

The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED
1957

FOUNDED

AUGUST 2022



The world's Fastest Honda Civic Type R is R.I.P.

Northern Ireland Region

Newsletter

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Cover Story.

In June this year Will Au-Yeung destroyed his very special Honda Civic when it left the road at Pike's Peak tumbling down the mountainside. Thanks to an amazing roll cage Au-Yeung escaped with only minor injuries.

The car developed over a three year period was on target to smash the front wheel drive hillclimb record when the accident happened. The engine based on a FK8 Civic Type R engine had a specially cast 2.4 litre engine block with twin turbos and had been bench tested at almost 800 BHP. In spite of the complex roll cage the car was lighter than an ordinary Civic Type R and created almost as much downforce as an F1 car. The last picture taken before the crash.



PADDY HOPKIRK R.I.P.

I was lucky to meet Paddy several times , firstly at scrutineers bay in Ballymena before the 1967 Circuit , at the International Racing Car show in 2009 and 2011 and at Stormont and later at the Mini Show at the City Hall some years ago.



After meeting him at scrutineering for the 1967 Circuit I watched him on Friday evening winning the Ardmillan stage of the 1967 Circuit.

When I reminded him of this at the Autosport Show he told me the 1967 win was for him his most important win after Monte Carlo. I was not aware of the details of the 1967 Circuit but Dublin driver Charlie Gunn in his Lotus Cortina , Ronnie McCartney and Adrian Boyd in Mini Cooper S cars were all close behind Paddy. Easter Monday was destined to sort out the men from the boys. From Galway to Donegal the rally encountered gale force winds and heavy snow falls. Paddy recalls that Donegal was like a mini Monte Carlo with heavy snow and ice covering the night time stages. In these conditions Paddy was unbeatable and although Ronnie McCartney using studded tyres was fastest over the final Glendun stage Paddy arrived at the Larne finish well ahead of Adrian Boyd and Charlie Gunn. I last met him at the city Hall in Belfast where I was marshalling the Mini Cavalcade to Stormont to mark 50 years from his Monte Carlo win.

CLASSIC CAR NEWS.

Bad news for early E Type owners. Cars that 2 years ago were selling for up to £300,000 are now being estimated at under £200,000. Historics Auction sold a restored E Type for £159,000 and Sotheby could only get £138,000 for an early LHD roadster.

At the same time the market is still strong with some very surprising results. A nice recently restored 1974 Dino246GTS sold at Silverstone for £475,000 well above estimate and a little 1985 FIAT Strada Abarth130TC sold for a record £16,875. Another record was the £15,600 paid for a Triumph Herald convertible which made several appearances in the T.V. series Last of the Summer Wine in the 1970,s A1985 Mercedes 190E 2.3 Cosworth returned to the U.K. after many years in Malta was estimated at £20,000 /£25,000. In spite of it never having an M.O.T. someone paid £32,850 for it.

With quick Mk1 and 2 Escorts selling for silly money and 2.8 and 3.0 litre Capri's increasing in value by 10% from last year , one car I would not have expected to rise in value is the 3.0 litre Mk1 Granada. Rarer than hens teeth , the DVLA say only 100 are on the road in the U.K. (most rusted away 20 years ago) yet a 1972 3.0 GXL is offered at £18,750 and a 1974 3.0 estate recently sold at auction for £16,662.

In the U.S. a car which seems to have doubled in value over the last 18 months is the Mk4 Toyota Supra twin turbo. In Massachusetts the state auctioned of 26 high performance cars seized from a family of drug dealers. A 1997 Supra sold for a record price \$218,000 , but soon after the record was broken by a 1997 Anniversary model selling for \$224,000 and the next day a 1998 with only 22,000 miles set a new record selling for an amazing \$304,000.

James Bond connection adds value to any car . The 2019 Aston Martin DBS from the film NO TIME TO DIE has recently sold for £414,000 and a Land Rover Defender SVX , one of ten built for SPECTRE sold for £155,250. Sir Sean Connery's own Aston Martin DB5 is up for sale in America estimated at \$1.8 million.

10 Years on.

Found a copy of sales from July /August 2012 and was more than shocked by the results. I would have expected the desirable Jag. XK 150 to be the biggest bid on value but in fact it turns out to be a bid investment ! Look at the results !

1972 Triumph Stag sold 2012 £1650 Current value £16000.

1959 MGA £ 12,995 current value £27,000

MGB V8 roadster sold for £9995 current value £24,000.

1967 Triumph TR4A sold for £13,600 current value £28,000

BMW E34 M5 saloon sold for £13,000 current value £25,000

1973 Ford Escort RS2000 sold for £14,500 current value £44,000

1992 Mercedes 300SL sold for £7950 current value £18,000.

And finally a 1960 Jag XK 150 sold in 2012 for close to £60,000 and recently sold for just over £90,000. Strange that a Stag , a Ford and an MGA would improve more than a Jag !

A strange story of two extremes.

In January 1966 Italian born Carlo Donnarumma from the village of Wellow in Hampshire took delivery of his new Mercedes Fintail 230S REG EDV63D from a local dealer. Carlo , a successful ice cream parlour owner was , as his son confirmed , obsessed with the car to the extent he would never park side by side with another car , drive any distance in the rain , valet the car every weekend ,and arrange a full annual service in spite of only covering a few thousand miles a year.

When Carlo died in 1990 the car passed to his son who sold to close family friend Peter Buddan boss of the Budden Coach Company. Budden , like Carlo , wanted to preserve the car so it was only used on summer weekends and special occasions.

In 2004 car collector Michael Eatough bought the car and stored it until a friend , a very successful rally co-driver from the 1960's told him the 230S had won several rallies in the 1960's.

Within a year the car went from a pampered old car to a fully prepared rally car starting with the Ypres to Monte Carlo rally to the London to Lisbon Rally later in 2005.

Fast forward to 2016 the car minus bumpers , full roll case , lightweight seats and a rebuilt 280 engine running large twin Weber carbs completed the Paris to Prague Rally , the 2018 Washington to Seattle Rally and the 2019 Paris to Peking Rally crossing the Gobi desert and Mongolia. Once again it finished well only needing some slight repairs along the way, things like exhaust mounts , a new wheel bearing and replacement brake parts.

From a cherished one owner car to a car that has rallied all over the world car reg. EDV 63D has proved that at the time Mercedes built the best cars in the world.



Greer Retains NI Championship

Jonny Greer is the 2022 Northern Ireland Rally Champion. The Carryduff man and his Welsh co-driver Dai Roberts led the Carryduff Forklift Down Rally from start to finish last month in their Citroen C3 Rally2. This was the fifth and final round of the McGrady Insurance Motorsport UK Northern Ireland Rally Championship. It was Greer's third NI title having won last year and also in 2017. Jonny did it in style this year, winning four rounds out of five. His only retirement came on round three, the Maiden City Stages event.

Held over four repeated closed road stages including Bucks Head (8.69 miles) and the classic Hamilton's Folly (5.64 miles), the County Down event was back to its best following two years of absence due to covid. Based in the heart of Lisburn City, the joint organisers Rathfriland and Ballynahinch Motor Clubs had attracted a large entry of 112 cars for the rally which doubled up as a round of the Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship.

BMMC/BRMC members were out in force on the Down Rally covering timekeeping, rescue, radio and stage marshalling on the event. The changeable weather made the rally very challenging. Typical of a summer's day in Northern Ireland, we had early morning rain followed by some heavy showers and then rapidly drying warm conditions.

I covered radio at the start of SS1/5 Lougherne and was joined by Janet and Lorraine on arrival control while Goff and Nigel were the start timekeepers. Victor was stage finish radio. No major problems here for both runs and we ran to schedule. In fact all 8 stages ran to time without incident. A total of 77 cars finished.

Damian Toner and Denver Rafferty won the 2WD section on the Down but fellow Escort Mk2 driver Alan Smyth clinched the 2WD Championship. Derek McGarrity finished the rally in sixth place but that was enough to insure runner up position in the overall championship for the eight-times NI Champion. His partner in the VW Polo GTI R5 was Graham Henderson and he won the co-drivers title this year.

Third in the final drivers NI Championship points table fell to Joe McGonigle just ahead of Aaron McLaughlin. They had been in with a shout of the championship

but both of them retired from the Down Rally. McLaughlin had a turbo blow at the end of SS1 and McGonigle went off the road on SS2.

Steve Wood was the highest placed of the Protyre Asphalt Championship runners finishing eighth overall in his Fiesta WRC with Kenny Hull on the notes. Former NI Champion Stuart Biggerstaff and Anthony Nestor were seventh in their Fiesta R5.

DOWN RALLY Top Five:

1st Jonny Greer/Dai Roberts: Citroen C3 Rally2.....44mins 26.9secs

2nd Pedar Hurson/Damien Connolly: Ford Fiesta WRC.....+26secs

3rd Cathan McCourt/Liam Moynihan: Citroen C3 Rally2.....+48.4secs

4th Jason Mitchell/Paddy McCrudden: Ford Fiesta Rally2...+52.3secs

5th William Creighton/Shane Byrne: Ford Fiesta Rally3.....+48.0secs

Loughgall Win For McLaughlin

Aaron McLaughlin entered his Fiesta R5 for the Loughgall Country Park Rally early last month and beat five-time-winner Damien Toner to the victory . It was the first win for a 4WD car in the clubman event. Originally a 2WD-only rally, organisers North Armagh Motor Club opened the single-venue tarmac event to four-wheel-drive cars a few years ago.

Last year the Loughgall event was a round of the COVID-19 hit Northern Ireland Rally Championship. Jonny Greer won then in his Citroen C3 R5. For 2022 the rally returned to its clubman status. As I said Damien Toner had won the previous five clubman years in his trusty Mk.2 Escort.

There were 56 starters of which 45 finished. Toner and co-driver Denver Rafferty set fastest times on the first two of the six stages but McLaughlin and William Neill then took command and the Fiesta was fastest on the final four tests. In the end McLaughlin finished 38 seconds ahead of Toner with the BMW 1M of Martin Toner/Kyle Diffin third.

We were covering radio points and stage marshalling at Loughgall. At my radio point Aaron McLaughlin spun on stage four but was still fastest overall. The rally started behind schedule but made up time later and ran without any major incidents.

Rally Diary

Sat. 6th August.....Dogleap Rally

Maiden City Motor Club are the organisers of this event. Based as usual at the Shackleton Airfield complex in Ballykelly. We are providing rescue, radio cover and marshals for the single-venue sealed surface event. Sign-on via rallyscore.net

Fri. 19th—Sat. 20th August.....Modern Tyres Ulster Rally

The seventh and final round of the 2022 Irish Tarmac Rally Championship. Based in Newry City and organised by the Northern Ireland Motor Club. BMMC/BRMC members are involved with timekeeping, rescue, marshalling and radio cover on this two-day event. There are three stages on Friday evening from 5pm, Slieve Gullion run twice (the second in darkness) and one run over the classic Bronte Homeland. On Saturday there are three tests run twice; Tyrone's Ditches, Babylon Hill and Mount Pleasant. ITRC points leader and title favourite Josh Moffett heads the large entry list. Sign-on via rallyscore.net

Sun. 28th August.....Davagh Stages Rally

Magherafelt and District Motor Club are the organisers of this clubman rally. The event takes place over one 7.3 mile stage (80% gravel and 20% tarmac) run three times in the Davagh Forest complex in Co.Tyrone. The rally starts from the sponsors Centra store at Dunman, Cookstown. The service park is in Draperstown. Sign on via rallyscore.net

Sat. 3rd September.....Lakeland Stages Rally

Enniskillen MC are organising this the second round of the 2022 McGrady Insurance NI Gravel Rally Challenge. Not run since 2019 due to the pandemic, this event usually attracts a large entry. The stages are the usual ones in the Derrygonnelly area of Co.Fermanagh. We are due to provide rescue and radio cover plus other marshalling duties on the day. Sign-on at rallyscore.net



Team BRMC in action preparing to start Jonny Greer/Dai Roberts in their Citroen C3 Rally2 on stage five of the Down Rally. The No.1 crew went on to win the rally and Jonny Greer clinched the 2022 NI Rally Championship.

CRAP CORNER.

Not unexpected but not even Ferrari could withstand the fury of the Italian press after Hungary. LeClerc and Sainz were the two fastest on the track, both were called in at the wrong time and LeClerc who should have won the race was forced into an extra pit stop and then fitted with the wrong tires. You could not make this up!

One paper said, and I quote "Harry Potter and the Season of Disaster" coming soon.



