

“REVS” News Letter

June 2022



Sadly, not just one loss to report but three, I think most members will have read somewhere about Mikes tragic death. I also have to report the loss of Tony Matthews widow, Shirley, about two months ago.

Lastly and shockingly I am informed of the death at the end of May of ex OMC member Dave Birch at only 51. To Charlotte Dave`s wife and to brother Rob, we send our deepest sympathies..

OMC Ernest Owen Trial took place at a new venue, Apley Park near Shifnal, in May. Report & Pics Page 9.

OMC Sprint June 19th, entries progress, now at 60.

OMC Classic Tour July 19th, requires more entries and assistance from members on the day. Superb new route through Derbyshire now all sorted & ready to go.



Mike Sones, 50 + years a member of OMC, hard to believe he`s left us. He will never be forgotten, our motor sport encyclopaedia, seen above at the awards night in February. RIP Mike.

Club Contact Information.

Based at **Great Barr Golf Club**, Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Bham B43 7BA

OS map Ref, 139/ 048 958, GPS N52° 33` 27.54 W1° 56` 7.99

Club Meet Every Wednesday, 8.00pm.

Committee Meet First Wednesday of Month, 8.00pm

Club contacts and club event responsibilities as follows:

President. David Owen OBE

Chairman. Anton Bird, AGBO Rally & OMC Rallies Archive, REVS *Editor*, Club Event Pictures Archive. antonbird@talktalk.net

Vice Chairman. Michael Ward ... michael_ward70@btinternet.com

Club Sec. Roger Tolley.... r.tolley@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer. Michael Ward ... michael_ward70@btinternet.com

Committee members:

Competition Sec. Roger Tristram. comp.sec@owenmotoringclub.co.uk

AGBO Rally, Social Sec. Child Protection Officer. Clare Jennings
clarejennings22@outlook.com

Equipment Officer. Happy Landings Grass Auto Test team. Barri Wilmot
barriwilmot@aol.com

Trophies Officer..... Ruth Langford ...pinkfairy66@hotmail.co.uk

AGBO Rally..... Dan Lister dan-lister@hotmail.co.uk

Championship scorer. Melvyn Cox....melvyn.cox@blueyonder.co.uk.

Classic Section Coordinator.... Martin Parkes ... martin6parkes@gmail.com

Chief Marshal. Dean Forrest ...scouts8th@hotmail.co.uk

Other Contact details.

Simon & Lynn Whittick. Graham Hill Sprint, Club Archives

Hilary Bird. Membership Sec.hilarybird1@hotmail.co.uk

Roger Tristram. Classic Section ...rtristram@blueyonder.co.uk

Melvyn Cox. Classic Section Assistant.



AGBO Rally 2022 Sunday March 20th.report AB

We welcome back for year two, as event sponsor “Land & Estate Maintenance”, proprietor Oliver Davies who has won the AGBO Rally 9 times, will 2022 be the 10th?

Well, no he didn't win, he was second by 25 seconds to Welsh Wizo Huw James now a four time AGBO Rally Winner. Huw set some blistering times in the first few stages where our event sponsor Oliver was still getting to grips with his new Escort. A great day weather wise, park set up was first class thanks to the dedicated few, they really do know what to do & when. A first for the event was the MSUK Safety Delegate (who also doubled as the MSUK Steward) gave us 100% in his post event Safety Delegates report, that's a BIG well done to all working on the event because the document covers everything we do, it is not just about the competition side.

2022 attracted the largest spectator numbers we have ever witnessed, reported over 500 cars in the Weston Park car parks. It must have been the weather and the release from Covid restrictions. However it was not without its problems, a number of issues came to light with this many people that we must plan ahead for, with assistance from Weston Park, for 2023.

Stage 8 was cancelled due to time losses involving a spectator having to be transported to hospital in Telford following him collapsing with chest pains twice. I can report he is absolutely fine now, sending his best regards to the club for rapid assistance on the day. He very kindly donated £50 to the club which we put into the clubs Air Ambulance Fund, with his approval.

No real competition incidents on the day, dry tarmac made it the usual quick event.

Below: from left 1st: Huw James, 2nd: Oliver Davies, 3rd: Gary Thomas

Foot Note: Oliver Davies has now definitely got to grips with the new Escort, posting a tremendous result on the Manx Rally in May at 10th o/all.



Mike Sones - an appreciation, OMC member for over 50 years... Report compiled by Tony Jardine, Mike Broad, Nick Pollitt.

Motor sport has lost one of its most accomplished, dedicated and best loved characters, who in the words of one of his best mates and fellow BTRDA Board member Mike Broad, "Loved motor sport, loved talking about motor sport and more than anything he loved motor sport people."

Former top co driver and Motorsport UK representative on the FIA Rallies Commission, Mike Broad was not just one of Mike Sones' longstanding Midlands mates but also worked with him at both Motorsport UK (formerly MSA) and the BTRDA. Naturally like everyone in motor sport he was deeply saddened at Mike's tragic death at home, but he has taken solace from so many calls in appreciation of Mike. "Literally every comment I have received has been similar, 'he was always there for us,' one lady even saying that without his help and guidance they would 'never have finished Wales Rally GB,' and that was typical of Mike, he was there for everyone."

Particularly skilled as a communicator when acting as a Competitor Liaison Officer on events, the softly spoken Walsall native lived and breathed the sport. He was a top rally navigator and codriver, a rally organiser and sports administrator who was also proud of his achievements as a Quantity Surveyor, one of which was the building of a major Austin Rover factory in Lode Lane, Birmingham. However, he was always keen to point out his work to colleagues such as when he was travelling round on rallies. Later in his career he was involved in the erection of many Vodafone masts all over the north of the country, and as he spotted a mast, he would point to it saying that was 'one of mine' and repeat the story of 'how we had to move that farm' to put it there – just to irk his fellow rally passengers!

Mike excelled in Autotests as he was adept behind the wheel, and he became the outright MSA British Autotest Champion in 1992 and 93. In fact he kept all five of his competition cars that are still in his garage today, including his original Autotest Mini and his Auto SOLO Mazda MX5. Many rally folk remember him from night rallying as a top line competitive navigator on Motoring News events for many drivers including Toney Cox and Phil Darbyshire, but also he organised and ran the official BTRDA road rally championship until 1987. To further illustrate his organisational prowess, he took hold of the BTRDA Rallycross Championship, even though it wasn't necessarily his area of expertise, and stitched it all together.

Mike was Chairman of BTRDA from 1988 – 2014, still a serving BTRDA Board member as Honorary Treasurer and headed up Autotests for the MSA for 14 years and BTRDA until recently. But of all his motorsport jobs, next to his favorite role as Competitor Liaison Officer, he was loving being a Motorsport UK Steward at a variety of events. One minute he was at a BTCC race, the next he was at Silverstone or Weston Park.

He spent nine years as a Director of the MSA as it was then and worked on the board of the BTRDA for over 15 years until the end.

He spent some time working with HERO-ERA Competition Director Guy Woodcock to finesse rules and classification of vehicles in the world of regularity rallying and was Chief Steward on their Classic Rally New Zealand in 2015.

But Mike was happiest as a man of the midlands amongst his kinsman, the West Midland motorsport mafia! During his days as a co-driver or working alongside Mike Broad at the BTRDA, he would joust with staunch Midlander and long-standing friend Nick Pollitt over whether a BTRDA Gold Star was more prestigious than winning British championships, which of course Mike had done. What was key to both is that they never missed an Owen Motoring Club meeting or event. His Midlands mates Nick Pollitt and Andrew Lees were all at the same Grammar School together, his other close mates Peter Smith, Stuart Nicholls, Garry Preston, and Kevin Moore were and are still firm friends, all of them were in daily contact with Mike for chat or questions that needed a correct answer, all steeped in motorsport 55 years later, although one of them has now moved on to Parc Ferme on the high plains.

It was indeed with great sadness and shock for Mike Broad, Nick Pollitt, Paul Dyas and Nick Roberts, as the ones that found Mike at his home after he had failed to make contact when he was due to meet his friends on a rare weekend off from motorsport duties. More is the pity that he had seen specialists who had finally identified his medical issues which troubled him over the last few years as he was due for treatment to help him.

So, this a salute to the British Autotest champion, the night rally navigator and special stage co driver with a great record of success to back up his professional organisational and communication skills.

You can trace the midlands school friends love of competition to 1970 when Mike and Brummie buddy Peter Smith finished 49th overall in their Mini Cooper S on the RAC Rally, and they went on to great success in Pete's Renault Alpine.

Mike co drove for John Price for eight seasons, winning the Circuit of Munster in 1975 and finishing sixth overall on the Donegal International Rally in 1977 in John's fabulous Alpine Renault A110. He relished the thrill of every rally car he worked inside but demonstrated great enthusiasm for John Price's Porsche Carrera 911 RS as the Wales- Birmingham combo scored a 6th overall on the fiercely contested Donegal International Rally in 1975. The pairing finished 9th overall on the Manx International in 1978 in John's 911 SC.

Mike was equally enthusiastic about his adventure with Peter Cox in the South Swedish Rally in 1981 in an MG Midget!

He was highly competitive sitting alongside fellow Walsall driver Stuart Nicholls in the Vauxhall Astra Challenge which they won outright, Stuart to this day says he was totally gob smacked and honored that Mike even agreed to co drive for him. Mike went on to enjoy powerful rides navigating Chris Beddow in his Ford Sierra BDG, with a best finish of fifth on the J C Van Hire Stages in 1988. All this whilst still working hard as a Quantity Surveyor by day and motorsport professional during the evenings and weekends before he effectively became a full-time motorsport professional.

Until very recently Mike had spent over 20 years as navigator to Garry Preston (Cooper S, Westminster, 1275GT) with success on Le Jog, Lombard RAC Revival, Roger Albert and various HRCR events.

HERO-ERA extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. I would like to add my name to the list of competitors whose co drivers benefitted from his calmness and wisdom to help them to the finish of major international events. Without his knowledge and advice, a long list of journalists from national newspaper reporters to ITV, BBC and Sky presenters would never have achieved their respective goals of getting to the finish of a world championship event. The Motoring Editor of the Times newspaper was the first to thank Mike for his help after we won our class on Wales Rally GB in a Honda Integra against the odds. That was due in no small part to Mike Sones, one of a kind, RIP.





NOTE, Entry forms attached to email on which you received REVS

REGULATIONS

Owen Motoring Club are pleased to offer you the Tony Matthews Classic Tour as part of the HRCR HAGERTY AND MONIT series of scenic tours on **Sunday 17th July 2022**.

The tour has no competitive element and will be run under a Motorsport UK Certificate of Exemption for touring assemblies. The 110-mile route (approx.) will be defined by a tulip road book that will also contain maps. Whilst on the same 118/119 maps as last year you will find the route varied, interesting and very scenic. There will be manned, and unmanned passage checks on the route.

The start and finish venue is The Great British Car Journey, Ambergate Derbyshire DE56 2HE. We were made most welcome last year and there is plenty of space for parking including trailers. If you wish to leave your classic along with the trailer in a secure compound the night before the event, then please contact the venue direct on 07932 584088.

Morning and afternoon halts will be with tea/coffee and maybe some cake! At the lunch halt refreshments can be purchased or you can consume your own.

The entry fee is £90 (Driver & Navigator inclusive) and includes the above refreshments, a tour plaque with cable ties, a colour road book, and a tour memento. Please advise on the entry form if you require trailer parking. Maximum number of entries is 60 and minimum is 40 and the organisers reserve the right to cancel the event if the minimum number of entries is not reached.

Cost of any entry cancelled before the 26th June will be refunded less £10 administration fee. There after refunds will be at the organiser's discretion.

Entries are open from 15th January and will close when full or Sunday 10th July. Please complete both entry and indemnity forms online at

www.owenmotoringclub.co.uk

Organisers

Route: Bob Cotterell

Road Book: Melvyn Cox

Entries Secretary: Clare Jennings 07837 212015 clarejennings22@outlook.com

HRCR Golden 50 Revival Tour *By Martin Parkes*

Thank you to fellow club member Dave Lucas for badgering me constantly to enter this event, if he hadn't done so then I probably wouldn't have entered and missed out on a great day. Having this deadline, it made me complete various jobs that I'd been promising to do over the winter and never did!

The tour was organised to celebrate 40 years since the original Lombard RAC Golden 50 Rally was held, which I remember attending with my then new girlfriend Elaine who, 40 years later, navigated me faultlessly around the route in my Imp.

The start was at Prescott Hill Climb and finished at Worcester so trailering my green thing was out of the question so an 'Air BnB' was sourced near the start to avoid the long drive early Sunday morning.

Four Owen MC Classic Car Crews took part, there should have been 5 but Richard Statham's wife is still recovering from her knee operation so getting in and out of an Austin Healey 3000 was impossible. He tried to find someone who wanted his place but to no avail so decided to do it in their VW T-ROC road car. Roger T was with Melvyn in his Scimitar, Derrick and his brother John were in the Capri 2.8 whilst Nick Pollitt was driving his Triumph TR3 with Andrew Lees navigating. 40 years earlier those roles were reversed and they competed in a 1959 'Frogeye Sprite' carrying the same number 24.

At signing on we were given a comprehensive well put together road book which contained information and photos from the original 'Golden 50' along with tulips & maps for this event. Also included was a tour plate, entry list and stickers. The official starter Paddy Hopkirk had to pull out because of a virus so Clive King, complete with fetching bunny ears for Easter, was his stand in. A run up the hill was not done, due to a local complaining about the noise apparently, so we had a drive around a few cones before heading out on the first of three sections to Shelsley Walsh which was 48 miles away. The route took us via Gotherington, Pendock and Knightwick and I have to say you don't realise how bad the condition of some of the minor roads are until you drive them in a classic car. Anyway potholes, ruts, horses and lots of cyclists later we arrived at SW where after a drive up the hill sandwiches and drinks were consumed in the sunshine whilst exchanging stories of the morning section.

An hour's break was allowed here and then back out for section 2 which would take us 44 miles to the rest halt at the Three Horseshoes Inn at Wheathill. On the road to Abberley we did encounter a few hostile residents but overall, most people seemed pleased to watch us drive past giving us a cheery wave. The route then took us through Bewdley via the Wyre Forest, Cleobury North to the well-known RAC Rally stage of Burwarton. Here we encountered a slight delay after negotiating the very bumpy approach before being counted down by a couple of well-known Mini bunnies! A great section where everyone pretended they were rally drivers and all too soon it was over and back on the road to MC3 to compare times over tea & biscuits.

There now followed the shortest section of 33 miles via Neen Sollars, Tedstone Wafer to the finish venue at Knightwick. Upon entering the car park, we were given a lovely, boxed glass memento paperweight before queuing up for the lovely hot food that The Talbot Inn had laid on for us.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day and the weather had been kind to us as well which makes all the difference. Thank you to all the organisers and marshals for a most enjoyable day.

After an OMC team photo, we headed for a friend's house near Eardiston for an overnight stay (with alcohol) before completing the mammoth 300-mile Imp journey the next morning via Bridgnorth and Shifnal.



Above & Left. The OMC team on the HRCR Golden 50 Revival Tour.

Melvyn Cox, Roger Tristram - Scimitar GTE. Martin & Elaine Parkes - Imp. Derrick & John Wallbank - Capri. & Nick Pollitt & Andrew Lees -TR3.

OMC Club Event 2022 Dates

Graham Hill Sprint, June 19
 Happy Landings, Grass A/Solo Sept. 11
 Crimson Dynamo Auto Test/Solo TBA
 Slithering Santa, TBA

OMC Classic Events 2022 Dates

Streetly Transport Fest. June 11
 Graham Hill Sprint, June 19
 Cars in the Park, July 2
 OMC Classic Tour, July 17
 Canwell Show, August ?
 Himley Hall, Sept 4
 NEC Show, Nov 11,12,13
 More Details & further event dates TBA

“Ernest Owen” Production Car Trial. May 15th ...*Nick Pollitt*

Apley Estate near Bridgnorth, It was for 20 years we were able to make use of the hills at Catton, but the Catton Estate plans for the future do not include motor sport, so we had to find a new venue.....and what a venue it turned out to be.

Tim Beard and I visited Apley earlier in the year, we were aware it had been used for Sporting Trials by Hagley & District but we thought it might be too challenging for Car Trials, but there is such a vast amount of countryside with a wonderful variety of gradients that we were confident of getting 8 really good sections on the day.

Martin and Elaine Parkes with Roger T's help brought all the equipment on Saturday so Tim and I with invaluable help from Dave Allitt were able to set up 8 long testing sections on a glorious sunny day...then it rained overnight so I had to wizz round on Sunday morning and ease the sections!

The event was the 6th round of the British and BTRDA Car Trial Championships, neither being well supported this year but we had a top quality 21 in total. Just 2 in Class 1 (standard FWD cars) including the reigning Champion Rupert North from Yorkshire in his Suzuki Alto who had a sterling day on 108 marks to beat previous Champion Trevor Moffatt in his 1.6 Corsa who seemed to make a few uncharacteristic errors.

Class 2 for modified FWD cars went to the favourite, our own Garry Preston the sole Owen MC entry, Garry had a fantastic day hardly putting a foot wrong in his Fiat 127 to completely dominate the eight strong Class on 50 marks, half the total of his nearest challenger Simon Harris' Golf on 101.

Class 3 was the best supported (Imps and Kit cars) with 10 competitors, and a fine battle it was with Kevin Roberts in his Dutton making the trip from Bala well worthwhile with a super day's trialling, he was just that tiny bit in front all day, finishing on 14, 6 better than Duncan Stephens in a Dutton, and then came the best Imp, Dave Oliver on 30.

This was the first Owen event without the great Mike Sones, very kindly Kevin dedicated his win to Mike's memory and we held a minute's silence after the drivers briefing.

A big thank you to the marshals from Owen, Dean F, Paul L, Martin and Elaine, Geoff Allman, Melvyn, Roger, Sue Walmsley, and the larger group of friends which included ex trialists Stuart Nicholls, Alan Skelton, Mike Stephens and Dave Allitt, London to Sydney winner and BTRDA President Mike Broad, HRCR members Richard Statham and Terry Moore. AB did the pictures, It was good day!



Left, 1st. Kevin Roberts. **Centre**, 2nd. Garry Preston. **Right**, 3rd. Duncan Stephens

OMC 'B' Road Scenic Tour

I have visited the “Great British Car Journey Museum” at Ambergate a couple of times whilst helping to organise the Tony Matthews Tour and what a great place it is. I’m thinking of putting together a scenic morning drive which will finish there allowing us to spend the afternoon wandering around these great classic British cars. Booking in as a club will give us discount on the admission price as well.

This will hopefully take place on a Sunday in September or October, starting probably from a garden centre where a breakfast/tea/coffee can be bought before setting off. I intend to use only ‘B’ roads, if possible, to Ambergate and will issue everyone with map/tulip instructions.

Food and drinks again can be bought there if needed so I won’t be collecting any money from you beforehand or on the day, it’s up to you how much you spend!

It would be nice if all the entrants drove classic cars, but this is not compulsory. To gauge the numbers please let me know as soon as possible so I can reserve a date with them and then come back to you to see if it fits in with you.

Contact me either by e-mail martin6parkes@gmail.com or text 07708 630294 leaving your name and how many entrants, thanks. **Martin Parkes.**



Left. Just Part of “The Great British Car Journey Museum, Ambergate, Derbys..

Right. Sad to hear that wife of ex OMC chairman Tony Matthews passed away recently.

Shirley was an ever present at the OMC Graham Hill Sprint, Tony being Clerk of Course and the events mentor for 50 consecutive years. Shirley was the life & soul of any party, see right, at the 50th Graham Hill Sprint.





OMC Club Regalia....2022

Polo Shirt Navy Blue

Lamb's Wool Jumper "V neck"

Lamb's Wool Jumper "Round neck" ..

Sweat Shirt

Fleece (Soft) Zip Front

"T" Shirt

Soft-Shell Jacket, Zip front

Baseball Cap

Wooley Hat

Snood (Neck Scarf)

Marshals Coats Day-Glo Orange,

Short with club logo on rear.

Marshals Coats Day-Glo Orange

Long with Club logo on rear.

60th Anniversary Pin Badge...FOC ask.

All items **are to order** through

Clare Jennings ...

Email clarejennings22@outlook.com

NEW SUPPLIER NO DELIVERY/

POSTAL CHARGE. Delivery 2/3 weeks

from order.

All garments are Navy Blue,

available S.M.L.XL.XXL and include the

standard club logo embroidered in

Yellow. Other OMC Log `s at extra cost.

Standard Club Logo (in required colour)

embroidered to own garments...£8.00

OMC car Stickers various ask. £0.50p





The BRM Archive & all the spectacular BRM F1 trophies from the 50`s & 60`s, are now in the care of the Silverstone Experience Museum based at the circuit. As a club we visited the attraction just under two years ago. We have been invited to re visit to view the BRM displays / cars by Nick Owen (son of David Owen OBE our Club President). The visit is planned for late summer, after the school holidays. It will be an afternoon visit possibly from 1pm onward, costs unknown at present, but there could be a concession. All members are invited should they wish to go, please register your interest in joining the club visit with antonbird@talktalk.net We are required to forward numbers pre visiting. The proposed visit to Hall & Hall (Race car preparation & BRM specialists) is being arranged for a late year visit due to the company's` work load.

More Classic Info.

. A club pitch has been booked for this years "**Cars In The Park**" held in Beacon Park Lichfield, date Sunday 3rd July 2022. The area booked is for 20 cars plus the club gazebo, each car will be charged £5 to cover the booking fees. Interested members please contact me via my email address dwallbank59@gmail.com to pre book a place all on a first come first served basis, once its full, its full. I will then keep a reserve list in case anyone drops out. Derrick Wallbank.