



Ulster Centre - Spring Newsletter 2016

The year started with the New Year Day Treasure Hunt plotted by Gordon and Ruth Buckley starting at Minnowburn Beeches, Shaw's Bridge and finishing at Daft Eddy's at Whiterock. A great turnout of 22 cars headed off to answer all the questions and arrive at our destination in time for tea. Yet again nearly everybody stayed on for something to eat and the day held a lovely party atmosphere. Michael Reid and his family won the event with Josef & Kathleen Connolly being picked out of the hat to set the route for next year.

The beginning of February saw the Derek Walker Classic Trial starting and finishing at our old haunt "Delamont Country Park". A cold, wet and very bleak day. Our special "dinner ladies", Lucinda McKee, Sharon Carson and Heather Goudy provided us with a very welcome breakfast of bacon baps and hot drinks which set us up until lunchtime when soup, bread, cheese and ham were waiting on the buffet for the ravenous hoards. Afternoon tea brought a civilised end to the day. Mark Mulligan was in charge of results with his 'on the road' team, Laura and Colin Earney, emailing times during the day which certainly helps to speed things up at the end of the event. We had a brilliant team of marshals, without whom we could never run the event and a massive thank you to all of them for standing out in such adverse weather conditions. They all came back to get warmed up both inside and out and were smiling throughout. Our long-suffering landowners continue to support the club by providing sites for us to practice our driving skills, thanks also go to them. Trevor Reid, assisted by Noel and Gordon plotted another terrific route which was enjoyed by all. James Wilson in his Mini won the event for the 5th time, a record in the history of the Derek Walker Classic Trial.

We returned to Delamont for our first autotest of the year which attracted a brilliant entry of 28 competitors. The day was cold and brisk but thankfully dry. David Thompson from Manorhamilton joined us for the first time in ages and won the event by a good margin. Ashley Lamont and Mark King were also there to demonstrate their skills. In fact both Mark and David started their autotesting careers with The Ulster Centre so our tutorials seem to work. We held a marshals' tutorial before the autotest familiarising everybody with how faults are assessed and with the timing equipment we would use on the championship autotest in April.

Nutts Corner was the next venue for the March autotest and we started the day with a drivers' tutorial for ten enthusiastic competitors. This was followed by the autotest at which there were 35 taking part, another great entry. Tea and coffee were available, as always, and very welcome throughout the day. Andrew Blair won the event with Richard Earney following closely behind.

Our next competitive event was held on 2 April at Balmoral Park, The Maze, Lisburn where we hosted the 3rd Round of the NI Autotest Championship with 20 young men champing at the bit to get started in their various cars, 5 of whom were Ulster Centre members. Colin Earney was Clerk of the Course and together with his team kept things running smoothly all day. There wasn't a gripe from anybody which is rare at any event. The quality of driving was "out of this world", utterly amazing and a joy to behold. The advancement of the discipline over the past 20 years is unbelievable. Ashley Lamont won overall with Paul Mooney a close second and Paul Blair won his class. The awards were very generously sponsored by CIP Insurance courtesy of Conn and Paul Williamson.

On Sunday, 3 April the same site at The Maze welcomed our Tandem Autotest which was very kindly sponsored by George McMillan of McMillan Porsche. He presented all the finishers, who stayed until the end, with beautifully engraved paperweights.



Noel Cochrane



Gordon Buckley

We had two past Chairmen out that day, Noel Cochrane and Gordon Buckley in their Midgets sadly the only MGs but nevertheless a great time was had by all. A massive thank you from the Ulster Centre Committee to all who were involved, organisers, members, marshals, timekeepers and competitors, in making this weekend such a success.

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Gordon is currently trying to get a California Cup team to go to Silverstone weekend of 5 June together with their groupies. As you will know young Will Corry achieved the best time at the event last year and also competed in several of the races.

We are in the process of organising a 'Mike Dowey Sunday Run' to The Argory, planned for 22 May and meeting at Sprucefield below the McDonalds parking area at 11.30 am with drive off being 12 noon sharp. We will travel in our usual scenic style to our destination and those who would be unable to make it so early could join us at The Argory before 2pm and shortly after that we will have a tour of the house. Refreshments will be available in the café at The Argory or you could bring a picnic. Mike is sussing out eating houses for our evening meal and that information will be sent out over the next few weeks. National Trust members get in free and for others there will be a special group charge of £4 per person.

Annual Dinner & Prizegiving

This year we held our Annual Dinner and Prizegiving in Scrabo Golf Club with 65 members and friends present.

In September 2015 TSCC in conjunction with MG, PPMC, QUB and UAC held a charity event "The Balmoral Bash" of which John Clarke was Clerk of the Course. Before our Ulster Centre trophies were awarded John Clarke asked Wallace McKee of the TSCC to present the overall trophy for this event to Richard Earney who won in his Mini.

Our guest Ken Stewart, Secretary of Dundrod Motor Cycle Club, kindly agreed to present the awards of our AutoSOLO which was held at the Dundrod Pitts in November.

Class 1	1 st	Peter Mann
Class 2	1 st	Stephen Dawson
Class 4	1 st	Michael Reid
Class 5	3 rd	James Wilson
	2 nd	Simon Woodside
	1 st	Raymond Wilson
Class 6	3 rd	Kevin McNamee
	2 nd	David Mutch
	1 st	Paul Williamson
Class 8	3 rd	Nadine McAllister
	2 nd	Brian Ballantine
	1 st	Jonathan MacDonald

AutoSOLO Overall Winner Andrew Earney

Next on the Agenda was the presentation of our other awards by Ruth Buckley, wife of our Chairman Gordon. We started with **The 27th Derek Walker Classic Trial**

Class 2	1 st	Lloyd Cochrane & Gary Sheridan	MG B GT
Class 3	3 rd	Richard & Matthew Deering	Midget
	2 nd	Angus Johnson & John Ward	AH Sprite
	1 st	David & Ross Deering	Midget
Class 4	3 rd	Jay Colville & Will Corry	Midget
	2 nd	John Kelly & Mark Faulkner	Midget
	1 st	Noel Cochrane & Trevor Reid	Midget
Class 6	3 rd	Norman Ferguson & Brendan Mooney	Mini
	2 nd	Sam Wilson & Simon Brewster	Mini
	1 st	Robert & Catherine Dickson	Mini
Class 8	2 nd =	Eric Patterson & Raymond Donaldson	Mazda MX5
	2 nd =	David Crothers & Barbara Kane	Mazda MX5
	1 st	Simon Woodside & Steven Dowds	Mazda M
Derek Walker Salver		James Wilson	Mini

The 2015 Ulster Classic Trial

Class A	1 st	Andy & George Johnson	Bugatti
Class B	1 st	Mervyn Williamson & David McCausland	VW Beetle
Class C	3 rd	Michael & Anna Reid	Midget

Class D	2 nd	John Kelly & Mark Faulkner	Midget
	1 st	David Cochrane & Suz Graham	Midget
	3 rd	Robert & Catherine Dickson	Mini
	2 nd	Sam Wilson & Simon Brewster	Mini
	1 st	James Wilson & Lorraine Shaw	Mini

John Trimble Trophy Will Corry & Peter Moreland-Moore Midget

PCT Championship 2015

Class 1	1 st	Mark Brien	MG TD
Class 2	1 st	Ian Gibson	MG B GT
Class 4	1 st	Will Corry	Midget
Class 5	2 nd	Brian Ballantine	Fiat Seicento
	1 st	Will Thompson	Corsa
Class 6	2 nd	Roger Fynn	Mazda MX5
	1 st	Toby Fynn	Mazda MX5
Class 8	1 st =	Daniel & Thomas Ballantine	Fiat Seicento
2015 PCT Trophy – Overall		Bailie Thompson	Corsa
2015 Grass Slalom Trophy – Overall		Bailie Thompson	Corsa

2015 AUTOTEST CHAMPIONSHIP – CLASS AWARDS

Class 2	1 st	Maurice Eakin	MG B GT V8
Class 4	3 rd	Jack Brien	Midget
	2 nd	Richard McCracken	AH Sprite
Class 5	1 st	Mark Lemon	Midget
	3 rd	Eric Martin	Mini
	2 nd	Andrew Earney	Toyota Yaris
Class 6	1 st	Richard Earney	Mini
	1 st	Bryan Mutch	Mazda MX5
Class 7	3 rd	Andrew Blair	Nova
	2 nd	Gordon Buckley	GTM
	1 st	George McMillan	Nova

Autotest Championship Awards

Leslie Porter Trophy - Michael Reid – Midget Highest Placed MG

Vivian Scott Trophy - Paul Lowther – Stryker Highest placed other marque

Perpetual Awards for Year 2015

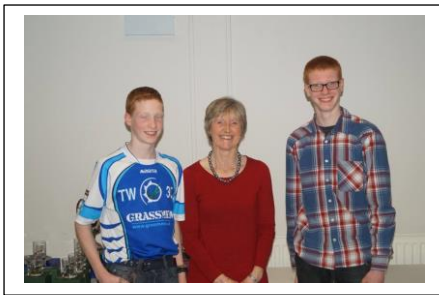
Junior Marshal Trophy Abigail Oakman
 Marshal's Salver John Clarke & Colin Earney

MGB/C/V8 Trophy
Achilles Trophy
Lady Enthusiast Trophy
North East Centre Trophy
Leslie Ardill Trophy
Driver of the Year
Abingdon Trophy

Maurice Eakin
Maurice Eakin
Sharon Carson
Stephen Dawson
Stephen Dawson
Paul Lowther
Noel Cochrane & Trevor Reid

As a committee we presented an additional award this year to two members who, with some others, were instrumental in starting The Ulster Centre. They have continued to play a large part in the Centre's development over the past 48 years and we thought they should be recognized for their contribution, so to Mike Armstrong and Mike Wilson we presented Lifetime Achievement Awards. Needless to say they were absolutely speechless, well just for a moment, and they warmly thanked the Committee for honouring them. We celebrate 50 years in 2018 and they are already talking about what could be done to mark that occasion. They definitely can't be held down!





The AGM was held at Shandon Park Golf Club, a poor turnout needless to say but we got through the election of officers and committee without delay. Gordon Buckley stood down as Chairman having completed two years and Mike Armstrong kindly took the chair while the election of the new Chairman took place. Afterwards some of us retired for refreshments to finish off another good year.

Your new committee is as follows:

Chairman: John Clarke **Treasurer:** Garth Maxwell **Secretary:** Carol Willis
Committee Members: Gordon Buckley, Ian Campbell, Stephen Dawson, George McMillan, Malcolm McQueen **Social Media:** continues to be maintained by Richard Earney.

Chairman

John Clarke Tel: 07785 292595
Email: john@systemcontrols-ltd.co.uk



John is currently rebuilding Betsy, his MG B roadster and hopes to have it on the road soon.

Treasurer

Garth Maxwell

07836 790689

Email: garth449@btinternet.com



Garth, on the right, is still racing his MG B GT V8

Secretary/Comp Sec

Carol Willis

Tel: 028 9079 9997 / 07831 345560

Email: carol.mgulster@hotmail.co.uk



Carol and Minnie out for a bit of fun

Club Website www.mgcculstercentre.org.uk

Facebook MGCC Ulster Centre

Well, that's it for now. Regular abridged updates can be found in Safety Fast each month. We are constantly trying to get more MGs old and/or modern out on our events be they competitive or social and have a few Sunday runs planned. Looking forward to seeing you come on some of those, they are now proving to be very popular and quite often we stop off on the way home for dinner and lots of chat. Maybe see you then.

Bye for now, Carol