



Motorsport gets the green light!



The Club are planning to run Knockagh Hill Climb on 1st May, Covid -19 restrictions permitting. Our ANICC Championship Autotest will be held on Saturday 7th August and Craigantlet Hill Climb, rounds of both the British Hill Climb and ANICC Championships will be running on Saturday 11th September. See you there!



In this issue

Welcome

From the Chair

Club Council

Our Sponsors

Club Events

2021 AGM

Contact Us

Tailsweep

Looking Back
1931, 1946, 1951



Welcome



Welcome to Wheelspin, the newsletter of the Ulster Automobile Club. It has been a while since the club last produced a newsletter (2010) but now it's back. Why bring it back now? With lockdown, people self isolating and events being cancelled, the need to keep club members informed is greater than ever. So it was decided to bring Wheelspin back but online to complement the club website and Facebook pages. For 2021 we are planning to produce two online issues (including this one) and depending on what you, the club members, think we can keep it going or try something else. It is produced entirely by club members which has the two main advantages - keeping costs to a minimum and giving us full control of the content. Any mistakes are my fault. The ambition is to make the next edition in September better. Do you want articles on rallying, hill climbs, club history or something else? Do you have stories and memories of past events you want to share? You know the old saying, if you want it done properly, do it yourself!

21st August is the deadline for articles to be included in our next publication, so please let us have your memorable tales.

Last but not least, the Club would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the NHS and all key workers for everything you have sacrificed and achieved during this dreadful period.

In the meantime I hope you enjoy this issue.

Paul Robinson

The Editor

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Thank You!





The best way to predict the future is to invent it!



I hope this latest edition of Wheelspin (Thanks Paul) finds you and your families, safe well and looking forward to some motorsport event in the not too distant future. I am aware that many people have lost loved ones, suffered immeasurable trauma and hardship during the past year and I hope that the 12 months can help to repair the damage and replace the sad times with happy and enjoyable memories and events that help to blur the past.

2021 will be a big step forward for mankind, just like 1969 (if you believe they actually did land on the moon!). We have to gather ourselves, shake off the dust and get back to what we all know and love - 'chasing cars'! The return to motorsport when it comes, may be different, better perhaps; more concern given to our well-being, mentally and physically but likely to prove safer and more environmentally friendly in the longer term.

We must continue to look forward and plan a better future for everyone, whether they have an interest or not in motorsport. Getting out there, meeting people, talking and mixing with friends, making new connections is what we all need and motorsport can help deliver this for us all.

What does the future hold for us as motorsport enthusiasts?



We need to think about the environmental impact of the Internal Combustion Engine and how we replace it to good effect.

When I was growing up, you had two choices of car colour, black or white, just like the T.V. screen! No choice of 4 wheel drive, Diesel, Hybrid, full electric, so what will 2030 and beyond, which is not that far away, have in store for us?

I believe the future is bright, cars will be powered by highly efficient batteries that only need 30 minutes or less to fully charge, so between runs up Craigtlet or Knockagh the cars will be able to have a full tank of 'fuel'. They will be able to set new records of sub 30 seconds, unfortunately we may not be able to hear the unmistakable sound of the engine whining through the gears as the engine pulls over 8000 revs!

Rallying will also be different, service areas will be filled with the usual tyre suppliers, burger vans and other services but the queue won't be for burgers or tyres, it will be for batteries or lining up for charging points! Many years ago, the 1977 Donegal Rally to be exact, I was crossing the road on a stage and the Lancia Stratos, driven by none other than the legend Billy Coleman 'appeared' from nowhere! Needless to say I was shocked and affronted when he didn't give way to an apprentice photographer!! The point being this was a rear engined 'flying' machine that didn't make the familiar roar of a rally car.

So will the future 'beasts' have to be 'unsilenced' to make sure the general populous know the stage is live and make sure they stay in safe places, as we are all too aware of the dangers associated with spectators not adhering to the marshals requests when cars can be heard?

There are many challenges ahead for organisers, competitors, marshals and officials and I believe that we must work together to ensure motorsport manages the way forward in a responsible and professional manner to ensure our sport leads the way into the 22nd Century. I must take this opportunity to thank Motorsport UK for their generous support to the Club through their Continuity Fund, which is helping us to manage our way through the crisis. The UAC must lead the way in contributing to safer and more environmentally responsible events and 'Adapt, Adopt & Apply' our knowledge, skills & experiences to this critically important challenge.

Wishing everyone a safe future which will hopefully bring us loads of rich and enjoyable motorsport events!!

Bill Swann
Chairman





Club Council – Who's Who?



Tom Allison
President



Bill Swann
Chairman



Wilson Carson
Vice Chairman



Sharon Carson
Hon. Secretary



Craig Hunt
Hills Sprints Rallies



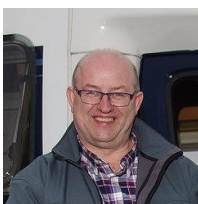
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Rallies Hills Sprints



Neil Malcolm
Stage Rallies



Ronnie Mitchell
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Paul Robinson
Wheelspin Editor



Erin Stewart
Membership Secretary



Graeme Stewart
Rallies Hills Sprints

Vice-Presidents

Peter Allen

Chris Beck

Denis Bell

Derek Bradfield

Terry Harryman

Murray Moreland

A big **Thankyou** to all our Sponsors!

To make motorsport events happen requires a lot of teamwork and all our sponsors play a vital role in our team 2020 was not an easy year for anyone, including businesses, so the Club is deeply indebted for the continued support of our sponsors, big thanks folks!



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Club Event Update



Please check the club website www.ulsterautomobile.club for the most up to date position.

2nd & 3rd April: Wastewater Solutions Circuit of Ireland International Rally & UAC Easter Stages Rally (Cancelled)

1st May: Knockagh Hill Climb

(Covid-19 restrictions permitting)

7th August: UAC Autotest (Venue to be confirmed)

11th September: Oraigantlet Hill Climb

9th October: North Down House TT Bistro Sprint

27th December: It's Not The Boxing Day Rally

Any further changes will be posted on our website and facebook pages.

All entry forms and regulations will be on Rallyscore: <https://www.rallyscore.net/#/>

For the most up to date information regarding the Wastewater Solutions Circuit of Ireland Rally please visit: www.uaceasterstages.com



2021 Annual General Meeting

Due to the current COVID - 19 restrictions the 95th Annual General Meeting will be held via a zoom call on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 19:30. Nomination forms for Office Bearers and Council members will be available in the membership section of our website: www.ulsterautomobile.club/membership in due course.

Copies of the annual accounts and relevant papers will be emailed to members in advance of the AGM. A printed copy of the accounts will be available for inspection. Please contact Sharon Carson our Honorary Secretary if you want to inspect the accounts.

Contact us:

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E-mail: ulsterautomobileclub@gmail.com

Website: www.ulsterautomobile.club or use this QR code

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UAC.ulsterautomobileclub>



Have we got the correct contact details for you? If not, please get in touch using one of the methods above.

Tail sweep - Breaking news!

Congratulations to Carol Willis on winning the 2021 Club Calendar Caption Competition with: "Would you hurry up and put the roof back on, I can't crochet with it like this"



We are planning to hold our Annual Charity BBQ in August (Covid-19 restrictions permitting)

Everyone is welcome to join us and support the Club's chosen Charity - Motor Neurone Disease.

Keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for more details.

Looking Back



First Ulster Motor Rally August 1931

1931 the Ulster Motor Rally was part of Ulster Motor Week which included Oraigantlet Hill Climb, the Concours DElegance and the RAC TT. Races at Ards. This event paved the way for the Circuit of Ireland Trial, Circuit of Ireland Rally and Easter Stages Rally. Based on the format of the Monte Carlo rally it was the creation of William Wallace McLeod, head of Motor Engineering in Belfast Technical College, motoring correspondent of the Belfast News-Letter and founding member of the UAC.

In 1931 there were five starting points, Belfast, Bantry, John O'Groats, Dover and Lands End and each competitor had to complete a qualifying distance of 500 miles. Seventy seven cars started that first event and drivers included Donald Healey who had won the Monte Carlo earlier that year. The Belfast starting point was Lagan Boulevard (Lagan embankment beside Ormeau Park).

The first winner was Belfast man Jimmy McCaherty (pictured above) in a 16hp Austin. Prizes for the Rally were donated by the residents of Bangor where the event finished and the Concours DElegance was held. The prize giving was in Caproni's Palais de Danse, Ballyholme.

International

1946



The Ulster Trophy

Trophy Races

1951

1946 - The first British International road races after world war two - the 2nd International Ulster Trophy races at Ballyclare. The International Ulster Trophy was won by Prince Bira of Siam in an ERA (English Racing Automobiles) with Reg Parnell in a Maserati in second place.

1951 - World Champion Farina wins!

the News of the World International Ulster Trophy Races at Dundrod in June.

As well as winning the race in his Alfa Romeo, Giuseppe Farina also set the fastest lap at 4 minutes and 44 seconds (94 mph).

