

# The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED  
1957

FOUNDED

October 2022



Northern Ireland Region

---

Cover Story.

The Ultimate Car Collection.

It was not until 2015 when a small select group of journalists were given access to the Sultan of Brunei's car collection that the true facts emerged , for years there had been all sorts of stories about the Royal family hoarding large numbers of valuable cars but after 2020 the true facts of the situation came to light. What was known that the Sultan have commissioned a very special Rolls Royce covered in 24 caret gold as his state carriage.



The 2015 report on the collection found between 5,000 and 7,000 cars in the collection , so many that the Sultan did not know how many cars he owned. Part of this was due to his younger brother Prince Jefrai who had purchased hundreds of cars on behalf of the Sultan.

At the time the collection started the Sultan's personal wealth stood at £25 billion pounds. It is a fact that in the mid 1980's Prince Jefrai spent over

£400million with Rolls Royce commissioning many one off bespoke cars. As a result the collection now has over 600 Rolls Royce cars , 500 Ferrari's including 7 Ferrari F40 and 6 F50 cars , over 300 Bentley cars and at least 100 Aston Martin's.

A strange story concerns 9 Missing Gordon Murry McLaren F1 supercars. Of the 106 built 96 have clear ownership providence with the 97<sup>th</sup>. Thought to be owned by the Sultan. It was only in 2020 that it was revealed that working through brokers the family had bought not one but 10 McLaren F1 supercars.



Of over 100 classic Jaguar cars in the collection are early XK120's including alloy bodied race cars , XK 150 and 150S cars , C type and D type race cars over 50 E Type Jags , an XJ 220 road car and an XJ 220 Le Mans race car.

It is with regret that latest reports from Brunei are that the cars are no longer being in air conditioned luxury , being serviced or maintained and it spite of their £5 billion value many are in need of attention.

A very strange story indeed.!

Classic Car News .

With the cost of petrol , living costs , it should not come as any surprise that we

are seeing big fluctuations in the market.

I don't feel sorry for the people who decided that early Range Rover's were an investment . They were bloody awful cars and to pay up to £ 50 grand for one seems madness. A nice Mk1 Range Rover 18 months ago was worth £20 grand but today try about £12 ,000. It's not all bad news as early Mini Cooper and Mini Cooper S cars and even the much later Mini Cooper with 1.3 Fuel injected engine have increased in price by as much as 50% in less than 2 years .

The market clearly dictates today's values but the experts remain totally confused about current market trends , with good reason. Bonham's have just sold a nice 1974 Alfa 2000 GTV for £95,000 why, well above estimate.

Anglia had a 53,000 mile Mercedes E320 Coupe offered at £7,000 , it sold for over £16,000. Anglia also had a nice 1999 Citroen Saxo 1.6 GTS in the same sale ,Low milage it sold for £18,000. Elsewhere a 1965 1275 Mini Cooper S restored as a replica works Rally Car sold for over £50,000. Silverstone's two day Auction at the end of August also saw a large number of cars sell well above estimate.

The ex works 1960 Lotus Elite 2 litre was expected to sell well , it sold for £202,000 as did the Metro 6R4 selling for over £170,000. A 2003 Impreza WRX STi sold above estimate at £22,500 , a 1999 BMW Z3M reached £25,800 a new record ? and a 2005 BMW M3 sold for £36,000. Of the 200 bikes and cars on offer only 3 cars sold below top estimate , a 1980 Escort RS 2000 Custom in top class condition sold for £39,000 a 1964 fully restored Lotus Cortina sold for £34,000 and the only bargain of the day was one of the very last Mk3 Turner 1600 crossflow engine cars , in superb condition some lucky guy bought it for £11,250 in spite of an estimate of £15/20 grand. What is going on ? ? ?.

Even more stupid is the 1985 Ford Escort RS Turbo owned for three years by Princess Diana. Auctioned last month by it's most recent owner bids from America and the Middle East pushed the price to over 10 times it's value. It sold to an unknown collector for , wait for it , £730,000 !!!!!

CHRIS SMILEY.

Lots of rumours about Carrickfergus driver Chris Smiley. Currently leading the ITC Touring Car Championship it is understood several B.T.C.C. teams want him back for the 2023 Season. Watch this space !!!

Kirkistown.

Managed to get to Kirkistown for a couple of races in September. Enjoyed the two Formula Vee races before leaving. The Sydenham Bypass closer in the morning was a nightmare the queue to join the Newtownards road started at the Duncrue

Street roundabout !

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

I was aware that my old mate Ian Wilson had been racing his 1932 Austin 7 special for several years in French events but it was only when the 2022 prestigious race , the Annual Angouleme Circuits Des Remparts was announced that out side of the U.K. France is the only country to host prewar Austin 7 racing.

In fact the French went to great lengths to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the Austin 7 which first came out in late 1922.



Who would have thought the French would have had such a passion for little Austin 7 cars !

## FORMAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BMMC N.I.

The 42<sup>nd</sup>. A G M of the Region will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>. of November via Zoom at 7.30 PM.

Agenda.

- |                       |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Apologies.          | 2 Minutes of 2021 AGM | 3 Chairman's report    |
| 4 Sec. report         | 5 Treasurers report   | 6 Election of officers |
| 7 Fantasy G.P. report |                       | 8 A.O.B.               |

In accordance with club rules the following Committee members are required to stand down and offer themselves for re-election. Rory O'Neill Colin Robinson.

Nominations for committee must be in writing and seconded and sent to Sec. Rory at least 7 days before the AGM. Nominations can be by post or by email.

Rory O'Neill 83 Kilrea Road Upperlands BT46 5SB

[Roneill435@outlook.com](mailto:Roneill435@outlook.com)

I nominate ..... for Committee

Proposed by ..... Seconded by .....

VW Golf GTI.

Came across this story of a 1983 Mk 1 Golf GTI. David Massey worked on radar systems and was sent to Germany in early 1983 to install radar on the new Tornado jet fighters. Issued with a U.K. Forces stamp on his passport he could buy a tax free car ,provided it was registered in Germany.

It was bought at V.W.s Baker Street dealership in London for an export price of £5114 a discount of 22% off the list price but before they even bought it Baker Street parked in on the street and a parking ticket was issued. This was later cancelled.

David as part of British Forces overseas got tax free petrol coupons and after marrying long term partner Judith the Golf ( he also had a Polo company car ) was used at weekend to visit Austria and the Swiss Alps.

In December 1984 David returned to the U.K. based at RAF Honington and with a Ford Escort as a company car the Golf became a weekend car. The couple moved house several times wife Judith doing most of the driving before in 1993 setting up home in Yeovil , Somerset. The original intention was to sell the Golf but an 11 year old Golf was not worth much so they decided to keep it .

By 2004 it's age was starting to show although the 21 year old car still have it's original engine and gearbox and all running gear, only 1 clutch and 1 battery replaced during it's lifetime. Car magazines by 2004 were starting to recognise the Mk1 Golf as a modern classic and the couple decided on a complete and detailed restoration.

In 2006 the Mk.1 Golf GTI owners Club was formed at Gaydon where the Massey car and a select number of early Mk.1 Golfs were put on show. The car would go on to win awards at several shows , was on the stand at the U.K. top Classic Car show where a local V.W. dealer tried very hard to buy it off them and failed and in 2015 the car appeared in the T.V. programme 'For the Love of Cars'. The car has also been shown at the N.E.C. three times and the 39 year old Golf is believed to be the best surviving example in the U,K,

Now retired David no longer uses the car on the road , using a trailer to take it to shows around the country and the Massey Golf has become a very valuable asset although David has no intention of selling it.

# Robert's RallyBuzz

## A Tale of Two Rallies

The stage rally season in Northern Ireland came to an end last month with two classic gravel events. THE LAKELAND STAGES on September 3rd was held over three repeated stages in the Carrigan and Ballintempo Forest complexes. Enniskillen Motor Club were the organisers of this the second round of the 2022 McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Forest Rally Challenge. With sponsorship from local company "Trailer parts & [spares.com](http://spares.com)" the rally attracted just 59 starters, perhaps reflecting the current cost of living crisis.

As usual there was plenty of support from our club. We covered stage marshalling, rescue and radio points. Victor and myself were on start radio at SS2/5 Ballintempo North. The test was the longest of the rally at 6.61 miles. First time round the stage was paused for 45 minutes while the Fiesta of the early rally leader Niall McCullough (which was had crashed and blocked the test) was retrieved. Other than that the rest of the day ran smoothly, apart from the heavy and persistent rain. Following the earlier delay, the rally regrouped and made up time at the Enniskillen service park. As a result, our SS5 started only 10 minutes behind schedule. We were stood down before 4pm. The organisers provided breakfast and an excellent evening meal at the prize giving for all marshals and officials This is something which used to be a regular occurrence at most events. Great to see Enniskillen MC bring that tradition back, it was much appreciated by all.

The winners of the Lakeland Stages were Desi Henry and Paddy Robinson in their Ford Fiesta Rally2. Second were Cathan McCourt/Liam Moynihan 11.4 seconds back in a similar car while Cathan's brother Conor and Caolan McKenna finished third in a Skoda Fabia R5. Alan Smyth and Gary McCrudden won the two-wheel drive section and their Escort Mk.2 was 10th overall.

Interestingly, Derek McGarrity and Graham Henderson were in the only Word Rally Car to start the Enniskillen based event. Their now-elderly Ford Fiesta WRC finished the rally in seventh place. Strangely, every other report that I have read on this event stated that McGarrity was in a Skoda, even the rally results service on [rallyscore.net](http://rallyscore.net) listed the Glengormley man in a Fabia R5! At least I try to give you the true facts!

Altogether just 42 cars finished the Lakeland Stages Rally.

In contrast to the Lakeland Stages, THE BUSHWHACKER RALLY on September 17th attracted a large entry. 96 cars started this the third and (following the cancellation of The Tour of the Sperrins) final round of the NI Forest Rally Challenge. The very popular rally was also the last round of the 2022 Irish Forest Rally Championship. The Omagh Motor Club event used the usual gravel stages of Lough Bradan, Carrickaholten and Killeter. Billed as "The Tyrone Gravel GP" the Bushwhacker was based at the Agricultural Complex in Omagh and sponsored for the thirteenth year by McKelvey Asbestos of Castlederg.

Victor and I were radio operators on the finish of SS3/8 Glenderg. Of course other club members were on duty elsewhere. The location was 114 miles from home for me and right on the Tyrone/Donegal border around 8 miles west of Castlederg. Both 3.9 mile stages (the longest of the rally) ran quite smoothly and on time in dry conditions.



Winners of the Bushwhacker were Patrick and Stephen O'Brien for the second year in succession. Last year they were in a Fiesta R5 but this time the Omagh brothers had a Skoda Fabia R5 at their disposal. Runners up (as they were in 2021) were Cathan McCourt and Liam Moynihan, their Fiesta Rally2 was only 2.5 seconds behind the O'Brien's Fabia after a rally-long battle. Jason Mitchell/ Paddy McCrudden finished third in a similar Fiesta. The top ten were all in R5/Rally2 cars. Best 2WD finishers were Alan Smyth/Garry McCrudden who's Escort Mk 2 was



12th overall. 75 cars finished the 10-stage event.

Patrick & Stephen O'Brien pictured above on their way to the Bushwhacker Rally win. The result means that the pair have secured the 2022 Irish Forest Rally Championship. Fourth place in their Fiesta Rally2 was enough to give Desi Henry and Paddy Robinson the Northern Ireland Forest Rally Challenge. Henry had led the rally for the first 4 stages but dropped back with tyre and brake issues.

**FINALLY THIS MONTH** : A huge congratulations to Kalle Rovanpera on winning the 2022 World Rally Championship. At 22 years and one day old, the Finnish wonder kid has become the youngest driver since Colin McRae to win the World title. Kalle and his co-driver Jonne Halttunen won Rally New Zealand in their Toyota Yaris to seal the deal with two championship rounds remaining. McRae was 27 years and 89 days old when he won the WRC back in 1995. Disappointingly only 28 cars started Rally New Zealand and 21 of them finished the gravel event which was making a return to the WRC after a 10-year absence.

# Rally Diary

## Sat. 8th October.....Orchard County Targa Rally

North Armagh MC are the organisers of this event sponsored by Ballylisk Car Sales. We are due to help out with timekeeping and other marshalling duties. Rally HQ will be at Loughgall Football Club. Marshals meeting there for breakfast at 8am. Sign-on via. [rallyscore.net](http://rallyscore.net)

## Sat. 15th October.....Glens of Antrim Targa Rally

Mid Antrim MC are running this event and request our help with timekeeping etc. Contact the organisers if you are interested. Based at Gracehill Golf Club, Ballymoney from 7am. (First car starts 10am) Sign-on at [rallyscore.net](http://rallyscore.net)

## Sat. 22nd October.....Tour of the Sperrins CANCELLED

Magherafelt and District Motor Club have been forced to cancel the above stage rally due to the escalating costs involved in reinstating the gravel tracks following the event. The rally would have included stages in Cam and Springwell forests in Co.Derry.

## Sat. 5th November.....Cookstown MC Targa Rally

Yet another Targa Rally. This one is scheduled to be organised by Cookstown Motor Club. The venue of the event is not known at the time of writing. If you are interested in helping out, contact CMC or check their website nearer the time. As I said, no further details are available at this time.



Memories ,Memories !

## CRAP CORNER,

Why did Moses vote for Al Gore in the presidential elections ? Because last time he listened to a Bush he spent 40 years in the wilderness.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Royal Commission on Political Correctness have agreed that the climate of the U.K. should no longer be referred to as only 'The English weather forecast' A separate muslim forecast is to be aired and is expected to be 10% sunni and 90% shi'ite.

So , Jeremy Clarkson has finally been fired by the BBC for his political incorrect jokes and statements. Nice to see that the BBC , the institution that employed Jimmy Saville and Rolf Harris for almost 20 years , are now going after the bad guys.

" YOU KNOW WHAT WITH ALL THE CIVIL UNREST, THE POLITICAL CORRUPTION , THE CLASS DEVIDE , THE DRUG PROBLEMS, THE INTERCITY GANG WARS AND SHOCKING GUN VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE IT MAYBE NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA TO BUILD A WALL BETWEEN US AND OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURS"

The Prime Minister of Canada.

