

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



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

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Jan 2023.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Northern Ireland Region.

Newsletter

Jan 2023

Cover Story.

My Christmas present , I wish ! Some lucky millionaire got the first JESKO built in time for Christmas. The ultimate super car and until now a closely guarded secret the Jesko called after the founder of the company Jesko Von Koenigsegg has produced the first of 125 of the worlds fastest supercars at over £2,100 ,000 each , and he has got orders !

The car has a 5.1 litre twin turbo V8 engine mated to a gearbox , nine speed , looks like manual but is called " light speed transmission" , it features 6 clutch plates for the forward gears and a separate clutch for reverse it works without needing a flywheel and can select the next gear once the rev limiter kicks in. Not that any owner is likely to hit the limiter with over 1,500 BHP and 1,100 lbs foot of torque. Zero to 60 is under 3 seconds and top speed (if you are brave or a lunatic just over 300 MPH.) one drawback , Only one ? , is the car runs only on the new E85 high performance petrol which is not available in the U.K.

Who cares I want one !

NEW CAR News.

I will be reporting on the 2023 new cars , many of which are , sorry to say , electric !

For owners of electric cars in London and the South East all I can say is Ha ! Ha ! Ha ! The rapid charge stations in London have seen the price of electricity go through the roof. Any diesel car which does over 50 MPG , and there are many , are cheaper to run than an electric car. A diesel costs up to 16 pence a mile to run but the dearer rapid chargers cost up to 20 pence a mile. The cost of diesel has recently come down but the cost of electricity has not. So much for cheap electric and wonderful future of all electric cars. With the new Honda Civic R costing over £45,000 and second hand ones selling for above the original list price

I doubt I will be thinking of an electric car in my lifetime !

P.S. just as a matter of interest , as well as a thermal wrap , a K and N freeflow air filter the Honda has now a fully insulated airbox. BHP is claimed at 330 , up from the 316 official figure , although Honda claimed the 316 figure was tested on a new engine prior to an official running in period. In the U.K. the figure is 316 , in Japan it was always 320. The car does feel quicker but only in the summer will the cold airbox show results.

New Cars , firstly real cars ,

New Honda Civic Type R The new Honda is quicker , lighter and just as economical as the FK8 , a slighter wider track and a new LSD together with revised front suspension means sharper turn in to tighter corners and a derestricted top speed od 169 MPH. Bad news price has jumped from £35,000 to a massive £45,000 starting price.

BMW Alpina B4. 2.9 twin turbo V6 engine , 488 BHP zero to 62 2.7 seconds On sale March at £79,000.

Audi RS5 Competition Currently not on sale in the U.K. the Audi runs a new 2.9 twin turbo V6 with 444 BHP. It is a very heavy car with its four wheel drive system and early road tests say performance is not up to scratch. Not at close to £90,000.

Maserati MC20 Cielo.

2 seater sports car with a very fancy roof arrangement which folds into an integral roll cage. 3 litre V6 , 630BHP and an 8 speed semi auto box . Price is a hefty £231,000.

MG 4EV.

China's version of a sporting crossover is the new M.G. 0 to 60 in seven and a half seconds is nothing special as is a price tag for the basic model of £25,995.

Renault Austral.

1.2 3 cylinder engine mated to twin electric motors the car has 199 BHP and a simple 4 speed gearbox linked to a two speed gearbox for each electric motor. With it's petrol consumption of 61 MPG ,less than some modern diesel cars , this

car does not make sense ? Price £35,000 Are they having a joke ?
BMW i7

Over 530 BHP and a range of over 350 miles BMW's latest electric car is designed to be one of the finest all electric cars on the market. Yes it has had great reviews but so it should with a starting price of £108,000. Knowing BMW by the time you order the spec you want the price will be over £120,000.

Citroen DS7 E-Tense 4 x 4.

This 1.6 turbo hybrid has 355 BHP driving an 8 speed auto gearbox. 0 to 60 is 5.6 seconds , good for a hybrid but slower than a basic Tesla. The 355 BHP claimed is blunted by a heavy battery pack and the four wheel drive system. So not quick and at £55,700 who is going to buy it ?

Back to real cars ,

Rolls Royce 2023 Phantom Long wheel base Limo. Base price £450,000 up to £1 million plus. Before you laugh Rolls Royce and owners VW after building the new RR factory at Goodwood sold 5,586 cars in 2021 , that is over £3,300,000,000 In just under 12 months !

Classic Car News.

December is not the best month to buy a summer classic. In spite of this auction houses saw a real mixed bag of results in November and early December with a couple of new record prices recorded.

Bavarian Motor Museum sold off some of it's collection and auctioneer Sotheby must have laughed all the way to the Bank. 1972 BMW 2002 convertible ,LHD 96,000 k on the clock , estimate £30,000 sold for £120,000 a world record.

The 1975 3.0 CSL 'Batmobile' estimated at £200,000 sold for over £500,000 and a nice 2003 M3 CSL with a 50 grand estimate sold for over £300,000 (I know some one who had one of these , I hope he never sees this !).

Closer to home the N.E.C. scored another record with a 1989 Escort RS Turbo selling for £33,750. This car based on the Mark 4 Escort , not the rarer Mk3 version was in period slammed by the critics and never sold well.

Another oddity a 2009 Jaguar X Type 3.0 estate with 70,000 miles sold for a record £39,200. The tax book for the car simply states H.M Queen Elizabeth with photos of her in the car at both Balmoral and Sandringham. A good buy but what do you do with it ?

Sotheby also scored another hit with the 1982 Lancia 037 Evo 1. Selling for

£1,045,600 this was almost double the top estimate.

Bargains ? yes actually the Maserati Bora restored at a cost of over £150,000 sold for £101,000 , the nice Rover P6 2000 TC went for £2830 less than its low estimate of £6 grand and an even better early P4 failed to sell at £5,000 reserve. A sound , recently restored Mk1 Capri 3000E sold for £22,000 that is ten grand less than early 2022 and the rare Subaru WRX P1 cars from 2000 to 2002 have dropped from £40,000 to almost half that in the last 12 months.

The Clan Crusader Story A sad tale about a fabulous little kit car.

In 1977 Ex Lotus engineer Paul Haussauer set up a Car Company called CLAN. With a Government grant he build a factory in Washington near Sunderland and employed Brian Huff and John Fryling both of whom had been involved in the successful Lotus 72 grand prix car. They designed a strong , lightweight monocoque and an aerodynamic body which would take Hillman Imp engines , gearbox and all running gear. Even at this stage of production they , being ex Lotus knew that the Imp engine was based on the Coventry Climax power plant which Lotus had used to great effect in previous years in F1 and F2 cars. The car saw a instant success , both on the road and track , until 1973 when in the middle of the Fuel crisis the Government decided to impose V.A.T. on all kit type cars. (It's not only today that the Government ***k up small businesses). Paul had no choice , he closed the factory and sold all the body moulds and lots of spare parts to the Kaisus Motor Company in Cyprus. With a new factory and plans to export a new Crusader with a tuned Climax engine what happened ? Turkey invaded Cyprus and the plant ended up in Turkish Hands.

In 1982 Brian Huff bought an original Clan Crusader using it to remould body shells and he and Haussauer had an idea that reopening the Factory might be possible.

To his surprise an unknown Ulster car enthusiast Peter McCandless had already bought all the moulds and spares that were on the market. He opened his Clan Motor Company in Newtownards in 1983 and sold 120 road cars and over 10 tuned race and rally prepared car in two years.

In 1985 Peter introduced the Clan Clover , powered by the flat four Alfa Romeo boxer engine and quickly sold 20 road versions and 6 highly tuned racing versions. To continue he needed funds to enlarge the factory but the Government and the Banks were not interested and in 1986 the project folded . To err is human but to mess up on this scale is a disgrace. Same on you , Government , Banks , etc.

Robert's RallyBuzz

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A new year and a new rally season is about to begin. The 2023 WRC kicks off with the Monte Carlo Rally (19-22 January) and there is good news regarding Northern Ireland. We will have two drivers competing in the WRC2 category. Josh McErlean from Kilrea and William Creighton from Moira will both drive Hyundai i20 Rally2 cars in Monte Carlo, prepared by Philip Case Rally Sport and with support from Motorsport Ireland. Creighton will be co-driven by Belfast's Liam Regan while John Rowan from Monaghan will be alongside McErlean.

Top contenders for the WRC1 World Championship this year included title favourite Kalle Rovanpera. The current champion is backed up by his Rally1 Toyota Yaris teammate Elfyn Evans. Hyundai meanwhile have Thierry Neuville & Esapekka Lappi running full-time in i20's while M-Sport Ford are relying on Ott Tanak & Pierre-Louis Loubet for Puma glory.

The "Wee Japanese Fella" Takamoto Katsuta and his Fintona co-driver Aaron Johnston are competing on all 13 rounds of the WRC in a Toyota Yaris Rally1 car this year. There are part-time cameo rolls for Sebastien Ogier (Toyota) and Craig Breen & Dani Sordo share a third i20 at Hyundai. M-Sport haven't as yet revealed their plans for running part time drivers.

Sebastien Loeb will not be competing this year, leaving the way clear for the other Seb (Ogier) to win the Monte Carlo Rally. Given his vast experience the seven-times winner should (on paper anyhow) be unbeatable this year.

We received some very sad news just before Christmas. Trevor Purdy passed away suddenly. I had known Trevor for years through his marshalling work with North Armagh Motor Club. He had been Chief or Deputy Chief Marshal many times on a number of their popular events including the much missed Lurgan Park Rally. "Big T" always had a smile for everyone and was so practical and down to earth. A real rally enthusiast (with a love for Audi Quattro's) Trevor marshalled all over Northern Ireland and beyond. On the stages he never passed anyone without stopping for a chat and some banter! Trevor Purdy will be sorely missed by us all. My sincere condolences to all the family circle from everyone involved in the BMMC/BRMC Northern Ireland Region.

LOOKING BACK.....Marshalling memories

40 YEARS AGO.....1983

Bertie Fisher was chosen as the 1982 NI Motorsport Personality of the Year at the annual AN-ICC awards night in Portadown.

30 YEARS AGO.....1993

Denis Biggerstaff won the 1993 Northern Ireland Rallycross Championship at Kirkistown in his 1992 British Rallycross Championship winning MG Metro 6R4. We were marshalling as usual. Denis also was the 1992 ANICC Motorsport Personality of the Year as well as our BMRMC Driver of the Year.

20 YEARS AGO.....2003

The 2003 season started for us on the first weekend in January with the annual MG Car Club's Derek Walker Memorial Classic Trial. A small band of hardy members (3 of us) headed to Delamont Country Park in Co.Down for the start. We would be covering two tests at Audley's Castle near Strangford and Morrow's yard above Gilnahirk. With overnight temperatures falling to -6% centigrade, the roads were not too nice to say the least. Black ice, white ice and even grey/brown ice made our journey to the tests very treacherous, but we made it! A great event with a good entry made up for the conditions and the soup and sandwiches at the finish were more than welcome!

Dickie Curran won the UAC New Year Stages at Kirkistown in January 2003. His son Michael also won Group N. We were timekeeping as was usual back then. The event ran smoothly and was finished for 3pm. This was the seventh running of the rally.

I just cannot believe it's been twenty years since I visited the 2003 Monte Carlo Rally (24-26 January) Accompanied by my sons Scott and David we flew from Belfast to Luton then on to Nice via EasyJet on a World Rally Travel package tour costing £275 each. A drive round the famous Grand Prix track on Thursday evening was followed by two days of spectating on the snowy stages near Sisteron and Grass. On Sunday, the final day, we took in the Monaco harbour Service Park before catching our return flight that evening. Sebastien Loeb headed a Citroen Xsara WRC podium lock-out. Colin McRae was second and Carlos Sainz finished third. Only 29 of the 49 starters finished the event. Eamonn Boland was 15th and Kris Meeke with Chris Patterson finished last in their Junior WRC Opel Corsa.

10 YEARS AGO.....2013

Derek McGarrity & Neil Doherty won the New Year Stages Rally at Kirkistown on Saturday 19th January. They were in the same Subaru S14 WRC as last year, when they won as well. McGarrity was fastest on all six stages round the Co.Down circuit to take victory by almost a minute from the Mitsubishi Evo.9 of Kieron Graffin. Dominic McNeill was third in another Evo.9. There were just 40 starters and 31 finishers due to bad weather throughout the country. The event was held in very cold but dry conditions and ran smoothly. We supplied timekeepers to assist McAleer Timing on the various controls. The rally was organised by the 500 MRCI supported by the UAC

FESTIVE WIN FOR DESI HENRY

The only rally to be held last month in NI was the annual Maiden City MC's Turkey Run at the Shackleton Complex in Ballykelly on December 29th. Of the 75 starters 27 competitors were in R5 or Rally2 machines. Shackleton experts Desi and Mark Henry (they won the Dogleap here in August) won the wet and slippery five-stage event in their usual Fiesta Rally2. Gareth Sayers/Gareth Gilchrist were second and Aaron McLaughlin/Darren Curran third, both in older model Fiesta R5's. Top of the 2-wheel-drive cars was Barry Morris in 14th place with his Dar-

rian T90 GTR. There were 62 finishers. We provided rescue cover as usual. I was unable to attend this one.

Unfortunately the UAC had to cancel "It's Not The Boxing Day Rally" due to run at Kirkistown on December 27th as a Production Car Autotest. A lack of entries was the reason for the cancellation of this usually popular festive event. A sign of the times perhaps.

CIRCUIT OF IRELAND NEWS

Some more information has been released regarding the 2023 Circuit of Ireland Rally. As I said last month the event will be organised jointly by the Ulster Automobile Club and Cookstown Motor Club. Due to the current economic climate and its associated costs, the rally will be a one-day event. Held on Saturday 7th April and based in Cookstown, there will be four repeated nine-mile stages all in County Tyrone. The COI Easter Stages Rally will be round 3 of the 2023 Irish Tarmac Rally Championship.

ANICC CONFIRM RALLY DATES

Dates have now been confirmed for the five-round 2023 ANICC McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship. As I outlined last month, the sealed-surface series remains virtually the same as it was in 2022. Rounds 1-3 are single-venue events while rounds 4 & 5 are closed-road rallies.

Plans to expand the NI Championship to include the Circuit of Ireland and the Modern Tyres Ulster Rally have been shelved for this year due to the current economic situation the country finds itself in. The ANICC may have a rethink in time for the 2024 season.

North Armagh Motor Club's Kirkistown Stages is round one of the 2023 NI Rally Championship and takes place on Saturday 18th February. The second round will be Rathfriland MC's Race & Rally Stages at Bishopscourt on Sat. 11th March. Round three is the Maiden City MC's Shackleton Stages Rally, scheduled for Sat. 22nd April.

Round four of the NI Championship will be Magherafelt & District MC's Tour of the Sperrins on Sat. 20th May. Ballynahinch & District MC are the promoters of the Carryduff Forklift Down Rally, the fifth and final round on Sat. 22nd July. There will be no reserve events.

Dates have also been confirmed for the 2023 ANICC McGrady Insurance NI Forest Rally Challenge which will consist of four rounds.

Fivemiletown Rally (Sat. 25th Feb.)

Lakeland Stages (Sat. 2nd Sept.)

Bushwhacker Rally (Sat. 16th Sept.)

Magherafelt Forest Stages (Sat. 21st Oct.)

CRAP CORNER.

An American couple who had read great reports of the Savoy Hotel booked a table for dinner, The waiter appeared with a menu but the American held up his hand and said “ Listen , we don’t eat egg yolks , red meat , oily fish , we don’t like chicken , we don’t like cheese , so what would you like to offer? A quick reply came “ How about a taxi?”





A madman in the U.S has built a Viper V10 road bike with a top speed of over 220 MPH. Hope he lives to tell the tale !



1930 road sign in America. Who say's the yank's have no sense of humour ?