

# The **BRITISH MOTORSPORT** **MARSHALS CLUB**



SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

Issue 7

July. 2020



Here we go , here we go , here we go !!!!!!!!!!!

**NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE**

# Newsletter

Issue No. 7

July. 2020

## Cover Story.

**The F.I.A. have confirmed a programme for initially 8 races to take place toward the Formula 1 World Championship , as follows ,**

**Austrian G.P. 5<sup>th</sup>. July      Pirelli G.P. Austria 12<sup>th</sup>. July  
Hungarian G. P. 19<sup>th</sup>.July      British G.P. 2<sup>nd</sup>. August.  
Emirates G.P. Silverstone 9<sup>th</sup>. August      Spanish G.P. 16<sup>th</sup>. August.  
Belgian G.P. Spa 30<sup>th</sup>. August      Italian G.P. Monza 6<sup>th</sup>. September.**

**Motorsport U.K. have also confirmed dates for Kirkistown race meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup>.July and the Championship Sprint on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. August Social distancing will apply and PPE will be available.**

## New Car News.

### Mostly exotics this month.

**Designed and built with the intention of competing in next years LeMans 24 Hour race the Brabham BT62 racing car is now being produced as a road legal track day car for a couple of millionaire customers. Running a Ford based 5.4 litre V8 producing 700 BHP the car has a six speed sequential gearbox , race based ABS and traction control and comes with built in air jacks and a supply of both road legal wheels and tyres and racing wet tyres. It's a big big car but is lighter than a Ford Fiesta ST! Cost £1.2 million.**

**Cheaper but still blindingly fast is the New BMW M5 Competition. Lighter and faster with close to 600 BHP ad 4 wheel drive the car is expected to cost around £100,000.**

**Porsche have both a new 911 Targa with 4 wheel drive and a 444 BHP. Cost £110,000. Even more extreme is the latest 911 Turbo cabriolet with a 3.8 litre engine and 641 BHP. 0 to 60 in 2.8 seconds. Price £165,000**

**Audi have a new RS7 , the 4 litre V8 now producing 592 BHP Cost £97,000**

**BMW have released details of the John Cooper Works G.P. Mini. Lighter body , no back seats , 8 speed twin clutch auto and 302 BHP. Cost £34,000**

**Mulholland Automotive are hardly a household name although they have been involved in supplying components to motorsport companies for many years. They have now decided to built their first sports car , the Mulholland Legend 480.**



**Not the worlds prettiest car but its 480 BHP V8 is enough to scare some Porsche owners and at £90,000 Mulholland hope to start production in August.**

**Big new car news and a bit of a shock is Sir James Dyson's decision to pull the plug on his much admired electric concept car. After employing 100 engineers and spending £150 million of his own money he , after looking at the Tesla market , accepts that his £160,000 electric car cannot compete and rather than face a loss making operation has walked away. Brave decision in my view.**

**Old Car News.**

**In spite of lockdown online auctions are happy to take money from bored punters. The O.K. but nothing special Aston DB6 sold for £146,000 the nice Ford RS2000 sold for £48,900 and a 1972 Lotus Europa reached over £24,000. A Rover P5 Coupe sold for £42,000 and a 1935 Ford V8 convertible made £27,000. In contrast several Ferrari cars and a couple of early Porsche 911's failed to reach their reserve price. One car , considered to be a real bargain was a rare Volvo Turbo 850 R estate ( remember these in BTCC races ) Offered by Anglia with a £9000 estimate.**

**Forgotten hero's John Davenport.**

**Best known as the driving force behind the Metro 6R4 John Davenport before joining B.L. in 1976 as Competition Director had a very successful career as a professional co driver. Having navigated for John Spinzel , Brian Culcheth and Vic Elford he joined the big time with the Escort twincam sitting beside Ove Andersson , Marku Alen , Hannu Mikkola and Ireland's Billy Coleman. He also set with Rauno Aaltonen and Achim Warmbold in BMW works 2002 cars and in Vauxhall Magnums with Gerry Marshall and Pentti Airikkala.**

**His wins over the years means he set beside some of the worlds best rally drivers and although he admits to feeling nervous at times ( especially on the Monte in the lightweight Alpine 110 and on the 1000 lakes where Mikkola took every bend , every crest flat in top ) he had a great time during his rally career.**

**His records read like a who's who of International Rally drivers starting back in 1967. Wins Gulf London Rally and Rallye Espania with Ove Andersson and 1968 winning the R A C Rally with Timo Lampinen. 1969 wins include Rally Italy with Sadro Munari , Manx Rally with Colin Malkin and Italian Alpi Rally with Munari. 1970 wins the Manx with Chris Slater and the T A P Rally Portugal with Lampinen. 1971 wins Rally Italy with Lampinen and the Scottish Rally with Slater and wins the Scottish again in 1972 along with the T A P Rally with Achim Warmbold .**

**1973 wins Janner Raly Austria with Warmbold and the Manx with a young guy called Adrian Boyd. Big win in 1974 was the 1000 Lakes with Hannu Mikkola and also the Welsh with Marku Alen. 1975 was busy winning the Mintex with Billy Coleman , Rally Germany , Bavaria Rally , Donegal International and Germany's Winter Rally all with Warmbold and in 1976 before retiring the British Snowman Rally with Pentti Arrikkala.**

**I only mention the wins , not enough space for all the top 6 places gained over the years. Interesting fact , the Donegal winning car , the works BMW 2002 Tii has been restored and has a Northern Ireland registration.**

**The owner is David Wylie who older members will remember , the son of the late Mike Wylie , a regular on the circuit Retro and at Kirkistown and sprints.**



## **Epic Restoration.**

**A group of older Italian mechanics and engineers have carried out a complete and beautiful rebuild of an unique car.**



**The car owned for many years by Italian Gianni Morandi is a 1949 Fiat 1500 6C sporting a 6 cylinder twin cam engine and three twin choke carbs. The car was built for the 1949 Targa Florio but never raced there. With a very badly bent chassis and many unique parts missing or too badly damaged to reuse the restorers had to rely on a few old pictures to remake many parts including body panels , dashboard , seats etc. The finished car is a credit to all concerned and is as a result very , very valuable.**

## **NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT !**

**In the 1830's the Leyland Steam Company invented and patented a steam powered lawnmower. Built of cast iron and weighing well over 1 ton it tended to crush grass rather than cut it and with a turning circle of more than 50 feet it became infamous for knocking down walls , fences and small trees. After the destruction of several Victorian lawns it was quickly withdrawn. Some years later the company took an interest in the new internal combustion engine and was reformed in 1907 as the Leyland Motor Company.**

**The company prospered during the second world war building both Cromwell and Churchill tanks and expanded greatly during the 1950's and 1960's taking over companies like Scammell , Alvis , Standard Triumph , Jaguar and B.M.C. to become British Leyland in 1968. Poor management , poor cars , and industrial unrest saw the company go bust in 1975. It was the start of the end for British car makers.**

**A recent track test of the mighty Bugatti Veyron Vitesse revealed a serious design flaw , although not something most owners will ever have to worry about ! At a speed over 230 M.P.H. the car used up its fuel load in just over 12 minutes. The 100 litre , 22 gallon tank was burning fuel at a rate of 2.77 miles to the gallon.**

**In May 1924 a Gwynne 8 car won its class in the R A C,s prestigious 1000 mile trial. To celebrate Gwynne Motors in Great Victoria Street Belfast offered New cars at £190 , undercutting its rivals like Ariel , A.C. , Star , Swift and Clyno all costing over £200 !**

**As long ago as 1673 a Dutch scientist Christian Huygens designed what we now know as an internal combustion engine. At that time no engineering was advanced enough to actually build the thing which was just as well. He proposed moving what I assume was a piston up and down a long metal cylinder. His fuel ? Gunpowder !**

**The Brazilian capital Brasilia is bisected by a road network called The Monumental Axis. This has 80 lanes running North / South and 80 lanes running South/ North making it by far the worlds widest road. Hard luck if you live East or West of the capital.**

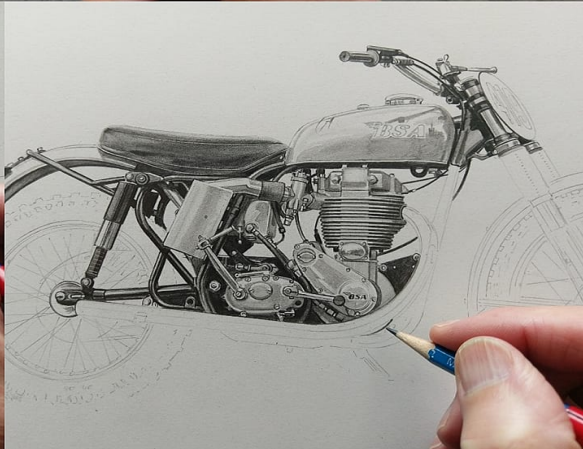
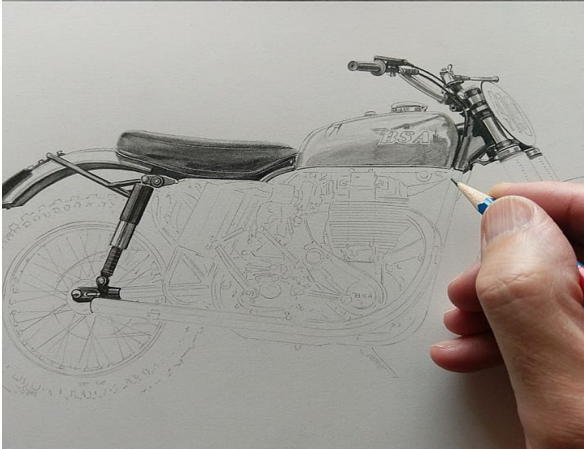
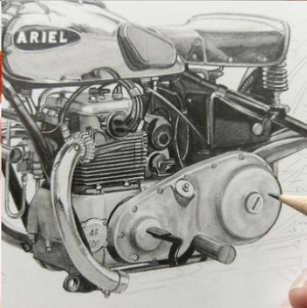
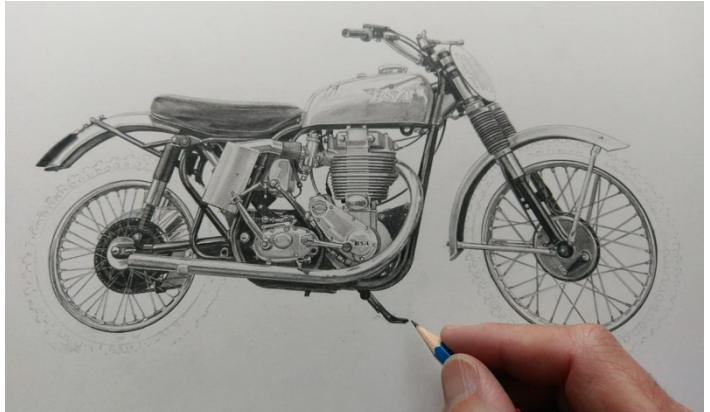
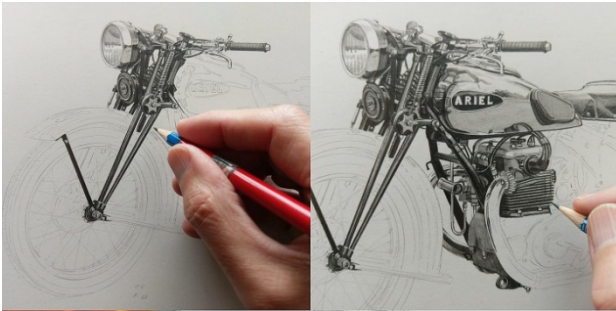
**The first recorded fatal road accident was in Ireland in 1869 when Miss Mary Ward fell from a steam powered vehicle and was run over. It was not until 1896 when England recorded its first fatal accident , a Mrs Driscoll run over by a Benz car.**

**There was a suggestion when motorways first opened that people should set personal speed limits by subtracting their age from 100. Thus a thirty year old could drive at 70 but a 50 year old could only drive at 50. It was nonsense but because there were no speed limits it was also suggested than for cars with over 100 BHP you could double your personal limit. Thus a 25 year old in his Aston Martin could legally drive down the M1 at 150 MPH. !**



## MIKE HARBER.

Mike Harber is an Australian artist from Hastings Melbourne who can do pencil drawings freehand that defy belief. Thanks to Nad for these copies of his work.



**Pure Magic !**



## **The Collector.**

**Just imagine you are a wealthy South African , rich enough to have a private collection of 100+ cars , which would take pride of place ? A rare Ferrari , an early Aston Martin , an original AC Cobra or if you were interested in South Africa's motorsport history a Safari Rally car or one of the Chevrolet V8 saloons from the 1980's .**

**Collector Freek de Kock would not thank you for any of the above , from childhood he has an obsession with , of all things , Datsun.**

**It all started in the 1970's South Africa was facing sanctions from the West and Datsun moved into a market which in the 1960's was dominated by British and Peugeot cars along with South African built G.M. products. Datsun with its range of small , economical , reliable cars had an open market and cars like the Datsun 1600GL soon became best sellers. In a very clever marketing move die cast models of all Datsun cars appeared in the toy shops throughout the 1970's and children like the young de Kock started collecting them. Stars of the collection include 5 Datsun 1600 Fairlady roadsters , a Fairlady 2000 roadster , 7 Datsun 1600 SSS saloons and Coupes , 3 Datsun 1800 SS coupes , 17 Datsun 240 / 260 / 280 Z cars , 9 300 ZX coupes , and no less than 9 Skyline GT R sports cars from the original Datsun 1971 to the Nissan 1984 , 1985 , 1995 ,1996 ,2010 and 2016 cars.**



**DATSUN 1800 SSS COUPE  
1979**



**NISSAN SKYLINE GT-R  
1996.**



# Robert's RallyBuzz

## Paisley Support For Rally NI

Ian Paisley is actively trying to get government support for a Northern Ireland round of the 2021 World Rally Championship. The DUP MP raised the matter during NI question time in the House of Commons last month. Paisley is hopeful that the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Robin Walker, can co-fund the event with the NI Executive. Around two million pounds would be needed from the two billion pledged by the UK government to the Northern Ireland Executive under the "New Decade, New Approach" agreement. This money is earmarked to help the Executive deliver a new and prosperous bright future for the people of Northern Ireland.

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Wales Rally GB due to the coronavirus pandemic, the organisers were hopeful that the event would run next year. Now a provisional draft WRC calendar which contains only 9 rounds does not include GB. The final ratified calendar which should feature 11 rounds is due in October. The Northern Ireland bid would need to be sorted out by then. Wales is in the middle of a three-year deal to run Rally GB, but that can be paused, leaving the door open for a one-off Belfast-based Rally NI to possibly happen as soon as next year. There has been a British round of the WRC every year since the start way back in 1973. I am not a lover of his politics at all, but fair dues to Ian Paisley for bringing our sport of rallying into the House of Commons!

In other news the Ulster Automobile Club were allocated a date in November to run the Circuit of Ireland postponed from Easter but have elected NOT to run the rally due to ongoing concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic. It would not be appropriate to even think of running a closed-road event at this uncertain time. The historic club will concentrate on planning for the 2021 event next Easter, which marks the 90th Anniversary of the "Circuit". Hopefully the pandemic will be history by then!

Incidentally the 2020 Northern Ireland Rally Championship is definitely cancelled. Only the first two events of the planned five rounds went ahead back in February and March. The remaining rallies were all canned due to the coronavirus outbreak. The regulations state; "If less than 3 rounds run, there shall not be a Championship"

## Looking Back

Marshalling memories

### 20 Years Ago

On Saturday 1st July 2000 we provided timekeepers for the Loughgall Country Park Rally. This was the first running of the North Armagh MC's now popular event for 2-wheel-drive rally cars. There were eight tarmac stages and the entry list was oversubscribed. The rally has been running every year since until now when COVID-19 caused the cancellation of this year's event.

The next day I went down to Moneyglass near Toomebridge in Co. Antrim for the Lough Neagh Stages Rally. Craig Hunt and myself were marshalling at a mid-point location when news of Joey Dunlop's death crash in Estonia came through. The single venue event had six stages, all run on concrete roads built by US soldiers during World War 2. One of the features was the first ever roundabout to have been built in Ireland!

On July 13th two of us were finish timekeepers in Drumkeeragh Forest in Co.Down. Richard and myself helped out Ballynahinch and District Motor Club with their Clubman Stage Rally. Then on the 14th and 15th of the month three of us John Hughes, Andrew Gibson and myself were in Donegal and Derry City marshalling on the Lark In The Park Rally. Day one was a seven-mile closed-road stage running from Muff to Bridgend. We covered the final junction on the test which ran three times. Day Two was set in St.Columbs Park in Derry where we covered a busy junction on the very narrow and short spectator stage. Around 500 people turned up to watch but were all well behaved.

## 10 Years Ago

The 2010 Orchard Motorsport Lurgan Park Rally was held in on Saturday 31st July and won by Darren Gass, co-driven by his cousin Nathan. Kenny McKinstry and daughter Emma were only little more than a second behind after a hotly contested eight-stage event.

Held in front of the largest crowd seen here for a number of years, the weather was good while most of the action was taking place, although a few sharp showers made conditions slippery in places. 49 cars started the main event while the “slowly sideways” classic rally cars entertained between the stages. Gass became the thirteenth different winner since the most lucrative single venue event in Ireland started in 1980. McKinstry was happy enough at the finish as young Darren was driving a Subaru Impreza S11 WRC from his stable. Kenny, this year in an older Subaru WRC, had won here no less than 11 times and although sorry not to have made it the round dozen victories he was glad the win had gone to the Mar-kethill youngster in one of his hire cars.

Derek McGarrity and James McKee had led from stage one in their S12B/C, but a stall on the fifth test saw them drop to third. In the end just 3 seconds separated the three Subaru WRC drivers. Wesley Patter-son won the Escort Mk.2 Challenge and was top 2-wheel-drive finisher in sixth place.

Cork man Brian O’Mahony was seventh and winner of the Metro 6R4 Challenge, after the only other starter Denis Biggerstaff retired his example with mechanical problems. At the prize giving, O’Mahony collected £250 donated by my son Scott through his [RallyBuzz.com](http://RallyBuzz.com) website. It was just unfortunate that other promised entries didn’t materialise. The new category was introduced by rally organisers North Armagh MC to mark the 25th Anniversary of the 6R4.

2010 was the 30th year in succession I had officiated on the Lurgan Park Rally, only missing the first one in 1980. BMMC/BRMC marshals covered all the many fire points throughout the park. Everything ran to schedule with just one or two minor incidents.



Tardree Forest

Ulster Rally Stage.

2006 I Think ?

**CRAP CORNER.**

THE GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT HAS INSTRUCTED THE CITIES TAXI DRIVERS TO DRIVE AROUND CAIRO SOUNDING THEIR CAR HORNS. IT'S HOPED THAT A RETURN TO FAMILIAR CITY SOUNDS WILL HELP RESTORE CALM FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC. OPERATION TOOT N CALM EM WILL LAST FOR A WEEK.



**Tired of being abused British statues are now fighting back..... and so they should !**



