

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



SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

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**NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE**

*Happy Happy New Year !!!*

# Newsletter

Issue No. 1

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## Cover Story.

**Designed as a track day car Lamborghini have now due to popular demand decided to make the SC20 car as a limited edition road legal car. Price ? Don't even think about asking !**

## New Car News.

**Due early in 2021 is an all new BMW M3 . The use of lightweight materials plus an all new alloy straight 6 engine mated for the first time to an advanced 4 wheel drive system the car with over 500 BHP will be the fastest , lightest , M3 ever produced by BMW. Every kilo put on by its 4 wheel drive system as been shaved off by a lighter body and interior with much use of carbon fibre, first cars go on sale on March 1<sup>st</sup>. But it is expected that demand will outstrip demand making it an instant classic.**

**Volvo have announced a new XC 60 SUV called the T8 Polestar. The car has a supercharged 2.0 petrol engine linked to front and rear electric motors running the four wheel drive system . With over 415 BHP the car his 62 MPH in under 5 seconds.**

## Classic News.

**In spite of Covid , or perhaps because of it , Auction Houses both here and the U.S. have recorded some record sales from March 2020. Classic Car recently published results of some of the top prices paid.**

**1959 Porsche 718 RSK spyder £1.6 million, 1964 Porsche 904 GTS (one of the few road legal 904 cars) £1.7 million , 1985 Ferrari 288 GTO £1.73 million , 1958 BMW 507 convertible £1.79 million , 1959 507 convertible ( owned by the Greek Royal family) £1.84 million, 19522 Ferrari 225 S roadster £2.1 million , the 1968 Mustang GT , the original Bullet car £2.8 million , 1955 Aston Martin DB3S raced by Moss £3million and top of the list 3 Bugatti cars , an ex Grand Prix cars and two road cars.**

**The 1928 Bugatti G.P. 35C sold for £3.9 million , the 1931 type 55 Super Sport sold for £4.14 million and the 1934 Bugatti type 59 Grand Tourer set a record selling a remarkable 9.5 million pounds !**

**More down to earth was the U.K. sales in November and December. Very few bargains but some interesting results.**

**Silverstone in November sold a 1980's 911 Carrera 2.7 Targa Top for £101,250. A few years ago these Targa Top cars were almost unsalable. A real surprise at Anglia , who wants a 1976 Granada Ghia with 95,000 miles and Ford's terrible auto box ? Well people bid and it sold for £15,100. WHY! I once had the misfortune to spend a week with an Escort XR3 and hated every moment and I remember someone writing that the Escort RS 1600i was an XR3i but with more power but carrying over all the XR3 faults , poor steering feel , below average braking , harsh ride , etc. ACA Auction sold one last month for £31,300. It seems there is no end to silly buying as the MG Metro and Metro Turbo are suddenly fetching real money. I have owned both models and the Turbo was a little pocket rocket until I found out that some of the suspension parts were Metro 1000 and not up to the job. Still someone was brave enough to pay £ 17,650 for a Metro Turbo at H & H last month.**

**Even more strange was the sale of a 1992 Vauxhall Cavalier GSi , one owner , low miles , unrestored , and now rare ( mainly rare because it was never a great car to start with ) but over £17,000 for a basic white one , I give up.**

**What was considered a bargain was the 1983 Lotus Esprit Turbo built for David Wickens who took over as Lotus Chairman after the death of Colin Chapman. Serviced and restored by Lotus engineers from day 1 it sold for £36,000.**

## **BRISTOL.**

**This year sees the 75<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the Bristol Motor Company , one of the best loved traditional car makers of the last century.**

**The Bristol Aeroplane company made a significant impact on keeping the R.A.F. supplied during WW2 and by 1944 the Board of the Company were already thinking of post war car production. At the end of the war H.J. Aldington ,boss of Frazer Nash , who before the war had imported BMW sports cars selling them as Frazer Nash specials , approached Bristol as he , by now Lient-Col Aldington had been to Munich , found the BMW factories bombed out and reached agreement that all BMW designs and patents by passed to the British as war reparation.**

**As a result Bristol Motor Company was formed and in 1947 Bristol decided to produce a four seat saloon based on the two litre BMW sports car. Aldington and Bristol went their separate ways Frazer Nash building BMW type sports cars powered by a Bristol engine and Bristol building a much more luxurious saloon built to aircraft standards.**

**This was a very brave and risky decision , in 1947 food and petrol were still rationed and the idea that some people would pay almost Rolls Royce prices for an unknown car seemed an impossible risk.**

**In spite of this the Bristol 400 was launched late in 1947 shortly after the arrival of a young engineer and ex RAF recruit Tony Crooks who would go on to run the company for over 40 years.**



**The very first Bristol 400 car**

**The first car was never sold and remained in factory ownership , with Crooks and other senior staff driving it for the next 60 years. With over 300,000 miles on the clock and never restored it was proof that the claim of building to aircraft standards was no idle boast. In fact the Bristol owners Club have a record of Bristol cars which have clocked up over 200,000 with only routine servicing , a feat few modern cars could ever match !**

**The 401 which followed was a huge success Bristol building 3 cars a week for almost 5 years before the more powerful 403 with its 100 BHP engine arrived in 1953. 404 followed with both a 450 race car running at LeMans and a small number of Arnold Bristol sports racing cars using tuned Bristol 6 cylinder engines to win many National races at home and abroad.**

**Bristol continued to use Bristol's own 6 cylinder triple carb engine right up to 1961 in both 2 litre and later 2.25 litre guise but in September 1961 they announced that all new Bristol cars would run V8 Chrysler supplied by Chrysler Canada. This arrangement was to last from 1961 right up to 2020.**

**The first engines developed , by todays standard , a modest 255 BHP but by 2010 this had increased to over 400 BHP placing Bristol in the supercar saloon league. Financial problems forced the company to close in 2011 but the Company was almost immediately bought up by the Kemkorp Corporation who in 2012 announced a new range of Bristol cars using Chrysler's new V10 engine.**

**The final production of Bristol cars was the Bristol Fighter powered by a 7,995cc V10 engine producing 525 BHP or in Sport model 628BHP. Both cars had a top speed of 200 MPH and although Bristol announced a Fighter T model , turbocharged with 1012 BHP and a top speed of 270 MPH the car was never put into production. In fact production of cars sadly ended in 2020.**



**Bristol's final model , the 628 BHP Fighter S.**

**Forgotten hero's LEONARDO FIORAVANTI.**

**Not exactly widely known outside of Italy Fioravanti spent 24 years as the Chief Designer at Pininfarina before taking up the role of Managing Director.**

**His designs include the Ferrari Dino 246 ,the 250GT swb, the Daytona , the 280GTO , the 365 GTB , the Testarossa and the F40. During that time he also produced the Peugeot 406 Coupe and the Maserati Quattroporte Sport GT as well as design options for Rolls Royce ( the Camargue ) Alfa Romeo and Jaguar, Jaguar however rejected his design for a replacement E Type instead going ahead with the little loved XJ-S. A mistake perhaps ?**



**The Pininfarina version of the HJ-S. Which would you prefer ?**

**Pininfarina was formed in 1930 as a specialised coach building firm making bespoke bodies for car makers which sold cars as running chassis. Lancia , Alfa , Rolls Royce , Cadillac , Hispano Suiza , Fiat ,etc. Nearly all European cars in the last 60 years have had some input from the Pininfarina design studio , not least the humble Austin A40 farina , one of Austin's best selling cars before the Mini came out.**

# Robert's RallyBuzz

## Let's Have Some Fun!

Good riddance 2020. Welcome 2021. After the year we've just had it's time to look forward. I thought we could have some fun and do some tongue-in-cheek crystal ball gazing. Listed below is my own personal month by month guide as to how a "virtual new rally year" could pan out....or not....as the case may be!

In reality Sebastien Ogier will probably win the 2021 WRC for the eighth time and the Northern Ireland Rally Championship may not happen yet again, time will tell. For us the big question is will there be a WRC round here in Northern Ireland? In truth it is highly unlikely. Although the provisional 12-round calendar was supposed to have been ratified last month, no decision has been announced as I write. A asterisk still appears against round nine, "Rally UK" in August. Plans for the closed-road event would need to be at an advanced stage by now!

## 2021.... According To My Crystal Ball

### JANUARY

Oliver Solberg wins the Monte Carlo Rally by five minutes after all the leading drivers slide off on a patch of ice. Solberg was driving a WRC2 Hyundai i20 R5 for the first time. Co-driver, Tyrone's Aaron Johnston, remarked "She sure is some yoke" (translated for the rest of the UK that means the car is very good). 19-year-old Solberg has been snapped up by Hyundai as an investment for the future. According to team boss Andrea Adamo the young Swedish hotshot should be in a full blown World Rally Car for 2022. Kris Meeke wins the Dakar Rally as everyone else gets lost in the desert.

### FEBRUARY

Derek McGarrity driving a Sinclair C5 (ask an older person) is declared the winner of the Kirkistown Rally. The NI Championship opener was abandoned after three stages when an email was received from the NI Assembly instructing the organisers to stop the event. Apparently rallying is not an elite sport and due to lockdown conditions (again) Kirkistown could not continue.

Following his shock Monte win Oliver Solberg is promoted to the Hyundai first team for the rest of the year. He replaces Thierry Neuville "The Bespectacled Belgian" in an i20 Coupe WRC. Solberg "The Bespectacled Swede" wins round two the Artic Rally. Ogier gets stuck in a snow drift followed by the Elf and Ott. Aaron Johnston says "The WRC i20 sure is an awesome yoke".

### MARCH

Derek McGarrity switches to a single-seat Buggy for the Bishopscourt Rally but the event is canned before it starts as a highly infectious fifth mutation of coronavirus stops any movement at all in Northern Ireland. No one is allowed out of their houses.

### APRIL

The Circuit of Ireland at Easter gets the go ahead but can only use farm lanes in Co. Antrim due to covid restrictions. The first round of the British Championship is won by Derek McGarrity in his new little grey "Fergie" tractor (co-drivers are banned). In the latest round of the WRC in Croatia Oliver Solberg domi-

nates, Ogier is second but eight minutes down. Back in Northern Ireland Derek McGarrity wins the Shackleton Stages, held behind closed doors in Ballykelly, driving a JCB. No co-drivers allowed.

## MAY

Rally Portugal is allowed to run. The latest round of the WRC is won by Oliver Solberg and Aaron Johnston in the Hyundai. Ogier was second but said he could do nothing about the charging Solberg. Nothing happens in Northern Ireland this month.

## JUNE

The Donegal Rally is cancelled when a highly infectious sixth mutation of covid-19 is discovered in Letterkenny. The border with Northern Ireland is closed indefinitely. Then surprisingly, closed-road rallying with co-drivers is permitted to restart in NI as everyone has received the coronavirus vaccination. Derek McGarrity wins the Tour of the Sperrins in his latest car, a Tesla Model 3 “This is the future of rallying” was the quote of the day from Glengormley’s finest, as he headed for the nearest charging point. Meanwhile in Italy Oliver Solberg wins Rally Sardinia and then the Safari Rally in Kenya as the WRC reaches the half way point of the season. He will be 2021 World Champion. Aaron Johnston says “I cannot believe the power of this i20 yoke”

## JULY

Ott Tanak wins his home rally in Estonia for the second time. Oliver Solberg is told to take a time penalty by Hyundai bosses to let Tanak win or the local man might cry! For once Aaron Johnston is speechless. The Tyrone Stages is won by Derek McGarrity in a Rolls Royce. He had to deliver a bride to church but still had plenty of time in hand to clinch the rally and the NI championship.

## AUGUST

Oliver Solberg wins again this time in Finland where team mates Craig Breen and Ott Tanak are second and third. Rally Northern Ireland became the ninth round of the WRC. The closed road event was confirmed at the last minute following a huge cash injection from the NI Assembly and from the North Antrim MP Ian Paisley who donated his considerable holiday savings to the cause. Oliver Solberg wins the rally and co-driver Aaron Johnston was able to nip home to Fintona for tea and scones with his mum before they tackled the nearby Sloughan Glen stage. “It’s awesome being at home on a WRC event” he said. Running first on the road Sebastien Ogier crashes out after skidding on cow shite. Craig Breen is second overall for Hyundai. Breen loves the classic Hamilton’s Folly test. “It’s the best tarmac stage in the world” he said in a stage end interview.

## SEPTEMBER

Two classic gravel rallies are able to run in NI. The Lakeland Stages in the Fermanagh forests has a huge entry of over 100. The winner is Martanas Samsonas in his latest home built 4x4 BMW with a powerful 500bhp engine. The Lithuanian returns to win the Bushwacker Rally in Co. Tyrone at the end of the month with yet another BMW. Again a massive entry is received by Omagh MC. Oliver Solberg wins Rally Chile ahead of his team mate Ott Tanak. “Awesome” said Aaron Johnston.

## OCTOBER



There are no stage rallies here in NI, but in the penultimate round of the WRC, Oliver Solberg loses out to Elfyn Evans in Spain. Aaron Johnston says “The yoke let us down on the power stage and Elfyn’s Yaris passed us to win but second is fine”.

## NOVEMBER

The final round of the World Rally Championship 2021 is Rally Japan. Surprisingly all twelve rounds were able to run. Sebastien Ogier wins in his Toyota Yaris and then surprises everyone by announcing that he will be back in 2022 to try for another title. He is to move to Hyundai to partner Oliver Solberg. “I want to be in the best car and another different manufacturer win would be nice” Aaron Johnston said “What an amazing year with this Hyundai yoke, we are World Champions hey!”

## DECEMBER

Aaron Johnson returns in triumph to Co.Tyrone. He takes part in the UAC “It’s Not The Boxing Day Rally” as a driver in his MX5. Johnson and co-driver Kris Meeke win the Targa event by five minutes. “That was some craic and fair play to Kris he was awesome on the notes” was the final quote from the new World Champion co-driver.

Looking forward to 2022 the WRC will go hybrid but Oliver Solberg is not worried. In Northern Ireland plans are made for a five round tarmac championship. Derek McGarrity says he will be back to try anything on four wheels that he hasn’t driven yet (at least that’s what I think he said!)

PS; If any of the above events actually happen.....it will be nothing short of a miracle!!!!

Happy New Year to you all and special thanks to Aaron Johnston and Derek McGarrity!



**OLD FRIENDS remembered.**

## **CRAP CORNER.**



## **BORDER TO BE ERECTED AROUND LARNE UNDER BREXIT DEAL.**



**The new Brexit deal announced last week will see a ring of steel border erected around Larne , the Ulster Fry has learned.**

**From January 1<sup>st</sup> Larne and its hinterland has been renamed “The Peoples Republic of Larnistasia “ and falls under the control of the United Nations until a new government can be put into place.**

**Anyone wishing to enter r leave the area will be required to show a passport , with special documents being produced for Larnistasian citizens , although officials admit that it’s highly unlikely that anyone will want to enter Larne unless they are hoping to get out the other side.**

**Announcing the new agreement rubber faced Minister Michael Gove claimed it was a good deal for everyone.**

**“This is a good deal for everyone” he told reporters “We have being working**

**hard to come up with a compromise that allows us to ignore Northern Ireland going forward and this allows us to do exactly that”.**

**“The Government has more important stuff to worry about , like arguing with the French over fishing boats”.**

**Preparations for a new Government in Larnistasia are already under way with East Antrim M.P. Sammy Wilson lined up for the position of Ayatollah.**



**With the recent decision to extend home schooling into 2021 the NUW ( the National Union of Wean’s have issued a stark warning to parents.**

**WE WILL DRIVE YOU BUCK MENTAL BEFORE THE MONTH IS OUT.**

**After extensive testing of Northern Ireland M.L.A’s the Countries top scientific advisor has confirmed that not a single case of Political Leadership has been detected at Stormont.**

**Indeed there seems to be a group immunity to this particular virus , or perhaps it is a lot more fun to bicker and bitch in a continuous manner.**

**Queens University are working hard to come up with a vaccine but admit that the mind set of M.L.A.’s means they may well also be immune to any form of vaccination.**

