

The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



SAFER MOTOR SPORT

MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

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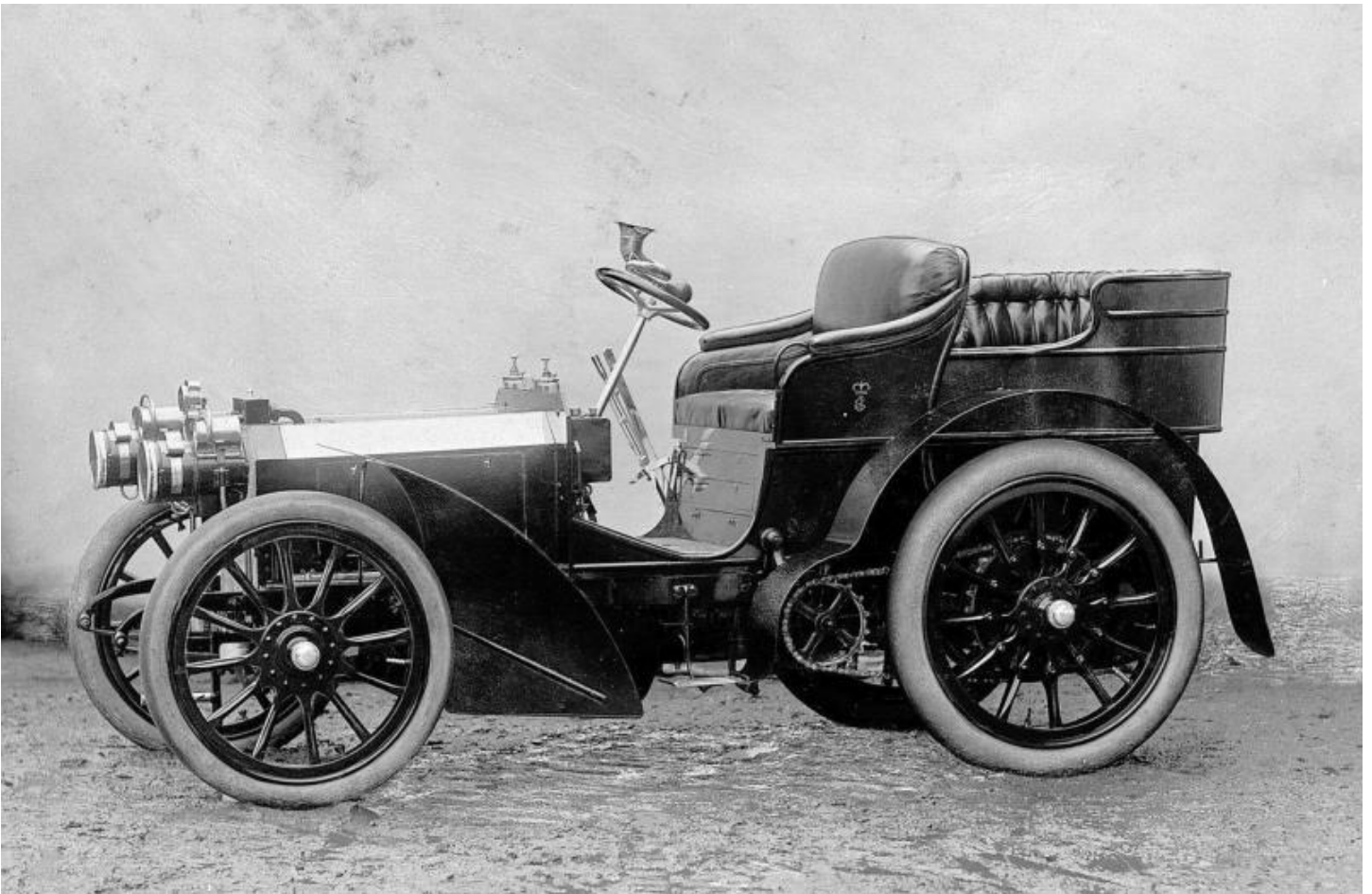
NORTHERN IRELAND REGION MAGAZINE

Newsletter

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Cover Story.



July 2001 holds a special place in the history of motoring. It was the first time that Daimler Benz produced a Mercedes car , the first time from the recession of the early 1990's that the classic car market started to recover and for the first time in many years people started to appreciate that cars , like art and precious metals , could be a safe investment .

In July 2001 I just happened to be in Hornchurch Essex visiting family friends. In central London was a display of 100 years of the Mercedes Benz including a small number of race cars from the Mercedes museum covering the years 1930 to 1990. Along with the cars was a large display of photographs of famous owners . Al Jolson owned a 1930's SSK , works driver Carraciolla had a supercharged 370 convertible Frank Sinatra and Grace Kelly had new 190SL cars , Sophia Loren and Doris Day had 300 SI Gullwing cars as did Picasso (the family still owned the car in 2001) Peter Sellers and George Best both owned Mercedes 350 SEL convertibles and Eric Clapton, Peter Sellers and Ralph Lauren all ran 500 SL cars. Their most famous customer was Ayrton Senna who owned several 500 and 560 SEC saloons all upgraded to his personal spec.

Also on show in London was products from the new Eagle Car Company selling 'what were effectually new E Type Jaguars. They had customers in Saudia , USA , Argentina , Malaysia , Hong Kong and Switzerland and had already sold their first SuperSport model , the most powerful road legal E Type ever with a top speed of over 180 MPH.

While in London I discovered that the whole Classic Car market which had suffered a slump in the early 1990's was at last showing signs of recovery . It started with Elton John who had some financial difficulties and sold off several of his cars. All of his cars sold by Christies went for way above their estimate. His 1973 Rolls Royce Phantom sold for £223,000 , the 1956 Bentley S1 Fastback sold for £196,000 (estimated at £70,000) Aston Martin V8 £102,000 (double the top estimate) and the 1965 E Type £80,000 at a time when you could buy a nice E Type for £20,000. His well used 1962 RR Silver Cloud had a reserve of £30 grand but sold for £86,000. It was said at the time that the starry eyed new owners , should they wish to sell faced a massive loss.

However it was this sale that started a steep upward climb in the market that lasted for many years.

Had I known , or if I had had the money , July and August 2001 was the ideal time to invest. It was the last time you could buy a decent E Type for £20 grand , an Austin Healey 3000 for £14,000 or a nice 1940/1950's MG TC TD or TF for £12 grand. By 2005 E Types were selling for £40 grand and by 2015 £90 grand.

More Classic Car News

The market continues to thrive in spite of covid. May and June sales went better than expected with Historic's selling a nice Triumph Stag well above estimate at

£27,160 (a record?). They also got top money for a restored 1973 BMW 3.0 CSI selling for £52,680. As expected the ex Pat Moss Austin A40 Farina Rally car sold well fetching £45,000 in spite of needing some detailing work.



Two Jaguar's XK150's for sale at the end of May . First picture shows a lovely re-stored FHC sold for £84,000 and the second , crashed in 1996 and off the road since. A total insurance write off Bonham's sold it for £90,000. Does Covid do things to the brain? Even the experts could not understand why people wanted to bid on this car.

Thanks to 500 Club and the marshal's at the June Meeting. As usual I was not Only late arriving but had the dog in tow (not literally). A great days racing spent with Goff at Debtor's (must be 20 years from I covered Debtors at a race meeting !).

Got a big surprise at the end of the day when I found the club had made a Presentation to Richard Young on his 75th. Birthday and had intended last year to make me a similar presentation at the first race meeting of 2020 which of course was cancelled.

So Fel called me up to receive a large framed photo of all the marshal's including National Chair Nadine and husband Ian on their first visit to Kirkistown in 2018 signed by all.

Many Thanks.

Sad to report the passing of two real characters in motor sport last month.



Firstly local man Gilmore Magee , a driver who drove the 00 car at many C.O.I. and Ulster Rallies in the 70's and 80's The picture is him in the 3 litre Capri. In this car , in spite of running as a 00 car he was setting stage times that embarrassed some Competitors !

Secondly BMRMC member 'Big' Dave Pierre. It was BMRMC Chairman John Felix and Dave who turned the Kirkistown Marshal's Club into members of the then BMRMC. Dave came over and organized our first two training days in 1980 and 1981. He was always on hand to help us to become more professional members of the Club.



Robert's RallyBuzz

Great Start to NI Championship

Jonny Greer and Kirsty Riddick in their first outing in a Citroen C3 R5 won the first stage rally to be held in NI since lockdown restrictions were eased. The McGrady Insurance Bishops court Stages took place minus spectators last month. Round one of the 2021 Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship had attracted a maximum entry of 100 cars to the Co.Down race circuit. Ballynahinch and District MC were the organisers and they put on a very successful return to rallying. The event ran without a hitch.

There were six sealed surface stages all within the confines of the track and its link roads. Marshals from our club were present to assist with timing and other duties. A total of 500 competitors, service crew and officials were allowed to attend.

Eight times NI Rally Champion Derek McGarrity was the pre event favourite. He last won the title in 2018, but has been victorious at this particular venue an incredible 13 times. In fact the Glengormley man remained unbeaten over the Bishops court stages for the past nine years. This year would be different!

Driving an ex-Marcus Gronholm 2007 Ford Focus WRC McGarrity won stage one by eight-tenths of a second from Greer but ultimately lost out to the more nimble newer C3 of the 2017 Champion over the course of the event. In fact Jonny Greer was fastest on all the remaining five stages to dominate the rally, winning by 33.3 seconds.

Third place went to the Fiesta R5 of 2019 Champion Stephen Wright while Phillip Allen was fourth in his Hyundai i20 R5. Top 2-wheel-drive finisher was Barry Morris in a Darrian T90. A total of 99 cars actually started stage one and 70 of them finished the rally.

Competitors can now look forward to round two of the NI Championship next month at Ballykelly. Three more rounds are then scheduled to follow the Dogleap in this 100% tarmac series between August and November. Let's just hope they will all be as successful as Bishops court.

Rally Diary

Sat. 7th August Dogleap Stages Rally

Round 2 : 2021 McGrady Insurance Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship

Organisers : Maiden City Motor Club

Venue : Shackleton Airfield, Ballykelly, Co.Derry

Details : Maximum 120 entries received within 30 minutes of opening. 100% sealed surface event, six special stages (three repeated tests)

Marshals/Officials/Competitors/Service Crew : limited as per coronavirus restrictions to a maximum of 500 people. NO SPECTATORS PERMITTED. Contact organisers for further information.

Sat. 21st August Loughgall Stages Rally

Round 3 : Northern Ireland Rally Championship

Organisers : North Armagh Motor Club

Venue : Loughgall Country Park, Co.Armagh

Details : 100% Sealed surface event. Stages to be held within the above venue plus a closed-road test nearby.
Full details next month.

Sat. 4th September Lakeland Stages Rally

Organisers : Enniskillen Motor Club

Venue : Rally HQ in Enniskillen. Stages in the Derrygonnelly area of Co.Fermanagh

Details : 100% gravel stages. More details to follow next month.

Sat. 18th September Bushwacker Rally

Organisers : Omagh Motor Club

Venue : Rally HQ in Omagh. Stages in the West Tyrone forests of Killeter, Carrickaholten and Lough Braden

Details : 90% gravel stages. More details to follow next month.

From the Archives.



After an absence of over thirty years this infamous car appeared recently at an English HillClimb.

The car is the John Pope Super Saloon which was a sensation when it first appeared. Shell is Vauxhall Viva much modified into which John installed a full race Aston Martin Vantage V8 S ! I saw it in it's only visit to Mondello mid 1970's

CRAP CORNER.



**Matt Hancock's Final message as Health Secretary .
Matt Handy Cock.**



A customer walks into a City Centre store and asks “ In which aisle can I find Irish sausages , you know , Denny’s Cookstown , whatever?”

The shop assistant looks at him and asks “ Are you Irish?”

The man takes great offence at this “ Let me tell you something , Had I asked for Italian sausage would you say I was Italian ? or Bratwurst would that make me German ? Or even a Kosher hot dog would you ask if I am Jewish ? Looking for Taco’s does not make me Mexican and had I wanted to buy Polish food would you ask if I was Polish?”

The assistant thinks and then says “ No , I probably wouldn’t”

Well says the guy “ Why assume I am Irish just because I want to buy Irish sausages?” “Because you are in the Bristol branch of Halfords” was the reply.

Paddy is sentenced to death and on a wet , snowy December day he is marched across to the gallows situated across the parade ground which is over half a mile long. Seeking sympathy Paddy says to the Warden “ God I am so cold , how do you stick this ?” “Your complaining” replied the Warden “ I have to walk the whole way back!”

Murphy says to Sean “ Look at that , never seen a bigger flock of cows” Sean replies “Head of cows you daft bugger” “Course I have heard of cows , just never seen a bigger flock”

Two drunk men are in a North Dublin pub when one asks “ Are you local?” “Oh yes Duke Street” “ I Thought I recognised you I was born in Duke Street” “No way , what school did you go to?” “ Saint Patricks on the Hill” “So did I , ain’t that something!” “Did you ever drink in Byrne’s ?” “ All the time , it was my favourite bar” Just then Father McNeill entered the bar and says to the barman “ See the Reodean twins are in again” Yes “pissed out of their minds as usual”.

19 year old Mary Maloney the oldest of 6 children disappeared from her North Dublin home. In spite of extensive enquires no trace of her could be found until 10 years later when she with no warning turned up at her parents house.

Her father opened the door and in shock shouted at her “ You , do you know what you have put as through , the Guards spent nearly a year searching all over Ireland for you , your mother has never got over it”

“ Sorry , so sorry” sobbed Mary “ I got in with the wrong crowd , I became a prostitute and could not come back” “ Disgrace to a good Catholic family you will never be welcome back here !” shouts the father.

“ I know” replies Mary “ but I have bought you and mum a nice bungalow at Killeny strand , close to the DART station , the new Mercedes up the street is yours , here are the keys , inside are presents for all the kids , I am so , so sorry”

“ But what did you say you had become?” “ Sorry a prostitute for nine years”

“ Thank the Lord I thought you said Protestant , come and give your old Da a hug darling.”

