

TDC Turbine



An intermittent missive of random rants, reports and reviews

www.tdcireland.com

February 2009



Chairman's Chatterings

Welcome to 2009 and, what I hope will be, a resurgent TDC.

A number of new faces, and some old, seven extra bodies altogether, have been persuaded to join the committee. I trust that they will work with the stalwarts that remain to make TDC bigger and better than ever.

Already, Piers MacFheorais has put a huge amount of work into overhauling the website, now to be found at www.tdcireland.com (the old address will continue to work for the foreseeable future, as well as the new one). His new format is easy to navigate and affords you the opportunity to have an input and air your views. Also, you can download membership application forms, regs, entry forms, etc.

While not as radical, Ian McCulloch has put together this newsletter (the *Turbine* title has been used in the past – I hope this one will appear more regularly than its predecessor). It was felt that our mature members, in particular, would be more comfortable with the traditional paper format. Much of what the *Turbine* contains can be found on the website – indeed the complete publication is being posted there.

There are other initiatives: Owen Whelan is masterminding a text assault to supply you with significant information and Joanna Doran is being a very pro-active Membership Secretary.

Of the events the club is promoting this year I would single out the inaugural James Pringle International Trophy Autotest for your support – Jimmy deserves it!

One of the main aims is to build up club membership so try to persuade all your friends, and even enemies, to join up. I also hope that all of our members will remain in the club in the future. If any of you would like to contribute in any way to the club, whether by writing on the website or in the newsletter, if you fancy marshalling or organising events, please let me know. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Joe

Class leaders:

Eamonn Byrne, Eddie Peterson,
Steven Bolton, Liam Cashman,
David Thompson.

Novice class (Europa Cup):

1 Alan Coyle (Mini Special) 100
(confirmed as Novice champion),
2 Guy Foster (Mini) 86
3 John McAssey (Starlet) 58
4 Trevor Athey (Starlet, Striker) 42
5 Ger Lawlor (Starlet) 42
6 Terry Power (Mini Special) 36

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I had the good fortune to be invited to a lunch for the members of CAR at the end of January. CAR, an acronym for **Contact After Retirement**, is an organisation which provides an opportunity for those who have retired from the motor trade to socialise on a regular basis. This is usually achieved through an outing of some sort. The prime mover is Robert Prole, formerly of SIMI. I am making reference to it as there was a hint of TDC about the occasion. Apart from myself, two fellow directors were in attendance – Larry Mooney & Eamonn King.



Incidentally, Larry is on the CAR committee – a glutton for punishment.

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If you would like to contribute in any way, shape or form to this pubescent publication please send whatever you've got to:

imcc@oceanfree.net

Thank you in anticipation

TDC events for 2009

Irish Classic Retro - 3/4/5 April

James Pringle International Trophy Autotest - 9/10 May

Autotest - 24 Jun

Multi Venue Autotest - 5 Jul

Autotest - 12 Jul

Multi - Venue Autotest - 23 Aug

T.D.C. Autotest - 31 Oct

Howard Wilde Memorial Autotest (Hewison) - 22 Nov

Handicap Autotest - 26 Dec

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Derek Tohill was a remarkable fourth in class in his first year in the FIA European Rallycross championship in a self-run private team.

42 drivers, from 15 different nationalities, scored points. Czech drivers dominated the top 3 positions; Derek was the first non-Czech driver in the standings and the only non-mainland European champion to win a round of the championship (Poland). This result is the highest position any Irish driver has ever achieved in any class in European Rallycross history.



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TRIALS DRIVERS' CLUB

11th Irish Classic Retro

LOCATION:
CENTRALLY BASED FROM BRAY, CO. WICKLOW

3rd April Prologue 7pm - 8.30pm

4th April Start Regularity & Tests - Wicklow Area
Night 8pm - 12 midnight Wicklow/Wexford

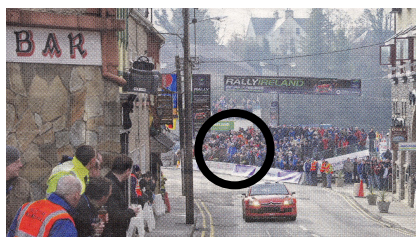
5th April 9.30am - 4.30pm
Regularity & Tests Dublin & Co. Wicklow

FEE: €350

ENQUIRIES:
Rally Manager: Frank Fennell, phone
(from UK) 00 353 862566880 (mobile)
(from UK) 00 353 1 4050301
Email: sales@fennell-photography.ie

3rd, 4th, 5th April 2009

www.tdcireland.org



The above photo from Motorsport News, 4th Feb, includes my daughter, Claire, alongside Clive Evans's daughter, Jane, at the start of the Rally Ireland Donegal town stage. The two of them were wearing blue jackets and sitting alongside each other which allows you to identify them inside the circle though I think the resolution might not be quite up to CrimeCall standards.

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The Ninth Winter Trial took place from 25th – 30th January. This event was originally a "Monte Retro" but has now evolved into something more like a Spa-Sofia-Liège as a result of the rapidly increasing numbers of "Monte Retros". It is now reckoned to be better than all of these - certainly by Frank Fennell and Kevin Savage who were this year's winners in Frank's Volvo 142.



In third place were Philip Armstrong and Frank Hussey (Volvo PV544). Tenth were Tom Callanan and Chris Towers (Fulvia HF).



The only other names I recognised were Jayne Wignall and Peter Rushforth. Also, Gijs van Lennep (a

racing driver of some repute in days of yore) and Jan Berkhof (Porsche 356), who retired on the last day while leading. The event was Dutch-organised. It started in Baden Baden in Germany before meandering through Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia & Slovenia before finishing in Salzburg after a very challenging, made more so by the demanding weather conditions, 1800 mile route.

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I have been reliably informed that Ronnie Griffin is building a Retro weapon. Apparently, it will be BMW on the outside and Ford on the inside - the Ford mechanicals will be more suited to Ronnie's sympathetic driving style than would the original BMW equivalent.

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To ensure that he keeps his nose clean in his new role as Hon. Treasurer, Tim Faulkner has had a "nose job" - more specifically, his septum has been remodelled. We wish him many years of heavy breathing in the future. Now that he has a taste for plastic surgery, maybe adjustments to his budding man-boobs might be worth considering.

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Blast from the past

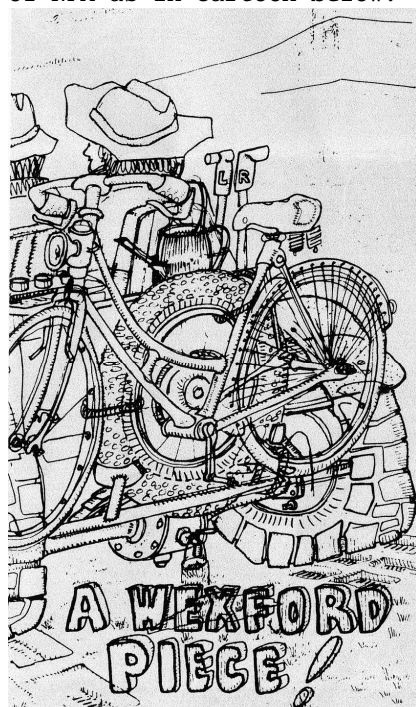
On accepting the task of putting this newsletter together, I was presented with the *TDC Noise* of Summer 1977 to give me an idea of what was required. In those good old days TDC seemed to be rather busier than it is now. The International Trophy Autotest was up and running, as was the "normal" Test Trial the following day. There was a novice summer rally, the Boreen rally, the committee autocross, a Treasure Hunt and a summer party. In addition to all of those there was also the Mudplug Weekend which was held in April. So as to provide something to which

our more senior members may be able to relate I reproduce the Noise's report on this event below:

Wexford Weekend April '77

55 entries were received for our fourth annual weekend mudplug which, this year, was held in Wexford, where a superb course was laid out by clerk-of-the-course, George Tohill. No fewer than 8 entries were received from Northern Ireland drivers who appeared in various engined Cannons and the latest Mike Martin creation, a dry-sumped Ford-engined Concord. Nelson Todd and Brian Emerson were with us yet again to settle old scores and, indeed, this strong challenge put the fear of "Kilkenny" into our regular premier contenders who promptly devised a system of team tactics to thwart the opposition. Saturday morning saw fine, dry conditions and all competitors arrived safely. No unusual towing activities were reported. "De General" looked decidedly unwell at the start and was apparently suffering from "Sheanitis", having carried out copious modifications to his steed from an early hour - viva l'aspirin! Nevertheless at Sandra's section 1, the number two stake was causing trouble to many with far fetched notions. And here Ken Fildes and Philip Erskine established their initial dominance with the only 10s of the first lap. Running close together they continued for the rest of the day with 10s and 9s. Rodney Evans had a sideways roll on section 2 in the Rodman special but continued to put in a good performance. John Bolton appeared with the Sparks m/c suitably adorned with goodies from his recently written-off Special and put in a tremendous initial performance, having the only 10 of the first lap of section 3, the long wheel-

base of the front-engined car finding the 10 marker by a mere inch - unfortunately, he was later sidelined with clutch maladies. Some sections, apart from being twisty and tight, had early steep climbs to catch the unwary. Amongst those who failed to make it at section 5 were none other than an off-form Gordon Erskine, Paddy "Head On" Healy and Gordon "The Pipe" Watkins. Swing-axles seemed to be the in-thing and, indeed, the Watkins Bros. new car (with old engine) reaped much benefit from this latest Sheane modification. Clive Gracey (Cannon) was turning in some very consistent marks with his lowest being an 8 on section 4 when a rear wheel clobbered a stake on a diagonal bank. Cleary/"Nutty" were advancing well, the former keeping it straight down the middle, but the latter (complete with imported cap) had his mind on other things - the purchase of a Wexford bicycle we we're told - perhaps for the front wheels of NFA as in cartoon below.



Saturday evening was spent in the nearby White's Hotel where a scrumptious dinner

was provided with the now traditional speeches. John Fitzpatrick's Roadshow provided a film of last year's Kilkenny trial and Colin Phillips set the scene with his disco which went on into the early hours.

I will spare you the gory details from the Sunday other than to relate that the rains came down. This didn't however deter Ken Fildes who maintained his Saturday advantage to win overall from Philip Erskine, Clive Gracey and Alec Watkins.

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Carrick-on-Suir MC Autotest 24th/25th January 2009 Hewison Championship Rounds 9 & 10

A really well run event by the Carrick-on-Suir Motor Club - dry on Saturday and very wet and windy on Sunday. A lot of us had a really good night's entertainment in the hotel on Saturday.

But wow! Tough event for beginners. Very tight and long tests with an average test length close to a minute for the experts. And nearly two minutes for the beginners.

Four times Hewison champion, Eddie Peterson, became the first driver to score three wins this season when he romped home the clear victor on Saturday, eight seconds ahead of Sam Johnston at the end of twelve long tests. This left the Dubliner level on points with Tyrone driver Steven Ferguson, who could only manage sixth place after various problems. Robin Lyons took third place in his Mini saloon, ahead of local man Paddy Power.

The battle for saloon honours between Ronnie 'The Rocket' Griffin and the multi-winning Starlet class leader Liam Cashman came to nought on Sunday during the downpour. With a fail on the first

test after forgetting to circle the first pylon and a fault on the second test when the steering height adjuster came loose all was not looking well for class honours when a wet and sodden 'Rocket' pulled the plug after the third test.

Sunday's round saw both title rivals in trouble, with Peterson's gear lever breaking, costing him a fail, while he later lost more time with clutch problems, dropping to seventh place. Meanwhile, Ferguson also failed a test, leaving him fifth at the end. Lyons scored his first win in a Hewison round, ahead of Eamonn Byrne and Paddy Power.

Piers MacFheorais



Piers

Round 9

- 1 Eddie Peterson (Mini Special) 645.1s,
- 2 Sam Johnston (Mini Special) 653.2s,
- 3 Robin Lyons (Mini) 660.2s,
- 4 Paddy Power (Mini Moke) 670.9s,
- 5 Eamonn Byrne (Mini) 680.8s,
- 6 Steven Ferguson (Mini Special) 685.4s,
- 7 Chris Grimes (Mini) 688.4s,
- 8 Daniel Byrne (Mini) 705.4s,
- 9 John Moffatt (Nova) 717.3s,
- 10 Steven Bolton (Westfield) 721.7s,
- 11 David Thompson (Nova) 731.2s,
- 12 Simon Echlin (Westfield) 733.4s.

Class winners:

Robin Lyons, Sam Johnston, Steven Bolton, Liam Cashman (Starlet) 740.2s, John Moffatt, Seamus Anderson (Starlet) 739.4s.

Novice awards:

Guy Foster (Mini) 846.8s, Alan Coyle (Mini Special) 773.6s, Trevor Athey (Striker) 932.3s, Ger Lawlor (Starlet) 889.0s, Piers MacFheorais (Starlet) 943.2s.

Round 10

1 Robin Lyons (Mini) 590.9s,
2 Eamonn Byrne (Mini) 600.1s,
3 Paddy Power (Mini Moke) 609.9s,
4 Sam Johnston (Mini Special) 615.2s,
5 Steven Ferguson (Mini Special) 619.3s,
6 Chris Grimes (Mini) 622.2s,
7 Eddie Peterson (Mini Special) 635.3s,
8 Daniel Byrne (Mini) 635.8s,
9 Simon Echlin (Westfield) 651.9s,
10 Roger Holder (Mini) 661.9s,
11 Paul Phelan (Mini Special) 673.1,
12 John Moffatt (Nova) 676.2s.

Class winners:

Eamonn Byrne, Paddy Power, Simon Echlin, Liam Cashman (Starlet) 677.1s, John Moffatt, Seamus Anderson (Starlet) 591.6s.

Novice awards:

Guy Foster (Mini) 779.0s, Alan Coyle (Mini Special) 708.5s, Trevor Athey (Striker) 870.4s, Ger Lawlor (Starlet) 821.9s, Piers MacFheorais (Starlet) 907.7s.

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**Carrick-on-Suir MC Autotest
15th February 2009
Hewison Championship**

Round 11

1 Eddie Peterson (Mini Special) 663.7s,
2 Eamonn Byrne (Mini) 668.8s,
3 Sam Johnston (Mini Special) 670.9s,
4 Steven Ferguson (Mini Special) 685.4s,
5 Norman Ferguson (Mini) 686.3s,
6 David Thompson (Nova) 720.3s,
7 Daniel Byrne (Mini) 735.6s,

8 Paul Phelan (Mini Special) 737.1s,
9 Alan Coyle (Mini Special) 772.5s,
10 Malcolm Clark (Striker) 836.1s,
11 Guy Foster (Mini) 861.1s,
12 Trevor Athey (Striker) 970.2s.

Class winners:

Eamonn Byrne, Sam Johnston, Malcolm Clark, David Thompson.

Novice awards:

Guy Foster, Alan Coyle, Trevor Athey.

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The committee convenes



Frank Lenehan, one of our elder statesmen, considers his opinion



Malcolm Clark brings the provincial view to the table



Owen Whelan plans to bombard you with group texts



Felix records it all for posterity

WILL YOU
PLEASE
FILL THIS SPACE?