

# The BRITISH MOTORSPORT

# MARSHALS CLUB



**MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED**

**FOUNDED 1957**

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# Newsletter

AUGUST 2023

Cover Story.

B.M.M,C marshals at Mount Stewart for the C.I.O. reunion 2923.

Every comment on this event has been positive and I thank Paul and his team for putting on a great show and bringing back great memories of the glory days of the Retro.

I was involved for many years , firstly with Colin Rossborough who designed and ran the tests in the early 1980's . I ran with Colin for nine years including visiting Killarney and Galway twice Kenmare , once Waterford , once Westport and once Sligo.

Later I helped set up the tests with Mike Adair (Galway) and Terry Harriman (Sligo) a few years after Colin had moved away.

To say it was a social event would be an understatement , I remember crews leaving Waterford after a champagne breakfast and in Kenmare drivers insisting on delivering bottle after bottle of red wine to our table during the Prize giving.

And it is true , winning cars were smuggled into the prize winning ballrooms several times , Waterford , Killarney and the Great Southern hotel Galway.

To the original Timekeeping Team I say thank you , Craig Hunt , Ralph Vaux and wife ,Gordon Laird , Brenda Gordon , the Hughes family , John Hawthorne and wife , and Fel all who made the original RETRO a special place in Motorsport history.

Over thirty years later you will note several of these people are still involved in Motorsport.



I have pictures of the reunion and a few pictures of the early events.

Cliffard Auld Talbot 105 and Trevor McIlroy Austin A35.



## CLASSIC CAR NEWS.

The two big stories of the month is the post auction sale of what is believed lightweight bodyshell of the only surviving TR3S from the 1959 LeMans team. This bare bodyshell and windscreen registered XHP 959 sold for an eye watering £36,000. Perhaps the buyer knows something we don't as it is believed that the chassis , engine , gearbox and running gear are in a private collection somewhere in the U.K. If they can be traced and purchased the car will still need total restoration but making it a valuable asset. Otherwise rebuilding it will incur a huge financial loss.

The second is the forthcoming sale of Colin McRae Subaru 22B road car. One of only three prototypes with full JDM spec it is esimated at close to £500,000 more than double the current record for a road going 22B.

Elsewhere the current financial problems seem to effect only part of the market. A nice Ford Cortina Mk2 Estate valued at £10,000 sold for £15,900 , a 1979 Vauhall Chevette 2300 HS sold for £34,500 and a Mark 1 Vauxhall Astra GTE valued at 8 to 10 grand sold for a record £19,000. At a time when people are losing value on Porsche , Ferrari and Alfa Romeo cars this end of the market remains strong.

One rather strange story concerns the Late Queen,s Jaguar X Type Estate , used at Balmoral for several years , the car finished in metallic Highland Green wth a special interior of Burr Walnut and the finest Connolly Hide was bought at auction by Radio Presenter Chris Evans for over £34,000 who then donated the car to Comic Relief. Comic Relief as part of Red Nose Day raffled the car and raised almost £300,000. The lady who won the car has put less than 1,000 miles on it in almost two years and it will be auctioned at the end of the month with the proceeds being donated to local charties. Wonder what it will fetch this time round ?

## Limited Edition Cars.

It is doubtful that any car maker today would risk the costs of tooling up to build less than 100 new limited edition cars. Even a small company like TVR built over 2,000 Griffin and almost 6,000 Cerbaera cars during their 10 year production run and McLaren produced well over 100 of each super car models.

Any car with less than 100 built becomes an instant classic and there are some famous examples of these rarities.

1988 Aston Martin Vantage V600 works.

The V600 works version of the 500BHP Vantage had 600 BHP and a top speed of 200 MPH making it the fastest production car in the world. The U.S. considered it too fast for a road legal car and refused U.S. Type approval. As a result only 30 cars were built with a twin supercharged V8 engine, larger wheels and tyres beneath wider arches. Value today £800,000, although it is almost impossible to get a true valuation as very few have been offered for sale in the last ten years.

1967 Alfa Romeo 33-2 Stradale.

A road going version of the successful Tipo 33 racing car, Alfa built only 18 of these between 1967 and 1969. Race versions would go on to win Brands Hatch 1000K and the 1971 Targa Florio. The race based 2 litre engine revved to over 8,500 RPM had a tiny V8 with a 32 valve head four camshafts and fuel injection delivering over 400BHP per ton. Value £2 million+.

1966 Maserati Ghibli spider.

In spite of Maserati building more than 100 spiders (125 in total) the Ghibli spider is today considered a very rare classic. The 4.9 litre 4 cam V6 gives the car 355 BHP and a top speed of 170 MPH. Impressive for a car over 50 years old. In spite of this today's value is a disappointing £600,000.

1966 Ford GT40.

With Ford winning both the 1966 and 1967 LeMans 24 Hours plans to build a road going version based on the 1964 GT40 prototype had already commenced.

Ford built 38 road cars with a 0 to 100 time of 12 seconds and a top speed of between 160 and 180 MPH depending on your choice of gear ratios. Value now between £4 and £6 million pounds.

The Ferrari 250 GTO.

1962 and Ferrari decides to fit a 250 GT with a V12 engine and creates the ultimate supercar. 36 road cars built and sold over a two year period it is now the most expensive road car ever built. If one comes up for sale the estimate is well over £25,000,000.

In spite of the potential value of the Ferrari the rarest car in the world is the Art

Deco designed Bugatti T57S Atlantic Coupe of 1936. Bugatti had already designed a T57 race car to win the 1937 LeMans 24 Hours which it did so Bugatti and his son decided to cloak the race car in road legal bodywork .

The cost was substantial and by 1938 production ceased. Only three cars were built and sold and the three owners including Ralph Lauren will not consider selling the car. Experts value each car at \$ 100,000,000.



The 3 Buggati Atlantic cars , there were rumours of a forth car but this has never been confirmed.

Lydden Hill.

A British round of the World Rallycross Championship in July had to be cancelled as a result of an explosion and fire which destroyed the Special One team garage, car transporter and both of its Lancia Delta Evo electric powered cars, one of which was to be driven by Seb Loeb.

Both cars were on charge at the time and it appears one of the cars' batteries overcharged leading to it exploding.

It is interesting that prior to this I read an article that said several U.K. insurance companies are reluctant to insure some electric cars.

There is rumour that cheap electric cars from China will by the end of 2023 come in to the U.K. undercutting the cheapest electric M.G. Will they get insurance?



# Robert's RallyBuzz

August 2023

## McCourt Wins Down Rally; Greer is NI Champion

Last month saw the Carryduff Forklift Down Rally take place. The fifth and final round of the 2023 MSUK McGrady Insurance Northern Ireland Rally Championship consisted of 4 closed-road special stages run twice including the famous Hamiltons Folly at 8.59 miles. The event, based in Lisburn and organised jointly by Rathfriland & Ballynahinch MC's, was also round 6 of the MSUK Protyre Asphalt Rally Championship. There were 108 starters which included 25 Rally2/R5 cars.

For my part, I covered start line radio on SS1/5 Drumaknocken (5.6 miles) BMMC also provided rescue cover for these stages. We also had timekeepers on duty. A new tracking system was used for the first time here. It was the radio operator's job to activate the system using our mobile phones. Teething problems as far as I was concerned involved not having Wi-Fi coverage but by the second run (SS5) and with Rory's help, we managed to sort this out.

With regards to the event, both our stages ran to schedule and without incident although the weather was pretty gloomy and the tests very slippery. Tyrone driver Cathan McCourt and his co-driver Brian Hoy dominated the rally in a Ford Fiesta Rally2. They won 6 of the 8 stages. Second place went to the Citroen C3 Rally2 of Desi Henry/Paddy Robinson but they were 46.3 seconds back. Making it 3 different manufacturers on the podium, Jason Mitchell/Paddy McCrudden finished third in a Volkswagen Polo GTI R5.

Fourth place was good enough to insure that Jonny Greer took the 2023 NI Rally Championship win. This was his fourth championship and also three-in-a-row. Unfortunately Jonny's co-driver Niall Burns missed round one and didn't take that title. Greer had a difficulty rally in the slippery conditions. The Citroen C3 Rally2 driver settled for a measured championship winning top five place rather than push for a second Down Rally win and risk going off. Apparently next year Greer may have a brand new Toyota Yaris Rally2 to play with! Remember, you heard it here first!

Cathan McCourt was not registered for the NI Championship and so he ran a larger turbo restrictor giving him the extra power to be able to clock up those stage wins.

Desi Henry therefore scored the maximum 30 championship points and as Mitchell wasn't registered either, Greer took the runner-up points and of course the title. Henry finished second in the championship and Derek McGarrity third. Paddy Robinson won the co-drivers title.

Top finishers in the Protyre Asphalt Championship were Steve Wood/Robert Fagg who were 8th overall in their Citroen C3 Rally2. Second in that section were Neil Roskell/Andrew Roughhead in a Ford Fiesta Rally2, only 0.1 of a second behind!.

Best of the 2WD cars were Richard Moffett/Martin Connolly who finished 13th overall in a Toyota Starlet with a famous number plate MSD 222W. That car (or at least the reg. number) must be 40 years old! The Starlet was used to great effect by George Robinson in many events throughout Ireland way back in the 1980's/90's.



Altogether 85 cars finished the 2023 Down Rally, which was hailed as a great success. The spotlight was most definitely on the event due to the recent horrific and fatal accident on the Sligo Stages Rally. Thankfully all incidents on the Down Rally were minor and the eight stages ran to schedule and without any problems.

Might I just add that my condolences and that of all of the BMMC NI Region go to the families and friends of Gene McDonald and Daire Maguire who both lost their lives in Sligo. Our thoughts are also with the rescue crew, doctors and other officials who attended the incident.

## **Rally Diary**

**Sat. 5th August.....Maiden City MC Shackleton Rally Time Trial**

**NOTE: THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO A LACK OF ENTRIES**

**Fri. 18th—Sat. 19th August.....Modern Tyres Ulster Rally**

Round 4 of the 2023 British Rally Championship  
Round 7 of the 2023 Irish Tarmac Rally Championship

Based in Newry the 2023 Ulster Rally will run 10 closed-road stages totalling around 97 miles in counties Armagh/Down. There are two repeated stages on Friday, the first one in the Ros-trevor area and the second close to Banbridge. The repeat runs will be in dusk and darkness! Then on Saturday, there will be three repeated tests between Armagh and Newry. A challenging event and undoubtedly changeable weather conditions as per usual! BMMC/BRMC are providing rescue, recovery & radio cover, officials and marshals.

The Irish series may well be decided before the Ulster Rally. Callum Devine heads to the penultimate round, the Cork '20' International Rally on August 5-6 with a chance of clinching the title. He has won the previous three rounds in Killarney, Cookstown and Donegal and is well ahead of second place West Cork winner Josh Moffett and Meirion Evans who won round one in Galway. Robert Barrable is fourth and Jonny Greer fifth.

The ITRC drivers will take on the runaway 2023 British Rally Championship leader, Frenchman Adrien Fourmaux in the "works" M-Sport Ford Fiesta Rally2. The former WRC driver has won the first three rounds. It will be interesting to see who comes out on top in Newry. As I write there are 102 entries. Closing date is Thursday 3rd August.

**Sat. 2nd September.....Lakeland Stages Rally**

Round 2 of the 2023 ANICC McGrady Insurance NI Forest Rally Challenge  
Round 5 of the 2023 Irish Forest Rally Championship

Organised by Enniskillen Motor Club. There are 6 gravel stages in the forests of Belmore, Ballintempo and Carrigan. Rally HQ and service area will be in the former Grosvenor Barracks, Coleshill Road, Enniskillen. We are providing rescue, radio cover plus other marshals & officials. Sign on is available at [rallyscore.net](https://rallyscore.net) or on the event. As I write, there are only 10 entries and the minimum requirement to run the event is 60 so hopefully the event (sponsored by

Trailer Parts & Spares) will go ahead. Closing date for entries is August 23rd, so plenty of time yet! Check Sportity (LSR2) or [rallyscore.net](http://rallyscore.net) closer to the date for latest information.

## **Fri. 15th—Sat. 16th September.....Bushwhacker Rally**

**Round 3 of the 2023 ANICC McGrady Insurance NI Forest Rally Challenge**

**Round 6 of the 2023 Irish Forest Rally Challenge**

**A big change this year. The Bushwhacker Rally will run two stages, Lough Bradan and Carrickaholten in darkness on the Friday night. Then on Saturday daytime the same tests plus two Killeter Forest stages will complete the two-day event. We will be helping out as usual with rescue & radio cover, timekeepers and stage marshals on the Omagh MC organised gravel rally (popularly known as the “Tyrone Grand Prix”) More details next month.**



The mad bad days of Group B Portugal 1983.

## ***CRAP CORNER.***

### **MOCK THE WEEK. Best Bits.**

#### **Unlikely things to hear in a History Documentary.**

The U.S.S.R. had Lemsip the Americans had Nightnurse. It was the start of the cold war.

Horatio Nelson , one eye and one arm. That's what happens when you fall asleep and someone fids your organ doner card.

And it was in this ting Yorkshire florist that the War of the Roses began.

When Hitler sat down to write Mien Kampf it initially was meant to be a lightheated tome , called Carry On Kampfing.

Of course the Bronze Age was the third best age in history.

John F Kennedy , Iranda Gandhi and John Lennon. If you want to avoid your children being assassinated do not call them after airports.

Unlikely things a T.V. Chef would say.

These Korean meatballs are smooth and spicy , in fact they are the dog's bollocks.

I was trying to cook Coq au Vin but I cannot get the chicken out of the bottle.

I am Nigella Lawson and today we are spit roasting a giant Panda.

Family Fortunes Best Bits.

Someone who works nightshifts ?	A burglar.
A measurement of Liquid	Paint.
A way of toasting someone?	Over a fire.
A sport which involves throwing	Tennis.
Any word beginning with Z	Xylophone.
A song from the Sound of Music?	Dancing Queen.
A bad place to fall asleep?	On concrete.
An animal with a three letter name?	Lion
A wild animal with horns?	A bee
A vocalists known by only one name?	Michael Jackson.
A yellow fruit?	Orange.
Something you buy in pairs?	Rabbits.
Something that makes you close your eyes?	Darkness.
A boy in an Nursery Rhyme ?	Little red riding hood.