that year apart from just TWO wealthy Irish drivers with fast cars that no one else could compete against!

10 Years Ago.....2010

We were timekeeping on the Fivemiletown Spring Rally organised by Omagh MC. The event took place on Saturday February 20th in tricky conditions. Temperatures were around minus two degrees with persistent fog, ice and snow. On my seven-mile stage drivers described the conditions as more akin to that of the Swedish Rally than anything else! Of the 71 starters only 48 finished the eight-stage Co.Tyrone gravel event. Ian Cochrane won in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo. but Frank Kelly was the star of the day, he finished second only 12 seconds down in his “baby blue” Ford Escort Mk.2.

On the opening round of the 2010 Hankook NI Championship at Kirkistown, Derek McGarrity dominated as he had done the previous year. This time the defending champion was driving a Subaru Impreza S12B and he finished 1 minute 26 seconds ahead of Stuart Biggerstaff in his dad's S9. Young Stuart stared yet again at the Co.Down race track as he had done on his first ever rally in January. We were marshalling as usual on the Pedro Pet Foods Stages Rally organised by North Armagh MC. There were no less than 112 starters of which 93 finished the six-stage event.

Rally Diary

Sat. 7th March McGrady Insurance Bishopscourt Stages Rally

Round two of the NI Rally Championship. Ballynahinch and District MC are the organisers of this six-stage sealed surface event. Yet another race-circuit-old-airfield-type venue, Bishopscourt is close to Downpatrick in South Co.Down. We are supplying marshals and timekeepers. Sign on from 07.00 for a 09.00 start. Interestingly, current champion Stephen Wright's name did NOT appear on the 57 strong list of entries as I wrote this. Entries were due to close on Wednesday 4th March.

Sat. 21st March BMMC/BRMC Northern Ireland Region Training Day

As I always say, you learn something new every training day. This is our annual training day which everyone is required to attend in order to keep grades and signatures up to date. The venue is Kirkistown Race Circuit in Co.Down and sign on time is from 09.00 for a 09.30 start.

Fri. 10th—Sat. 11th April UAC Circuit of Ireland Rally

Sponsored by Wastewater Solutions and organised by the Ulster Automobile Club. The National event is round three of the 2020 Irish Tarmac Rally Championship. Internationally the rally is the second round of the 2020 FIA Celtic Rally Trophy.

There are eighteen special stages in counties Down and Antrim, nine on Friday and nine on Saturday. The service park/rally start will be at the Dundrod Motorsports Centre. Rally HQ will be based at the Chimney Corner Inn and there will be a ceremonial finish at Antrim Castle Gardens.

LEG 1 Friday: SS1/4/7 Aisling's 11 (8.90 miles), SS2/5/8 Laverys Bridge (8.90 miles) and SS3/6/9 Bulls Brook (8.20 miles)

LEG 2 Saturday: SS10/13/16 Loanends (4.65 miles), SS11/14/17 Tardree (7.30 miles) and SS 12/15/18 Langford Lodge (7.80 miles). A stand alone one-day interclub UAC Saturday Easter Stages Rally will compete over these nine stages, after the main event.

BMMC/BRMC club members will be involved with the organisation of the event as well as providing stage marshals, rescue personnel, timekeepers and radio cover throughout the two days.



Surprise Winner of the Fivemile Town Rally the most unusual BMW M3X four wheel drive machine driving by Lithuanian man Janis Vorobjoys on his first visit to Irish rallying.

CRAP CORNER.

A Dummies Guide to garage tools.

Translated from the French by Ian Wilson.

POST DRILL Large upright tool useful for snatching flat metal bars out of your hands and inevitably damaging some item you have just restored / painted etc.

WIRE WHEEL. Cleans paint of nuts , bolts , bodywork and fingerprints.

DROP SAW. Portable cutting tool useful for making studs shorter than intended.

PLIERS. Useful for rounding stubborn nuts and bolts. Also has some expertise in creating large blood blisters.

BELT SANDER. Electrical sanding tool commonly used to turn minor jobs into major refinishing projects.

HACKSAW. Family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked unpredictable motion , the more you try to influence its course the less likely it is to travel in anything approaching a straight line.

MOLE GRIPS. Used after pliers to complete total rounding off of bolt heads. Also useful for transferring the full heat of welding equipment onto the fingers of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH. Commonly used for igniting any flammable material stored in the garage. Also useful for setting fire to grease in hubs and flexible brake pipes.

TABLE SAW. A large stationary power tool useful for launching wood projectiles to test integrity of stud walls.

TROLLY JACK. Useful for lowering your automobile after overhaul of brakes , etc. Has the ability to trap its handle firmly under the front or rear bumper needing the assistance of a second jack.

BAND SAW. A large stationary power saw used mainly to cut good metal and aluminium into smaller pieces which fit into the trash can before remembering always to cut to the outside of your intended line.

ENGINE HOIST. A tool for measuring the maximum tensile strength of heater hoses , wiring looms and any thing you forget to disconnect before removing the engine.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER. Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or punch a hole to unscrew old style oil filters. Can also be used to extract Phillips screws.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER. Tool for opening paint tins ,etc. Can also be used to convert soft brass and alloy slotted screws into non- removable screws.

PRY BAR. A tool used to distort metal surrounding the clip or bracket you need to remove to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER. A tool used to make hoses too short to fit.

HAMMER. Originally employed as a weapon of war the modern hammer is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive part adjacent to the object you were trying to hit.

STANLEY KNIFE. Versatile tool used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard boxes delivered to your garage. Works well on upholstery , vinyl records , liquids in plastic containers and rubber or plastic trim parts. Also excellent for damaging work clothes when in use.

THE B*** TOOL.** The tool you throw across the garage floor in frustration before you realise its the one tool you really , really need at the point in time.

35-YEAR-OLD MAN VOWS TO MOVE OUT OF PARENTS' HOUSE, GIVE UP ALLOWANCE



Uber Humor

I'm afraid I just blue myself.

