

The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

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NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE

Newsletter

Issue No. 11

Nov. 2020.

Cover Story.

Good News .

The Goodwood Festival of Speed was exactly what we wanted in this very difficult year. Thanks to ITV for it's coverage of motorsport at it's best.

Lot of new features including rally and drifting means opening up aspects of motorsport to a whole new set of viewers. Well done Goodwood. !!!

More good news from Jonathan Rea who has won yet another World Superbike Championship. Unlike an F1 driver I could mention , driving for the best team and in by far the best car Rea had to fight hard for this years title. Crashing out of his first race and with several other contenders winning races he had to , in mid season, stay safe and go for points finishes , which he did brilliantly.

Once again Northern Ireland punches above it's weight in International Sport.

NOT so Good News.

16th. October , the N.I. Assembly decides to allow spectators to attend local football matches. Unlike Football both Motorsport U.K. and the 500 Motor Club had already agreed that all motor sport events would be held without spectators. So on the Friday there was no concern about Kirkistown running the final race meeting of the year. So Saturday comes , great entry , no spectators allowed in , practise and qualifying runs to time and just before lunch every thing stopped. What is going on ? It seems the 500 Club have received an Email from the N.I. Assembly ordering the club to cancel the event. (Had I been in charge things would have been very different for the simple reason I never check my Emails at weekends !) On a more serious note to allow nearly 200 competitors and crew and over 60 unpaid officials to get together , all strictly obeying covid 19 restrictions and then to order them home is one of the most stupid , illogical decisions made in recent times.

Not for the first time our local politicians make both Boris and Trump look good.

Shame on you all. If you voted for them it serves you right !

The recently formed Vanwall group are to start production of an all new 1958 Vanwall Grand Prix car , a car which with Stirling Moss and Tony Brooks won the 1958 Constructors Championship. At last Britain had a car to challenge Alfa , Ferrari and Maserati. Do not underestimate the importance of this win it lead the way for John Cooper , Colin Chapman , Ken Tyrell and others to consider Formula 1 as a viable option.



Only six cars will be built , with one already earmarked as a Museum exhibit .

Cost £1.65 million plus VAT !

Classic Car News.

It is a while from I have seen a Volvo 144 on the road but it appears that this is the latest car to generate demand in the Classic Car market. It is one of several cars which over the last two months have seen buyers paying well above estimate. I am not just talking about cherished low mileage cars either as the recent sale of a 1995 Audi RS2 Avant proves. A 90 ,000 mile car with four owners it sold above estimate at £40,000 plus buyers premium.

Another car suddenly in demand is the VW Corrado VR6. Valued last year at £6 to 8 grand , a one owner 75,000 mile car sold last month for £17,000 , a record price. Two other cars which set records were a Jaguar XJS 4.0 litre convertible selling at Historics for over £29,000 and an 1989 Mercedes 300SL Guernsey registered also selling at Historics for over £70,000 against a top estimate of £30,000.

Classic mini sales are at present hard to follow. CCA last month sold a beautifully restored 1963 Mini Cooper S for £23,500 and Historics sold 1964 Cooper S with rally history and current MSA papers for £19,600 yet at the same time Charterhouse offered a barnfind 1965 Mini Cooper found in a shed where it has been rusting away from 1973. In spite of its dreadful condition , sills gone , holes in the roof and front wings seized engine and brakes someone paid £28,600 for it. Estimated restoration costs are £30,000+ yet nicely restored cars are selling for little over £20,000.!

Big News. Not only big news of the month but of the year is the 2 online auctions taking place at the end of October. Goodings and R.M.Sotheby have a stunning collection of collectors cars for sale.



Sotheby have the 3 original Alfa Romeo BAT cars for sale. Bat5 , Bat 7 and Bat 9 are offered as one lot with a reserve of £20 million.

Not content they have also the original Alfa Disco Volante valued at £1million+

Another rare car is a 1955 356 Porsche Carrera 1500 G.S. speedster also valued at £1million and an restored Allard 1953 LeMans at £200,000.



A unique car the 1953 Allard race car which competed at LeMans.

Not to be undone Goodings offer a 1956 Maserati A6G spider at £2million and a 1957 MB 300SL gullwing at £1million. A 1956 MB 300SC , one of only 50 built is valued at £750,000 and a 1953 MB 300S roadster at £500,000.

Other finds include a very early Jaguar XK120 in storage for over 50 years and requiring restoration , and an wonderful Austin Healey 100M which at £200,000 would be a new record for an Austin Healey.

A car most Americans have never heard of is the 1951 Muntz Jet. Powered by a large Lincoln V8 engine the car is only valued at £60,000.



I will be keeping a close eye on both auctions and will report back next month on the results.

FORMAL NOTICE OF 2020 REGIONAL A.G.M. (Virtual via Zoom.)

The Meeting will take place at 2.00PM on Sunday 13th. December.

AGENDA.

Attendance and Apologies.

Minutes of 2019 AGM meeting

Chairman's Report

Treasurers Report.

Secretaries Report.

Committee .

Under Club rules both Roy Bowman (treasurer) and Goff Evans (membership Secretary) are required to stand down. Both are willing to stand for re-election.

Fantasy G.P. Results

A.O.B.

**To attend please contact ROY or RORY for a link to the Zoom link.
Roy can be contacted at 90772994 and Rory at 07889321471.**

**Nominations for committee must be sent to RORY in writing at ,
83 Kilrea Road Upperlands BT465SB on or before 29th. Nov. 2020.**

Wishing you all well and stay safe .

ROY.

Not many people know that.

In 1971 the Citroen Club GS won the prestigious Car of the Year award and at the time I was working for Belfast Corporation Architects Department , and Architects , being Architects just had to buy one. We ended up with 3 in the Department. As the resident petrol head I was quite interested but soon discovered some potential problems . The flat four engine meant that the back two spark plugs were almost impossible to get at , the inboard disc brakes meant stripping out the air filter and other items to get access and the disc pads were almost impossible to remove and replace . Worse was the little plastic joints in the hydrophumatic suspension. 2 of the 3 cars suffered leaks meaning the car rested on his wheels and had to be lifted for repairs. The parts were only a few quid but recovery costs were substantial !

The Aston Martin V8 Vantage V600 of 1997 was hailed as the ultimate British supercar. 5.4 litre V8 twin superchargers giving 600BHP and a top speed of over 180 MPH it was by far Aston's most expensive car at £236,000. This car also had inaccessible spark plugs , both complete superchargers had to be stripped out to gain access , a six to eight hour job so changing all 8 plugs cost well in excess of £1500.



The Bentley Continental GT is a beautiful thing but owners who do not use it on a regular basis may find a problem with one or more of the catalytic converters. Not horrendously expensive by Bentley standards but thanks to the car running an advanced and complex 4 wheel drive system it is an engine out job with Labour costs of £5000+

Robert's RallyBuzz

Rally NI Could Happen Next Summer

The World Rally Championship could be coming to Belfast next August. Rally Northern Ireland has been provisionally listed as the United Kingdom's contribution to a twelve-round 2021 WRC calendar.. but it can only happen IF full funding is forthcoming.

One thing is certain, Wales will NOT be hosting a WRC event next year. Somewhat ironic then given the fact that a Welsh driver is poised to become 2020 World Champion next month! (more of that later). It would seem then it's Rally NI or nothing for this part of the world in 2021! What happens after that is anyone's guess!

An August date would be brilliant for Northern Ireland, the country's classic closed-road tarmac stages are at their very best in summer time. The last time a WRC round visited Ulster was back in 2009 when Rally Ireland used several tests north of the border. That was in January and the roads were muddy and very wet, in fact two stages were cancelled due to flooding.

If Rally NI doesn't happen then one of five reserve events will be drafted in. Strangely, to date there has been no comment from Bobby Willis, who's initial idea of bringing the WRC to Belfast has surely been instrumental in the latest announcement. Backing for the new rally has come from North Antrim MP Ian Paisley and Minister of State for Northern Ireland at Westminster, Robin Walker MP.

Back in April a funding request for the rally was turned down by Tourism Northern Ireland. Apparently now though the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government are supportive of events that showcase Northern Ireland to the world. Apart from the issue of funding, the other major factor that could scupper WRC Rally NI August 2021 would be the state of a certain ongoing global pandemic!

From a personal point of view, I for one will not miss a dark, dismal and pissing wet Wales Rally GB. Having marshalled on the winter event for some 16 years since 1990 (see Looking Back), lately I was a paying spectator. Although I enjoyed my visits to the gravel classics including Sweet Lamb, Myherin and Dovey , I would much prefer to be closer to home on the "best tarmac stages in the world" according to Craig Breen. Names like Torr Head, Sloughan Glen and Hamiltons Folly will challenge the worlds best rally drivers. In fact why not visit neighbouring Donegal for one day and take in Knockalla, High Glen and Atlantic Drive?

Ok, it might rain in NI but definitely NOT on the scale of a Welsh November. Another plus, Rally Northern Ireland will be totally FREE to spectators. Wales Rally GB lately had become very expensive as spectators had to pay to see all stages.

On the down side, there are only 12 World Rally Cars competing in WRC 1 at the moment (none from Northern Ireland) plus a further handful in WRC 2, WRC 3 and JWRC. I would hope that a "National Ulster Rally" will tag on behind the WRC competitors. This would give the British and Irish Championship runners a chance to run over the same stages as the world stars and at the same time boost the overall entry list. Interestingly there were only 36 entries overall for Rally Ireland 2009, the last time the WRC visited Ireland.

WRC Latest

With the cancellation of the Ypres Rally, due to the rapid rise of coronavirus cases in Belgium, only one round of the 2020 WRC remains. The Monza Rally takes place next month (December 4-6). Based in and around the famous Monza Grand Prix circuit in Italy, the tarmac event is normally an end-of-season fun bash for celebrity drivers. Valentino Rossi has won the rally some seven times. Drafted into the World Championship at the last moment, this time though a WRC Monza Rally will be totally different.

Elfyn Evans in his Toyota Yaris stands to clinch the World Crown if he scores good points in Monza. Currently Evans is on 111 points, 14 ahead of team mate Sebastien Ogier who is second on 97. The most Ogier can score is 30 points (25 for a win plus 5 bonus points if he is fastest on the power stage). That would give him a total of 127 meaning Evans would need 17 to win the title. Second place would net 18 points, third 15 and fourth 12 (plus any bonus power stage points). In theory Hyundai drivers Thierry Neuville (3rd with 87 points) and Ott Tanak (4th on 83 points) could still take the title if Evans and Ogier hit trouble. Of course a lot can happen on a rally, even a short one like Monza.

So a four-driver-shoot-out “Italian Job” for the big prize! Let’s hope this seventh and final round of a curtailed 2020 World Rally Championship can go ahead. If the Monza Rally doesn’t run, apparently Elfyn Evans WILL be crowned champion!

NI Championship News

The calendar for the 2021 Northern Ireland Rally Championship has been finalised. Due to the cancellation of this year’s championship, it has been decided to stick with the same five tarmac events for next year. Only the first two rounds ran in 2020 before Covid-19 called a halt. 2019 NI Champion Stephen Wright won at Kirkistown in February and then multiple champion Derek McGarrity was victorious three weeks later at Bishopscourt.

All of next years events will take place on Saturdays. The first three are former airfield -based single- venue rallies while the remaining two will be held on closed public roads. Let’s hope there will be a better outcome than there was this year, although I wouldn’t bet on it! Realistically, stage rallying may not get off the ground in NI until April at the earliest!

2021 NORTHERN IRELAND RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

- Kirkistown Stages.....Kirkistown.....February 13
- Bishopscourt Stages.....Downpatrick...March 6
- Shackleton Rally.....Ballykelly.....April 24
- Tour of the Sperrins.....Magherafelt....June 5
- Tyrone Stages.....Cookstown.....July 24

Looking Back

Marshalling Memories

30 Years Ago.....1990

This was my first visit to what was then the WRC Lombard RAC Rally. A two-car group of us went over from Belfast to Stranraer on Friday 23rd November. The ferry crossing was long and very rough due to a storm. In fact we had to cancel a B&B, so no sleep that night. Come Saturday we arrived in Harrogate where the rally was based. We assisted all day at scrutineering then on Sunday we marshalled on stage two at Harewood Hill signing-on at 05.00. Monday saw us in Dalby for SS13/18 again with an early start of 4am.

My eldest son Scott, who was spectating, managed to record Ari Vatanen changing a punctured wheel on his Mitsubishi. He then sold the tape to BBC Top Gear who under contract paid £20 each time they showed it on TV! The clip subsequently appeared on a Top Gear Motorsport Christmas Special that year. That was when the RAC Rally was big news and on mainstream television!

On Tuesday we headed to County Durham and into Hamsterley at 04.00 to assist on SS23, then we moved on to Kielder forest arriving for 14.00 sign-on at SS30 Falstone which would run in darkness at 17.00. Finally it was SS36 Castle O'er in Scotland on Wednesday where we signed-on at 08.00. After the stage which started at 11.09 we headed for Stranraer and the ferry back to Belfast. It had been a long and tiring five days of marshalling but a great experience for us all. The weather was surprisingly dry, apart from some snow and ice in Scotland on the final day.

The 1990 RAC, the twelfth and final round of the WRC, had an entry of 175 and 94 finished. With a start and finish in Harrogate, there were 41 special stages in Northern England and Scotland. The rally was won by new World Champions, Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya in their Toyota Celica GT-4. Kenneth Eriksson/Staffan Parmander in a Mitsubishi Galant VR4 were second while Mikki Biasion/Tiziano Siviero completed the podium in third with a Lancia Delta HF Integrale. Colin McRae/ Derek Ringer were sixth in a battered Ford Sierra Cosworth nicknamed "the shed" because of damage occurred during the four days. Gwyndaf Evans won Gp. N in his Sierra Cosworth.



CRAP CORNER.

OBESITY IS A REAL THING:



