

# OWEN MOTORING CLUB

## CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

FOR ALL CLASSIC VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.OWENMOTORINGCLUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.OWENMOTORINGCLUB.CO.UK)

*Polish it THEN use it !!*



(March 2021 - Issue No. 75)

I will start the March edition with the sad news that long time Owen MC member John Bloxham has died. John was a club hero, Motoring News Road Rally Champion, and four-time AGBO road rally winner. His driving career began after turning seventeen, in a treasure hunt, driving a Renault Dauphine. From humble beginnings he would go on to have a successful career competing in everything from Saabs, Mini's, Fiats and of course a Twin Cam Escort, often with co-driver Richard Harper in the seat beside him. His cars were always meticulously prepared at the family garage business in Wolverhampton. John would compete at all echelons of the sport, including top level international events, but it was the domestic road rally scene where most success would come. In 1969 he won the Motoring News Road Rally Championship, a title also held by such luminaries as Bill Gwynne and Gwyndaf Evans and in the same year won the notorious Cilwendeg rally. In fact, 1969 was a real bumper year, with John winning the 'Triple Crown', adding the BTRDA Gold Star and RAC British Rally Championships to the Motoring News triumph.



Owen Motoring Club would like to offer sincere condolences to Sue, Nick and all the family at this most difficult time.

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The Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show, with Discovery, which was due to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021, has now be postponed until March 2022. The organisers though are confident that come the autumn life will have returned to normal and are going ahead with planning the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show, with Discovery, as usual. This will run from 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and OMC have applied for a stand, so we are keeping our fingers very tightly crossed. The organisers of the Bromley Pageant of Motoring have made the difficult decision to cancel their 2021 event. This was due to be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June and will now take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

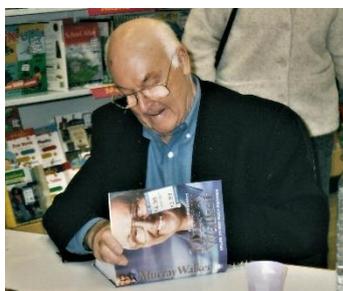
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Following the latest Government advice, the April two-day Scramble at Bicester Heritage is unable to take place and as a result is now postponed to the 5th and 6th June. All passes issued for the January and latterly April Scrambles will be valid for the first weekend in June, corresponding with your chosen day, and for those that missed out on Passes previously more have been made available!

The Scramble open day gives you the chance to see the latest additions to the beautiful former RAF Bomber Station and visit the 45 industry-leading specialist businesses based in restored historic buildings. This truly is an event unlike any other. More details can be found at [www.bicesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.bicesterheritage.co.uk)

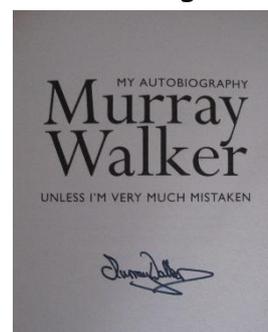
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Legendary Formula 1 commentator Murray Walker has died at the age of 97. He



commentated on his first grand prix for the BBC at Silverstone in 1949 and became a full-time F1 commentator in 1978. He became synonymous with F1 through his commentary, first with the BBC and then ITV, before retiring in 2001. Murray, who is survived by his wife of more than 60 years Elizabeth, was appointed an OBE in 1996 for his services to broadcasting and

motor racing. His co-commentators included the late James Hunt and Martin Brundle. I got to meet the great man at a book signing on Friday in Solihull which I think was back in 2002. This was during works time and needless to say my output was down slightly that day as I was not supposed to be working in that area and after queuing for over an hour, I then had to drive to the other side of Birmingham to start my first job which was around midday when I got there!!





Two more motorsport people died this month, Sabine Schmitz lost her long battle against cancer and died at the age of 51 on Tuesday. She became the first woman to win the Nurburgring 24 Hours in 1996, taking two victories in the historic sportscar race before enjoying a long career intrinsically linked to the circuit, as well as becoming known for her features on BBC programme Top Gear. Frikadelli Racing was the team she founded with her husband Klaus Abbelen.

Hannu Mikkola, the 1983 World Rally Champion known as the "Flying Finn" died of cancer at the age of 78. His driving career spanned more than 30 years, starting in Volvo cars in the early 1960s but then made his reputation driving a series of Ford Escorts in World Rally events in the 1970s, including a win in the East African Safari Rally in Kenya in 1972, a British Rally Championship in 1978 and he won Finland's 1,000 Lakes Rally a total of seven times. Mikkola was at the forefront of the four-wheel drive revolution in world rallying and claimed the 1983 title in an Audi Quattro, the first for an all-wheel drive car in FIA World Rally Championship history. He later teamed with the Mazda team before retiring from professional motor sports in the early 1990s.



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An old friend of mine, who I have recently remade contact with, has asked me if there is any way of tracing his wife's 1988 XR3 convertible as she now regrets selling it and whilst watching many car restoration programmes during 'lockdown' it has put him in the mood for doing the same if this car is still out there. It was last sold to someone

in the Walsall area I believe and looking on the GOV.UK website I see it has not been taxed or MOT'd since August 2012. If anyone has any ideas on how to find out if this car has been finally scrapped, then please let me know and I will pass the information onto him.

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Finally, on Sunday 1st August 2021 it will be the 29th British Mini Day and will be held at Himley Hall & Park. This is an 18th Century building set amongst 180 acres of 'Capability Brown' landscaped parkland. Event opening times - 10am - 4pm  
More information can be found at [www.britishminiclub.co.uk](http://www.britishminiclub.co.uk)

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