

The BRITISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED

FOUNDED 1957

No.4

APRIL . 2023.



BEST LOOKING CAR ON THE GRID PITY ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE.

Northern Ireland Region.

Newsletter

APRIL 2023

Cover Story.

Much was made about the new Mercedes colour scheme and it does look good But paint does not win races. Both Lewis and George proved to be world class drivers but has Mercedes with their massive budget failed again to provide a race winning car ? Watch this space !

When I worked for the Housing Executive I was lucky enough to be designated an essential car driver. This meant I received a monthly car allowance helping me to change cars every 12 to 18 months. My 2 litre Manta Berlina Coupe I kept for over two years , also my Celica twincam GT , my Metro Turbo and even Rover 2.7 Vitesse were all keepers. One car bought after a 10 minute test drive was a low mileage Ford XR3i . The worst car I have ever owned it was sold at the same price less than a month later. According to Classic Car it is now a rare classic. If so it is because most rusted away after a couple of years or were crashed as the brakes were awful and the car was prone to terminal understeer in the dry or vicious oversteer on a very wet road. A Classic ? Never ever .

Talking about real Classic's Silverstone Auctions last month set some more

records, in spite of the cost of living , the present economic climate , rather than damage the car market shows people prefer cars as an investment rather than Banks.

Of all Silverstone's auction results only a couple of cars were considered to be

bargains. Firstly a well prepared 1998 Ford Puma Rally car sold below estimate at £3900 , a 1970 Mini Clubman replica of the 1969 works rally car sold for £19,000 and a very original 1964 Jag Mark 2 3.8 litre sold for £13,700. Spend £20,000 on the Jag and it will be worth £60,000.

In contrast the 1976 Fiat 131 Abarth Rally Stradale sold for £151,000 way above estimate as was the 1990 Sierra Sapphire RS Cosworth at £109,000 both world records. Even more impressive was the as new 1987 Sierra RS 500 stored in a private collection and only 5,000 miles on the clock , £590,000 is a remarkable price and a world record for any 4 seater Ford saloon car , here in the U.S. or the Fors Australia market.

Early 998 Mini Coopers are currently valued at £20,000 much less than Cooper S models but £33,000 for a 1964 Cooper is big money. In contrast the 1967 Lotus **Elan S3 which competed on the Circuit of Ireland in the late 1960's sold for an on target £34,000** , less than many people expected.

Bargain of the year was the just restored Classic Mini Turbo sold last month on EBAY for £16,000. With a new 1293 cc turbocharged engine , Jack Knight straight cut gearbox , full roll cage and retrimmed all white leather interior the car was sold for a fraction of its build cost.



New Car News.

With most press releases concentrating on E vehicles (at a time when charging costs seem out of control and a world wide shortage of lithium effecting production of suitable batteries !) it is clear that petrol cars will last for a while yet. Gordon Murray's **latest T33 supercar has sold out in spite of production not starting until later in the year.** Sold out , even with a price tag of £1.3 million **pounds. This could be greatest Supercar ever produced . It's V12 Cosworth** engine revs to over 11,000 RPM (no turbos here) and produces over 600 BHP in a car which makes the Bugatti Vyrón look almost half a ton overweight . In the old **Lotus tradition the secret is to “ add lightness “ with todays technology Gordon** has achieved to a perfect result. Rear wheel drive (no heavy 4 wheel drive system here) a lightweight 6 speed manual gearbox, composite running gear and a sophisticated Management system to keep you out of trouble this car due in early 2024 **as already marks it's place in the history of automotive** design.



Somewhat less known but potentially also an instant classic is the British built Ultima RS. At just over £60,000 it is a different market but you now get a car (no longer a kit Car) but a design classic with which can challenge Ferrari and Lamborghini at less than half the price.



It will never challenge McLaren or Ferrari or Gordon Murrey's T33 but you could buy 10 of these and have money left over from several other supercars !

Memories.

YouTube have now a collection of the greatest local motorsport moments of the **early 1980's I was there for every one (even in a wheelchair after my Phoenix Park accident.)** **Quality is not great but check out all video's for BOYD'S Quarry Rallycross.** Watch out for Ronnie White , Richard Douglas , British Champion John Welsh and European Champion Martin Schenker.

JAMES HAGAN GRAND PRIX WINNER.

Older members will remember James Hagan racing at Kirkistown some ten years ago. The cars were always painted purple with large Hagen Homes stickers along the side. He moved from Fiesta to F.Ford running in Historic F.F. in a Crossle 16F and in England a Crossle 32F. Competed in several F.Ford Festival races at Brands. I thought he had retired but recently he has been in the news worldwide.

James from Ballyclare who some years ago moved to Australia has for several years competed internationally in the Historic and Masters F1 Championship

across the world. His cars have included a Benneton Tyrell (a big step up from Formula Ford) and now the ex James Hunt Championship winning Hesketh F1 car. James has not only been one of the top drivers in Historic F.1. races in America and Japan , he last month won the F1 masters event at Phillip Island in his new home Australia. Talk about hiding your light your light under a bushel !!!

James deserves far more recognition than he has got. To me he is the driver of the year.



James at Road Atlanta 2019 in front of Keke Rosberg's Williams Championship winning car. A long , long way from racing F.Fords at our wee Kirkistown !!!



Memories.

41 years ago Larne Motor Club announced what turned out to be the most exciting motorsport events I was privileged to be involved in. It was the Winter **Boyd's Quarry Rallycross Championship. This prestigious event attracted not** only The British Rallycross Champion John Welch but multiple European Champion Martin Schenche.

On YouTube there are several video's of the events including the Larne Motor Club's own history of Boyd's Quarry. Picture quality is poor but I urge you to watch it as it was spectacular !!!

Bonham's April Sale Goodwood.

Big news from Bonhams is the sale in April of Rauno Aaltonen's 1964 Works Mini , one of the three works cars which won the Team Award on the Monte Carlo Rally the year Paddy Hopkirk won the event.



With a valuation of £120,000 to **£150,000 I can't wait to see what it sells for !**

CRAP CORNER.

A young blonde with a degree in Sports Psychology was the first female P.E. teacher at my nephew's secondary school. One afternoon she noticed a gang of 12 year olds playing with a ball and at the far end of the field one boy sitting alone. She rushed up to him and said "Look what fun those boys are having , go and join them" Can't Miss I have to stay here." That's not fair , Why ? Cause I am the goalkeeper was the reply.

Winter on the Glenshane Pass and Paddy pulls along side a Lorry driver pumping his horn and shouting " Stop , you are shedding your load." The driver ignores him and carries on. Paddy follows and after a few miles pulls alongside and waves for him to stop " You are still losing your load , you need to stop right now." "EFF of" says the lorry driver " I am gritting the ***** road."





