

Robert's Rally Round-up

Aug 09

LOUGHGALL WIN FOR WESLEY

Wesley Patterson, driving his usual Escort Mk 2 with a 2.5 litre engine, took his first win on the Loughgall Country Park Rally last month. He had missed last year's event but had previously lost out to Camillus Bradley and was keen to re-address the issue.

Right from the start of the 2 wheel drive tarmac event which had attracted a good entry of 66 cars and was organised as normal by the hard working North Armagh Motorcycle and Car Club, Patterson took command with four fastest times. 2008 winner Bradley was the main opposition in a similar Mk2 and despite being quickest on the final two tests it was not enough to overhaul Wesley who finished just 7 seconds in front. Third was Mervyn Wedlock in the first of the 2.0 litre Escorts home, in fact the top 12 positions were filled by Mk.2's. One of the course cars was interesting; Garry White who usually drives an Escort Cosworth supported by Shell was testing a new-to-him Group A Subaru Impreza with quite a history. The ex-works machine was once driven by Piero Liatti amongst others. Painted in Subaru blue it looks and sounds fabulous. Garry certainly entertained the crowd and we look forward to seeing him in action on selected events in the near future.

Each of the six stages was around three miles in length and all ran like clockwork, apart from a slight hold up following an accident on the penultimate test. Despite a heavy downpour during stage three, the rest of the day was dry and sunny and the popular event attracted a large crowd of spectators.

There was a disappointing turn out of BRMC/BMMC members with just two of us on duty. With no one apparently available to crew our own unit it was Ballynahinch Rescue who at short notice provided cover for the day. Let's hope this manpower situation can be resolved ASAP as we have some high profile ANICC events to come in the following weeks and months to which we have made commitments.

McGARRITY WINS AGAIN AT BISHOPSCOURT

Derek McGarrity won a rally for the second time this year at Bishopscourt, but not in a World Rally Car. He was driving a Subaru Impreza N12 as last months Roy Haslett Preparation Stages Clubman event was for Group N and 2-wheel drive machinery only. McGarrity controlled the eight stage rally from the start in what was possibly a test outing for the forthcoming forest rounds of the NI Championship. At this stage it is not known which car he will use for the rest of the series, but the N12 would certainly be good enough as there will not be many World Rally Cars in action to challenge for the title.

In second place, nine seconds down on Derek and co-driver Dermot Fahy, were Alan Burrows/Noel McMullan driving a Mitsubshi Lancer Evo. 9 while James Kennedy and his wife Heather took top 2-wheel drive Pacenotes Rally Challenge honours in third with their Mk.2 Escort. A total of 71 competitors started the rally of which 59 made it to the finish.

For my part as Chief Timekeeper on the event, everything ran smoothly and on time thanks to my fellow BMMC/BRMC club members who covered all starts and finishes expertly as usual. There were no timing issues of note all day. The weather was dry and sunny with a warm breeze, despite a light shower just before the start.

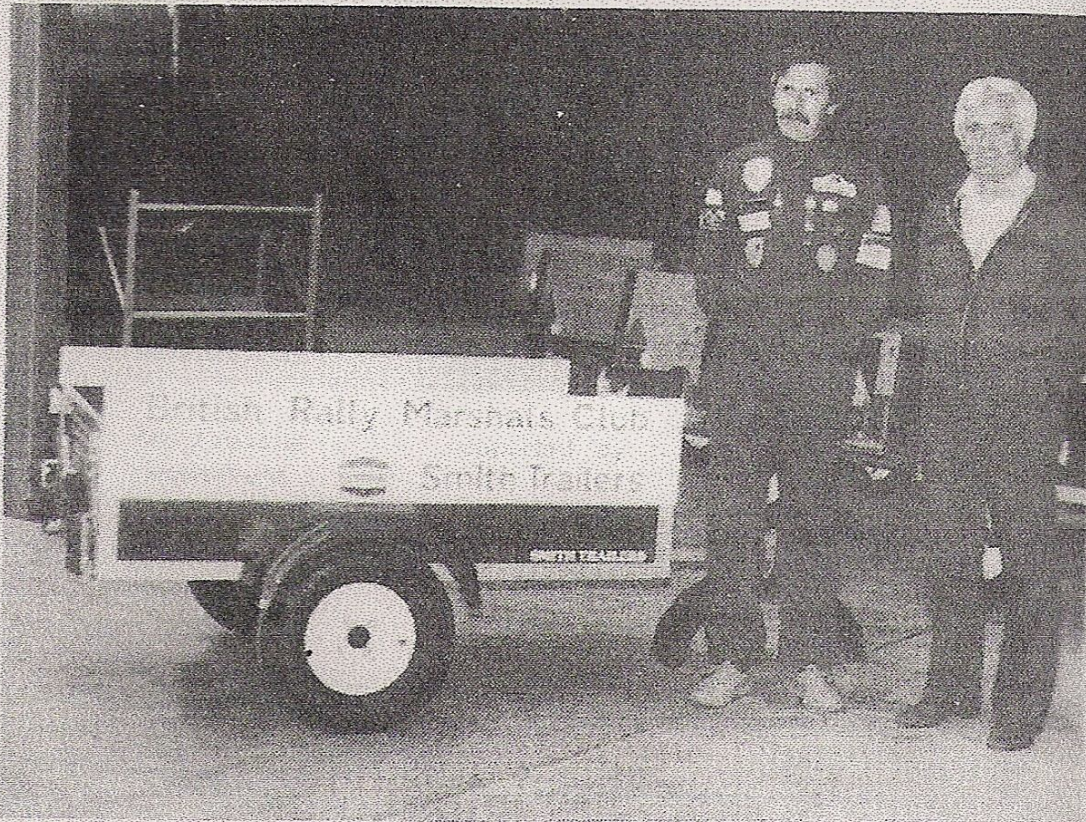
LOOKING BACK

Memories, memories

25 YEARS AGO August 1984

Bertie Law and Bobby Campbell won the Burmah Rally in Lurgan Park. Driving his usual Vauxhall Chevette HSR, Law led from the start of the six stage event. Second were Fred Crawford/ Drew Todd in the famous Mk.2 (HIA 2) while Bertie Fisher, who had Brian Patterson along for the ride, could only manage third in a misfiring Shell Gold Card Manta 400. We were marshalling the bridge sector that year. BMRMC/BRMC had recently taken delivery of a new rescue trailer. ([See photo and article from Carsport](#)) At least this was easier to man!

MARSHALS GET MORE GEAR



Neil Bolton of the British Rally Marshals Club with David Smith and the trailer to be used on future events.

The Northern Ireland branch of BMRMC/BRMC now have fire extinguishers and rescue equipment available with marshals for future motoring events. The equipment will be brought to events on a trailer which is available thanks to the co-operation of David Smith of Smith Trailers, Belfast.

If requested to attend a meeting every effort would be made to get as many marshals as possible along with the equipment. If two events clash, the equipment will be available to the venue considered to have the greatest need of it. Marshals

would still be available for the other event if requested. They hope to be able to build on their stock of extinguishers and rescue equipment throughout the year as more money comes into the club.

Also they will shortly have some two-way radios on R.A.C. frequency suitable for radio communication on rallies, etc. which would be fitted into the cars of marshals who are experienced in communication techniques. Further details from Neil Boulton, 39, Windmill Road, Bangor, Tel: Work, Belfast 647161. Home, Bangor 468829.

20 YEARS AGO August. 1989

Welsh wizard Gwyndaf Evans and Howard Davies brought a special 400 bhp engined Sierra Cosworth to the Burmah Rally and blew the opposition into the Lurgan Park weeds as they romped to victory with fastest times on all six stages. Andrew Wood was second in an Audi 90 Quattro while Hugh O'Brien came third in his Escort Mk.2. We were marshalling at the chicane close to the cricket pavilion where Dominic McNeill in a G3 Escort had a huge accident. At another sector a marshal was injured when a Peugeot driven by John O'Sullivan left the road at high speed on stage five. Thankfully he was released from hospital two days later with severe leg bruising.

15 YEARS AGO August 1994

Kenny McKinstry was fastest or joint fastest on all eight stages of the Burmah Rally to win in Lurgan Park for the SEVENTH TIME! This year he and Robbie Philpott were in their Kaliber Subaru Legacy (H7 KAL). Second went to Frank Meagher and Pat Moloughney who were just 4 seconds ahead of Davy Greer and Robin Phillips, both driving Escort Cosworths. Jonny Milner was the "star of the rally" in his Group N Cosworth which took fourth place. We were in charge of the bridge sector once again.

10 YEARS AGO August 1999

News had just broken that the 2000 Circuit of Ireland Rally was to be cancelled. With Easter falling just a week before the Killarney Rally date the UAC were forced to drop their event for one year. We had been asked to provide 20 marshals to cover the fire points on the forthcoming Lurgan Park rally.

Rally Diary

SAT. 8TH AUG. ORCHARD MOTORSPORT LURGAN PARK RALLY

We have been asked to provide the usual Fire Point cover so I would ask all available marshals to Sign On at the Cricket Pavilion between 8- 9am. The new sponsor has only just come on board and their cheque will at least guarantee RPM TV coverage, but the organising North Armagh Motorcycle and Car Club will of course have the support of Craigavon Borough Council amongst others. The format for this popular event, which our club has been involved with since 1981, remains the same with 8 special stages around the magnificent Lurgan Park lake and will include the popular Escort Mk.2 Challenge. Among the top entries will be 9 times victor, KENNY MCKINSTRY in a Subaru WRC. He will be joined by EUGENE DONNELLY (Skoda) DEREK MCGARRITY (Subaru) DENIS BIGGERSTAFF (Subaru) and GLENN ALLEN (Corolla) amongst others, while WESLEY PATTERSON, CAMILLUS BRADLEY, TREVOR MOORE and ADRIAN HEATHERINGTON will be the leading Mk2 drivers.

FRI. 21ST-SAT.22ND AUG. TODDSLEAP.com ULSTER RALLY

As usual we will be providing a full timekeeping crew for two stages of this classic event which has moved from Armagh to a new HQ in Antrim, the Holiday Inn at Junction One.

The Rally which is Round 5 of the British and Round 7 of the Irish Tarmac Championships will see big battles in both series with young Cork sensation Keith Cronin and old hand Mark Higgins tying for the

lead in the BRITISH while Eugene Donnelly will try to stay ahead of Gareth MacHale, Eamonn Boland and Tim McNulty in the IRISH.

On Friday we are due to be covering Stage 1/4 TARDREE, while on Saturday the team moves to Stage 10/14 at LISNAMUCK near Tobermore.

Other stages include two classics at GLENDUN and TORR HEAD on Friday, then CAIRNCastle, SLEMISH and a seventeen mile test at SLIEVE GALLION on Saturday.

SAT. 5TH SEPT. LAFARGE CEMENT STAGES RALLY

Cookstown Motor Club have asked me to act as Chief Timekeeper for this, Round 5 of the Pacenotes ANICC 2WD Rally Challenge. Thanks in advance to all club members who have said they will support me by turning out to assist on the day. The rally starts from a base at Loughry College near Cookstown and will consist of 12 tarmac stages in total using two locations in the Davagh forest complex and one through the grounds of the College itself.

CIRCUIT RETRO TO START FROM LISBURN

Looking further ahead, this years UAC CIRCUIT OF IRELAND RETROSPECTICE RALLY to be held on FRIDAY 9TH until SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER will be based in LISBURN.

Day One Friday will start from the ISLAND CENTRE Lisburn and features 6 Special Tests each run twice ALL IN Co.ANTRIM.

Day Two Saturday sees the start of a Retro Mini Challenge . Special Tests, Driving Skills and Road Sections will take place at KIRKISTOWN, the ARDS PENINSULA and Co.DOWN.

Day Three Sunday all the action including Special Tests, Regularity Sections and Competitive Relaxed Sections will be in Co.Down and County Louth with a lunch halt in the PARK INN Dundalk. The FINISH will take place at the PREMIER INN Lisburn at 4pm.

We have been asked to put a team together to run some of the tests, so contact ROY or FEL if you are available to help.

CHECK OUT RallyBuzz.com FOR ALL THE LATEST RALLY NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD