

The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



SAFER MOTOR SPORT

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Newsletter

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A very happy , healthy seasons greetings to all BMMC members.

BTCC. Sorry to see Colin losing out on the Championship , partly due to the weather conditions. However Ash Sutton deserved the win , in spite of one or two mistakes he has been in terrific form all year and is one of those drivers that makes the races exciting to watch.

CAR NEWS.

Last month I reported that the 3 original Alfa Bat cars were up for sale. May not have reached their estimate but the owner was happy to walk away with a cool £14 million pounds. Several other owners were also smiling on the way to the Bank last month. It must be over 30 years from I drove a Land Rover and found it a horrible experience , noisy , body roll , awful steering , awful seats and the same performance as a 1950's Fiat 500. Not a drive I would ever repeat ! Yet some people seem obsessed with this strange contraption .

Take the man who paid £185,000 yes £185,000 for a 1950 Series 1 Land Rover. Yes It had been restored and appeared in the T.V. programme "Epic Restorations" but the same price would have bought a restored lightweight E.Type , a couple of 355 Ferraris , a late model air cooled Porsche Turbo or at least 4 well restored early Mini Cooper S cars which will continue to rise in value. Can't work it out !

One of the best cars I ever owned is now starting to rise in value. A car in which I chased many Circuit of Ireland events was my Saab 96 V4 saloon. One of the first cars to have dual circuit disc brakes and a body so strong it did not require a roll cage for National A rallies , it,s column change and free wheel device meant you could change up and down the gears without the clutch. The freewheel meant that I once saw 81 MPH on a long downward hill (outside Castlewellan) at only 800 RPM. Not that many left on the road but you can still buy a good one for less than £10 grand.

A 1965 Wolseley 6/110 recently broke a record for the model at well over £15

grand. Two years ago a 6/110 sold for £9 grand which at the time was above estimate.

R.M. Auctions were pleased to sell a 1993 Lancia intergrale with only 10,000 miles on the clock. The buyer paid £84,700 way above estimate. Not so lucky is the buyer of a project Aston Martin DB5. He paid over £400,000 for the car in spite of the fact it needs recovered from Dubai and has Kuwait registration documents to complicate the issue.

Also at R.M. a nice early fixed head E Type attracted strong bidding but the owner refused to accept £315,000 for the car. Mad or what ?



Of the several thousand Maserati Misrael cars built only 37 spyder convertibles were built and less than half had the 4 litre straight 6 engine fitted. So it was expected that a restored one might exceed its £200,000 estimate. Bidding was brisk and £700,000 was totally unexpected.

Anyone following rallying in the 1970's would be aware of Cathal Curley and his Porsche 911. Winner of the Circuit , Ulster , Manx , Cork 20 , Donegal and a serious roll in Galway destroyed the car. If you had said in 1975 that the car would eventually be worth well over a million pounds people would have thought you were mad.

However the car , still with its County Derry registration AUI 1500 , was restored to it's original 2.7 RS lightweight spec in 2018 and is currently worth well over 1 million.



To prove it's still possible to grab a bargain H and H sold a high mileage 1990 Audi Quattro 20V for a well over estimate £56,000 yet at the N E C sale an 1987 quattro 10v with smaller mileage sold for £30,000 . The Classic car on line sale had several nice cars sold below estimate , 1977 Spitfire 1500 restored some years ago sold for £5000 , a well restored Morris Minor Traveller £5200 and surprisingly a very good 1999 Merc 320SL with a service book full of stamps in metallic red with cream leather was a steal at £3700.

THE COLLECTOR.

Highly respected in Italy Ronald Stern is not your traditional collector in spite of the fact he owns or has owned not one but two A C Cobra 289's , a Lambo Muira SV , a Lambo Countach , a Ferrari Daytona Spider and a Ferrari GTO. For the last 30 years Ronald has been buying up any bits of Ferrari history he can get his hands on. He can currently claim to have the only complete set of Ferrari sales brochures in existence , Enzo Ferrari's first driving licence , marriage certificate , passport and first communion card and crash helmets from every driver from Nuvolari to Schumacher . Add to this 5000 photographs spanning over 60 years , many signed by the drivers and almost 1000 books on Ferrari and Alfa Romeo motorsport history , yet his most precious items seem

modest. A tiny pair of Scuderia Ferrari Alfa gold cufflinks made in 1930 to celebrate Ferrari's first year , Ascari's gold Mille Miglia medal , a telegram from Ferrari to Mietta Ascari after Ascari was killed and a unique drawing by Herge of TINTIN fame showing the Lancia D50 crashing into the harbour at Monaco.

The collection was considered so important that in 2018 it was on display at the London Design Museum and since then Stern has published a book with Doug Nye , a very limited edition book detailing the complete collection and priced at £1250. The Value of the Collection ? No one knows but we are not talking a million or even 5 million. Some unique items have each an insurance value of over £1million. Ronald will not reveal what the collection has cost him but he has been known to jump on a plane to America , Australia or anywhere in Europe just to buy a single item. £50,000,000 is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

Forgotten hero's ROBERT BOSCH.

Born in 1861 Bosch studied the usual subjects before joining Stuttgart Collage to study the new subject electricity . Bosch moved to America to work with Thomas Edison an then to London for new company Siemans AG. Working on early forms of electric lighting Bosch noticed an unpatented invention for a magneto ignition system for motor cars. Bosch in his spare time ran the magneto , rewired it and found a way to increase the spark by over 100 %. He then patented the device and in 1902 the Bosch magneto was sold to over 50 car makers. Together with his companies Spark plugs by 1914 Bosch had a world wide reputation . By 1930 Bosch was a multi millionaire who refused to join the Nazi party. Not a Jew Bosch joined the Jewish resistance and the so called Bosch circle were part of the conspirers in the attempt to kill Hitler in 1944. Bosch died aged 80 in 1943 and in spite of his views was given a full Nazi funeral in a propaganda coup by Hitler who claimed him as one of the greatest German's of the 20TH. Century.

Lockdown News.

Thank goodness for EBay !

I recently found on EBay the original H.M.S. Caroline 1740 . in kit form. 20 years ago this large wooden kit was selling at £299 . Cost me £60 and has been sold before I have it built.

THE ORIGINAL CARRERA PORSCHEs.

Europe in the early 1950' s was in dire straights. At home Food , petrol and even some clothing was rationed , Eastern Europe faced serious food shortages and Germany was still mostly in ruins although Ferdinand Porsche had opened a new factory near Stuttgart.

So it came as a complete surprise when Prince Metternich and Graf Von Berckheim from Germany entered the 1952 Carrera PanAmerica road race. This race 3000 kilometers long was run on public roads , many in poor condition running from East coast border to Western Border and was soon to be recognised as the world,s most dangerous road race. A total of 27 people mostly drivers but including spectators were killed with over 100 people injured.

In 1952 the 2 cars entered were the new 1500 356 coupe. One suffered an accident but the second finished 25th. Out of over 100 starters. Porsche a totally unknown name outside Germany suddenly found a lot of people interested in the little car , which beat several U.S. muscle cars with four times the power.



1953 saw a single 356 coupe entered by a Mexican but it failed to finish. 1954 was different with 3 of the 356 cars entered along with no less than 4 of the all new 550 spyder. Only one finished but it did take second in class.

In spite of what would become a controversial car after James Dean was killed in his Porsche the 550 spyder with the new 4 cam 1500 engine would not only take several class wins but finished 3rd. overall in 1954.

As a result Porsche decided that each top of the range model or any car built for competitive use would carry the name Carrera. This at a time when LeMans and Rallying were just a distant dream.



The all new Porsche 550 Carrera Spyder. The start of a legend.



The ultimate Porsche 935 Carrera Twin Turbo 900BHP Top speed from 190 / 210 MPH depending on gearing.

Robert's RallyBuzz

What a Horrible Year!

2020 will go down in history as a year to forget, not just locally, but worldwide. With regard to rallying in Northern Ireland there were just three events of any significance. By late March everything had ground to a halt.

Back in January we were looking forward to a year of new challenges. The NI Gravel Rally Challenge was due to run over four rounds and the NI Rally Championship was set to go with five tarmac events.

In fact the only gravel rally to take place was the Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown in February. The NI Championship managed two events, Kirkistown in February and Bishops court early March before the dreaded coronavirus prevented any further action.

Although we as a club were well represented on the above rallies, 2020 was the first year in over 40 that I didn't sign-on for any motorsport events! I had a hand operation in January which prevented me from attending anything for two months; and then the pandemic happened! Year over for me then!

The last time I saw a rally car in action was back in October 2019 when we mingled with thousands of cheering spectators on a Catalonian hillside to watch Ott Tanak doughnut a roundabout on his way to the World title.

Let's hope 2021 will be better, but I am not holding my breath. We all know a preventative vaccine is on the way, but when it will be available to everyone has yet to be sorted out. It won't happen overnight!

As I reported last month, Northern Ireland is pencilled in to run round nine of the 2021 WRC next summer. Apparently the final decision on whether the August 19-22 event happens or not will be made when the FIA World Motor Sport Council meets virtually on December 16th to ratify the twelve-event calendar. If Rally Northern Ireland doesn't run, then the UK will miss out altogether on the World Championship, not only next year but possibly for the foreseeable future!

In Southern Ireland the only round of the Irish Tarmac Championship to take place this year was the Galway Rally in February. Alastair Fisher won in a VW Polo R5 and we were looking forward to a good year for him and Gordon Noble. Would young Alastair emulate his famous uncle Bertie (a four time winner) and claim the 2020 Championship? We will never know the answer to that question. Perhaps they will have another chance in 2021? Then again.....possibly not!

The 2020 WRC calendar originally contained 14 events. As it stands only 6 have been able to run so far. The final and seventh round ACI Rally Monza is scheduled to take place this month (December 3rd-6th).

Based at the famous Monza Grand Prix track where 10 stages will take place over the three days, the rally also takes in 6 closed-road tests on the Saturday in the foothills of the Alps. Despite the high level of covid-19 cases in that region of Northern Italy, the Monza organisers insist that the event WILL go ahead.

As I eluded to last month, Elfyn Evans is in the box seat. The little Welshman is leading Toyota team mate Sebastien Ogier by 14 points and firm favourite to win the much truncated 2020 World Rally Championship.

Twenty five years ago I watched Colin McRae win his title and then saw Richard Burns do the same in in 2001. Good luck Elfyn, no fans in Monza, but may the force be with you!

Russian Citroen C3 R5 driver Alexey Lukyanuk is 2020 European Rally Champion for the second time in three years. The man they call “The Russian Rocket” also won the title in 2018. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, only five of the planned eight events took place.

Nineteen year old Norwegian Oliver Solberg (son of Petter) and his Northern Ireland co-driver Aaron Johnston were second overall. Solberg ran a VW Polo R5 originally then switched to a Skoda Fabia for the fourth round before returning to the Polo for the final event Rally Islas Canarias. Oliver was the ERC1 Junior Champion this year.

The final two rounds of the 2020 FIA World Rallycross Championship due to take place in the Rhineland region of Germany on 12-13 December have been cancelled due to the coronavirus

That means that after eight completed rounds, VW Polo driver Johan Kristoffersson from Sweden is World RX champion for the third time in his career. The Rallycross World Championship began in 2014 and has only been won by Scandinavian drivers.

Seasons Greetings to you all.



CRAP CORNER.

President Trump claims victory at Augusta.



Although Dustin Johnston was awarded the green Jacket at this years U.S. Masters President Trump still insists he won the event. In truth he did score a very credible 42 on the first nine holes but as he was keen to explain “ I did ask the event organisers to please stop counting scores at the end of the first nine holes but they would not listen and they , and the Johnston supporters , continued counting scores right up to the end of the event. They stole it from me , I think they counted shots I missed or did not make.” It’s another example of the way the Democrats do things.

STUPID.

In the Lord’s Prayer which word beginning with H means Blessed are thy name ? Answer Howard Sorry what? Howard Weakest link.

On which day of the year does Christmas Day fall? Answer Wednesday Tipping Point. Who did Lee Harvey Oswald shoot in Dallas Texas ? Answer J.R.

Pointless. Which word added to the word Pork makes another word ?

answer Porkupine Family Feud. Which Duke currently occupies Woburn Abby ? The Dukes of Hazzard. Perfect Recall.

Name any U.S. President who signed The Declaration of Independence. ?

Answer Eisenhower, RKO Radio.

What would you find in a garden that is green in Summer and brown in Winter?

Answer My garden shed I paint it twice a year. Family Fortunes.

Which car maker made Toledo , Stag , and Spitfire cars ? Answer SEAT. Radio North.

Name any Greek dish served on a skewer ? Answer Olives Cookery Channel.

Which Irish writer wrote Ulysses and the Dubliners Answer Peter O’Toole Cork F.M.

