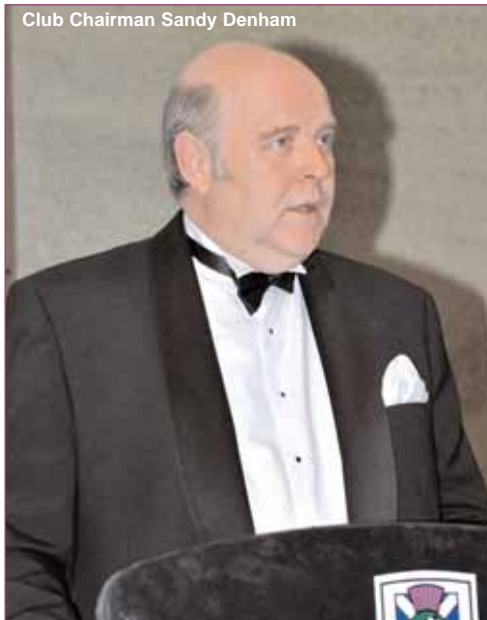


## SMRC DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2009

Club Chairman Sandy Denham



Club Chairman Sandy Denham addressed the audience and said:

"Firstly thank you to my colleague Mike How for the introduction, he is the SMRC's answer to Jake Humphries - Edinburgh's leading sock retailer. Good evening everyone and welcome, I trust you all enjoyed your welcoming drink, this was instead of the customary Chairman's cocktail party, which was felt not to represent the way forward. Following tradition it is my pleasure to welcome our honorary members, Ian Scott Watson, Bernard Buss, Allan McNish, Dario Franchitti and Graham Gauld. We have apologies from Sir Jackie Stewart and Betty Craig and... argumentativebugger@neverwrong.com - we were after some thought able to establish that this was John Cleland! Now we welcome our guests, with ladies first: Jane Leslie, Alison McRae and Doris Romannes, long time supporter and friend of your club. Sandy welcomed the club's guests David Coulthard, Paul and Louis de Resta. I am sure everyone will want to congratulate Paul on his F1 test this week and well done to Louis on getting him to the cusp of F1. I'd also like to welcome Graeme Leslie; Mark Stewart; John Doran of the Scottish Sun; Ronnie Klos, FFDR; Ronnie Thom, Yokohama Tyres; Mark Hamnett, Kumo Tyres; Kim Hollings, AJK Television; Dave Brown, Whyte and McKay and Jim Moir our photographer. This is my first year as chairman of your club, it is a challenging role but very enjoyable. May I take this opportunity to thank all my fellow committee members for their support and efforts during the year. I am delighted to report your club is in good health, be assured we will continue to drive forward with inventive thinking and even more commitment on

your behalf.

Sandy then drew everyone's attention to the large screen behind him which showed photographs of prize winners throughout the ceremony.

These groups of individuals and commercial partners are so important, you cannot enjoy the success we do as a club without the commitment and efforts of these people. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of them...

- At Knockhill, I'd like to give a special mention to Jillian Butcher and Ian Forrest. This year we began regular meetings with the circuit and these have proved very useful, and also thanks for the marshal's lunches.
- To Chris Edwards our Competition Secretary for his tireless efforts.
- Kevin Pick for his work on producing Wheelspin and the hugely time consuming production of our regulations.
- All our commercial partners.
- Our President, Allan McNish. Since taking on this role, Allan has been highly involved in club affairs, he has attended a race meeting and also a committee meeting, he gives his time freely and contributes valuable contacts, advises us well, he really does all he can to assist.
- And finally a big thank you to Jake How, who has masterminded tonight's event single handed, for that from everyone thank you.

Sandy went on to highlight...

### International and National successes

Away from our spiritual home of Knockhill, Scots were performing and succeeding as always.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Allan McNish      | 1st Sebring 12 hrs; 3rd Le Mans (spun at Petit Le Mans) |
| Dario Franchitti  | Wins Indycar title for 2nd time                         |
| Marino Franchitti | 2nd in LMP 2 in American Le Mans series                 |

Glynn Geddie

Ex-Mini Cooper driver wins pro-am 1 in Porsche Carrera Cup and 5th overall in this highly competitive arena

Paul di Resta

3rd in the DTM, and we all know what he did this week, He won the national Formula Ford championship, but dropped to 2nd after an appeal, but in our eyes he won, he also won the Kent Formula Ford Festival, the first Scot since Donald McLeod.

Rory Butcher

Also from our Minis wins Cooper S class in the Dunlop Mini challenge

Olly Mortimer

Returns to BTTC, season of 2 halves, but shows his desire and talent in the 2nd half in the FFDR Seat Leon

Jonny Adam

Great debut season in touring cars, 8th overall

Andrew Kirkaldy

A busy year for Andrew and CR Scuderia with Ferraris and Formula Renaults, also a big thank you to Andrew and CR Scuderia for the fantastic prize of a Formula Renault test for our top 2 Formula Ford drivers, thanks.

Andrew Smith and

Alasdair McCaig

These two have been establishing themselves as the men to beat in a fantastic selection of historic sports cars from the 50,s 60,s 70,s and 80,s

Congratulations to everyone. Well done!



Our 2009 award winners - full details pages 2 - 4

## Deaths

It is always sad when we have to advise of the passing of some of our own, tonight I would like us all to remember:

**Grant Stewart** - former club chairman and competitor, Grant achieved a great deal in motorsport in sadly a very short life.

**David Sleeman** - David was a club steward, and officiated at our October meeting this year both will be missed.

At this point I would like us all to remember someone who, although not a Scot, could rightly

be described as a motor racing man through and through, and that is Tom Wheatcroft who also will be sadly missed.

Now we must move on, 2010 will soon be upon us, your club will continue in its efforts to ensure you enjoy good racing, implement improvements and maintain costs where possible.

I am delighted to announce that for another year there will be no increase in entry fees, and special thanks to Jillian and Knockhill for assisting by not increasing track rental in 2010.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Sandy Denham and I am the Chairman of the Scottish Motor Racing Club and very proud to be so.

You know, I do believe we are the best little motor racing club in the world and I and all of you should and will do our utmost to ensure that remains the case.

Thanks for listening, when Christmas comes have a happy one, for now have a drink, then have some more.

**Sandy Denham**

# The Awards : Our 2009 Champions

*We went straight into the awards though none of the drivers from Saloons and Sportscars were present.*

## SCOTTISH SALOON & SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner - King Hussein Trophy & John Nicolson Trophy (Top Sports Car)

**David Headen**

2nd place - Adam Wylie Trophy

**Garry Watson**

3rd place - H & G Robinson Trophy

**Warren Dunbar**

*Mike asked Mark Hamnett of Kumho Tyres, our loyal sponsors for the last 13 years, to present the awards for the Scottish XR2 Championship and the inaugural Fiesta ST Cup.*

## SCOTTISH XR2 CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORTED BY KUMHO TYRES

Champion - Kumho Trophy & Hamilton & Inches Quaich

**Ian Munro**



Ian Munro (left) receives the Kumho Trophy and Hamilton & Inches Quaich

2nd place - Trophy & The Sandy Forrest Trophy for the Newcomers Award

**Jason Callaghan**

3rd place - Trophy

**Peter Cruickshank**

Winner - Fiesta ST Cup - Trophy

**Stewart Scott**



Fiesta ST Cup winner Stewart Scott (right) speaks to Mike How

*To present the next few trophies Mike welcomed Bathgate's finest, just back from a starring role in the F1 test at Jerez F1 star, Paul di Resta.*

## SCOTTISH CLASSIC SALOON & SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORTED BY YOKOHAMA TYRES

Winner Class D & Overall Champion - Doune Cup

**Russell Paterson**

2nd place overall & winner of Class B - Trophy

**George Leitch**

3rd place overall - Trophy

**Colin Beveridge**

Winner - Class C - Trophy

**Olly Ross**

## GRATTAN & HYNDS SCOTTISH LEGENDS CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner - Legends Quaich

**Ross Marshall**



Legends Cars Champion Ross Marshall

2nd place - Legends Quaich

**Alasdair Gauld**

3rd place - Legends Quaich

**Frank Hynds**

Team Trophy

**Elliot & Ben Mason**

Rookie Award - Trophy

**Nick Brace**

## SCOTTISH FORMULA FORD CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORTED BY CR SCUDERIA

Winner - John Romanes Quaich & The Jock McBain Trophy

**Rory Butcher**

2nd place - John Romanes Quaich

**Craig Brunton**

3rd place - John Romanes Quaich & Newcomers Award

**Scott Fraser**

Class B - Winner - Trophy

**George Smith**

*Mike then welcomed on stage The Two Ronnies -*



Rory Butcher receives the FF winner's trophy from Paul di Resta

*Ronnie Klos from F.F.D.R. the main Championship sponsor and Ronnie Thom on behalf of Yokohama who have both been great supporters of this year's Scottish Mini Cooper Cup.*

## F.F.D.R. SCOTTISH MINI COOPER CUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH STV JOBS

Champion - Lombard Trophy

**Kenneth Thirlwall**



Yokohama's Ronnie Thom presents the Lombard Trophy to Ken Thirlwall

2nd place - Trophy

**Victor Covey Jnr.**

3rd place - Trophy

**Chris Knox**

Newcomers Award - Trophy

**David Sleigh**



Mini Newcomers Award winner David Sleigh

To present the next few awards we all welcomed Dario Franchitti.

### B.M.R.C. TROPHY

Winner - 42pts - BMRC Trophy + Cheque  
**Russell Paterson**



Russell Paterson (left) with the BMRC Trophy being congratulated by Dario

2nd equal - 37 pts. Cheque

**Kenneth Thirlwall**

2nd equal - 37 pts. Cheque

**Ross Marshall**

### WILLIAM LYONS TROPHY

The William Lyons Trophy is presented for outstanding performance by a Scot competing in International Sports Car Racing. In the past few years this trophy has spent most of its time in Allan McNish's trophy room in Dumfries, but this year the Club has decided to award it to a driver who started his racing career with the Club at Knockhill. He has progressed from there to being acknowledged as one of the finest drivers of Historic Sports Cars throughout the UK and Europe. For his performances in a lightweight Jaguar E-type and the Ecosse C2 car shared with Alastair McCaig and particularly in the family's Lola T70 Coupe and T70 Spyder this year's award went to **Andrew Smith**.



The William Lyons Trophy went to Andrew Smith

### KNOCKHILL YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Saloon Car Award - Trophy

**Ian Munro**

Single Seater Award - Trophy

**Craig Brunton**

Next on to the stage to present the award given in his name was Walter Robertson.

### THE WALTER ROBERTSON AWARD

A carriage clock is given to the recipient to keep and is awarded to someone who generally works behind the scenes and puts a huge amount of effort in to the sport. This year you will have seen a lot of in-car



Walter Robertson presents his Award to Stevie McCall

footage on the Motors TV programmes particularly in the Legends Championship. For his unstinting efforts in making sure that all the cars are fitted with his in-car cameras and ensuring, more importantly, that they are all working, this year's Walter Robertson Award went to **Stevie McCall**.

The audience then welcomed Committee Member and the Patron of Ecurie Ecosse, Hugh McCaig, to present the Ecurie Ecosse Hub Cap to this year's winner.

### ECURIE ECOSSE HUB CAP



Hugh McCaig presents Rory with his cheque and the Ecurie Ecosse Hubcap

This wheel spinner from an Ecurie Ecosse Jaguar D-type, affectionately known as the 'Hub Cap', is presented each year to an outstanding up and coming young driver who has started their racing career in Scotland, and shown enormous potential. This year there is one outstanding candidate to receive this prestigious trophy, and for his achievement in dominating the Scottish and National Formula Ford Championships, as well as becoming the first Scottish winner of the Formula Ford Festival at Brands Hatch since Donald McLeod in 1979, this year's recipient of the Ecurie Ecosse Hub Cap and a cheque for £500 was **Rory Butcher**.

Mike then asked the new club Honorary Member, David Coulthard, to come up and present the next few trophies.

### ROTHMANS TROPHY

This award is presented to the top Scottish driver competing in a UK National Championship. This year's recipient also started off his racing career in Scotland racing in the Mini Cooper Cup and a Caterham in the Sports and Saloon Championship in 2007. He has made massive strides in the last 2 years in the UK Porsche Carrera Cup and this year won the Pro-Am 1 category by winning the class in 10 of the 20 races and finished 5th in the overall championship. At 19 years of age, and having just completed his first full year of racing, he is an

outstanding prospect, and would like to follow in the footsteps of our esteemed President by racing at Le Mans. Remember the name - it's **Glynn Geddie**.

### EDINBURGH STUDENTS CHARITIES QUAICh

This is presented to the top lady driver competing in Scotland. She is a very talented driver and had outstanding success in karts and more recently won the 2008 Legends Championship. This year she raced in the Formula Ford Championship and finished 2nd in the Newcomers category losing the Cup by just a single point. She wins this trophy for the 4th successive year and is, of course, **Carol Brown**.



Top lady driver Carol Brown

### CALLANDS TROPHY

This award goes to a Scottish Driver competing in an International Championship. Several candidates were considered. Dario for winning the Indy Car series, Paul for 3rd in the DTM, Allan for winning Sebring and 3rd at Le Mans and DC for beating an old man, Martin Brundle, round the new Abu Dhabi GP Circuit in a 2 seater GP car. In the opinion of the Committee, this year's outstanding achievement was a man winning his 2nd Indy Car Championship so the trophy was awarded once again to **Dario Franchitti**.



Dario Franchitti receives the Callands Trophy from David Coulthard

Sandy Denham then presented the new SMRC Special Award.

#### SMRC SPECIAL AWARD

This year the Club has created a new perpetual trophy to go to an individual who has done something beyond the call of duty to help the Club. This year's award goes to a guy whose enthusiasm knows no bounds and even in some cases gets the better of him. When Vic Covey found he had a Celebrity Car for the Minis but nobody to run it, he persuaded this enthusiast to buy the car and run it for the year at his own expense. As Anthony Reid and Robin Liddell both won races in it, it proved he prepares a pretty good car so this year's recipient of the first SMRC Special Award went to the Tynecastle Garage boss, **David Kerr**.



The SMRC Special Award went to David Kerr (right)

To present the final few trophies Honorary Club President, Allan McNish took to the stage.

#### CLAIRE & NICHOLAS TROPHY

This trophy is presented to an Official or Marshal of the SMRC and is given for dedication in their particular field. This year's award goes to a marshal who had to give up marshalling on the circuit and has since taken on the role of introducing all the new marshals to the various aspects of running a race meeting, by taking them on a tour on each Sunday morning. Her hard work has ensured that the Club has an increasing band of boys and girls prepared to go out in all weathers, to ensure that all our drivers are well looked after while they are competing. For her dedication to the job this year's Claire & Nicholas Trophy was awarded to **Helen Rigbey**.

#### DUNCAN FISHER TROPHY

This trophy is given in memory of Duncan who competed at Ingliston in the 70's and 80's and is awarded to an enthusiast who is totally committed to his favourite sport of motor racing, and invariably does most of his work behind the scenes. Their efforts are usually seen by few but appreciated by many but in this case their efforts have been seen by thousands and appreciated by everyone involved with the Club. For their work in bringing all our competitors brilliant driving as well as various acts of lunacy and downright bad judgement, this year's Duncan Fisher Trophy was awarded to **AJK Television & their crew**.

#### HARTLEY WHYTE & SHEILA WHYTE TROPHIES

These two awards are supported by money given each year by the Whyte & Mackay Trust and again this year by additional money from the Club. At this point we would like to thank David Brown of Whyte & Mackay who is here with us this evening for supplying all of you with the miniatures on the tables. The awards went to two outstanding young drivers who have come up through the ranks and shown the ability to go on to greater things within the sport.

#### THE SHEILA WHYTE TROPHY

This trophy comes with a cheque for £500 and this year was awarded to a very young man who has impressed everyone with his driving in the Legends Championship and was the only guy in the room with his Grandad present to see him collect his award **Alasdair Gauld**.



Alasdair Gauld receives the Sheila Whyte Trophy from Club President Allan McNish

#### THE HARTLEY WHYTE TROPHY

Along with a cheque for £750, this trophy went to a young guy who this year totally dominated the Legends Championship and also won a number of races in the National Legends. He is of course **Ross Marshall**.



Ross Marshall with the Hartley Whyte Trophy

#### THE JOHN ROMANES 'SWIFT' TROPHY



Bernard Buss presents the John Romanes "Swift" Trophy to David Coulthard

This beautiful trophy was donated to the Club by Doris Romanes in memory of her late husband, John, who was a stalwart of the Club for the best part of 50 years and, of course, ran Ingliston in its early days. It is awarded to a Scot for 'Excellence in Motor Racing' and the Club gave considerable thought as to who should receive it this year. In the end it didn't take too long. He raced in Formula 1 for 15 years with Williams, McLaren and Red Bull,

started 247 Grand Prix and won 13 of them. In the process he has gone down in the record books as the highest British points scorer in the history of Formula 1. On his day he was the class of the field, as he proved when he won his first Grand Prix in Portugal in 1995 with half of Scotland screaming at the telly and considering he spent most of his racing life trying to beat Herr Schumacher I think you would all agree he did pretty damn well. It was a great privilege to see him back at the SMRC Dinner - **David Coulthard**.

#### THE STEWART MEDAL

The medal is presented for 'Services to Scottish Motorsport' and Chairman, Sandy Denham said a few words before the medal was presented.

Sandy said this was in recognition of his contribution to motorsport history in making the film covering Jim Clark's life which has been shown on BBC TV. The Medal was presented to **Mark Stewart**.

Mark said when receiving the trophy: "I was supposed to present this award and I'm truly touched. Jim Clark inspired people around the world and it was important that as many people as possible could understand that. I hope to make more films about people in this room. We are blessed in Scotland by our drivers, Colin McRae, Dario Franchitti, David Coulthard and Allan McNish."



Mark Stewart with the Stewart Medal

#### The Stage Show -

During the evening there were some amusing and entertaining on stage speeches and chats from our international racing guest.

**Club President Allan McNish** spoke of 2009 as being a year of several firsts for himself. The first time he has spun behind a safety car, seen the clerk of the course and not got a bollocking, and seen an SMRC meeting. Allan thanked DC for being there and said at least we can understand him on TV. He then noted other Scots who have performed well Gary Findlay ( 3rd FF Zetecs) Lewis Williamson (Formula Renault) , Paul Di Resta (F! Test) and Rory Butcher's FF 1600 festival win. Close to home Allan said: "We have had excellent grids at Knockhill." Allan then recounted his day at Knockhill looking behind the scenes. "It's 7.30am and over 100 marshals are there, my thanks to them." He talked about excellent teamwork from marshals when dealing with a crash in Legends, and said Frank Hynds entertained us all. He moved on to highlight the excellent Formula Renault test prize provided by CRS which Rory Butcher and Scott Fraser took part in, and how it will have benefitted them. He noted the efforts put in by Graham Brunton and Sandy Denham's work with CRS. Allan then mentioned the club's Legends scholarship and excellent TV package on Motors TV.

Allan said: "Mark Dryden has joined the committee and brings youthful ideas." He then he spoke of the

support John Doran of the Scottish Sun has given to Knockhill and Scottish Motorsport, and Allan then thanked John who was at the ceremony. Our club president then noted that costs have been kept down and a deal has been done with GP Racewear for 10% discount for club members. Allan then talked about the new club sponsorship brochure, a copy of which was on every table and more would be mailed to racing members to help them find sponsors.

Allan finished by saying: "I would like you to remember the club is run by people giving their time free and they do a very good job."

On stage to join Allan came David Coulthard, Dario



David Coulthard Allan McNish & Dario Franchitti

Franchitti and Paul Di Resta.

DC did an amusing interview saying the BBC have strict rules about drinking on air but he was a little inebriated tonight. DC congratulated Dario for his success in America and said he had a lovely head of hair!

He spoke about Paul's efforts in DTM saloons and DC had watched him race. David went on to say 12 years ago at the SMRC awards he said driving a F1 car was better than sex, then reflecting he might be crap at sex! Paul spoke about his F1 test and how big a step it is, Force India gave him the chance, he said: "I can only hope the performance will open teams eyes and they'll take on youngsters for the future."

Dario said it was good to see the healthy state of Scottish racing, and that Allan was still wearing the same trousers!

He went on to say he had a great year which he didn't expect: "It was a great feeling and I'll keep doing it as long as I'm competitive."

He mentioned racing at Sebring (which Allan won) and the only time he passed Allan was when he had spun off. Allan spoke about Audi debriefing post race in detail, ie lap 432 car spun behind safety car, and he then mentioned the SMRC safety car driver who spun while leading a Mini Cooper race, (Chris Edwards stood up and took a bow). DC reminisced about testing in the cold at Knockhill back in 1988. Allan then thanked the celebrities for their time and presence at our awards ceremony.

During the awards several drivers were given the opportunity to say a few words and most thanked sponsors, parents, teams, families, wives etc. Russell Paterson also talked about the launch of the Scottish Ginetta Teen Cup next season, David Sleight (Mini Coopers) also thanked the club and Vic Covey for putting on a fantastic year's racing.

Mike How also talked about the Go Motorsport evening at Stewart Melville school were Dario Franchitti who was a former pupil, went back to promote the sport just days before the awards

evening. Some drivers congratulated other competitors, notably Vic Covey jnr who said Ken Thirwall drove like a star all year. When DC received the John Romanes Swift trophy he said a global thank you to all who had helped and influenced his career. He then said: "We should be proud as a wee country. I never thought I was any good at racing, and all the success I had was down to the people who taught me, the Leslie's etc."

#### SPECIAL DRIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chris Edwards came up on stage to present a new award that had been voted for by marshals, for the driver who had entertained them the most all year. It went to Legends star, **Gerard McCosh**. The new award winner said: "I am truly shocked by the award, and I'm very honoured. I just love coming racing in Legends, and everyone here loves racing too."



Special Driver of the Year, Gerard McCosh (left) receives his trophy from Chris Edwards



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## SMRC 2009 DVDs

Championship	Content	Price	Quantity
XR2's	4 DVD Set Including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
FF1600	4 DVD Set Including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
Classics	4 DVD Set Including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
Sports & Saloons	4 DVD Set Including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
Legends	5 DVD Set Including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
Mini Cooper Cup	6 DVD Set including Bonus in car DVD	£25	
Full Programme set	DVD copies of all 26 SMRC & Mini Cooper Cup Programmes as they were broadcast	£50	

Free Postage

Total Enclosed: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: K.J. Hollings Please photocopy this form and return along with payment to the address above.

# Joe's Danish Adventure

My Danish adventure started in May when I was lucky enough to be asked to give the Danish built Aquila Formula Ford Duratec its British championships debut at Knockhill. Even though it was a brand new car and we had no testing, it felt like it had plenty of potential.

It wasn't until the middle of September that I had a phone call from the Fukamuni racing team in Denmark, asking if I would like to go out and drive one of these Aquilas in the Danish series. The team had been struggling for results and one of their regular drivers dropped out to go back to Kart racing. My sponsorship in Scotland had all dried up, and I didn't know when I would be back in a car, so I jumped at the chance.

I left for Denmark not knowing what to expect or even if anyone would be there to pick me up at the airport! It would have been a fairly funny wind up! But to my relief I was met at the airport by the team owner and driven to the track to meet the team members and helpers. One of the first people I met was ex F1 driver Jan Magnussen who was very polite as I stood there and nervously talked at him for a bit. Sounds quite glamorous being flown out to race a car for a proper team in a foreign country. But I soon crashed back to reality later when I realised I would be spending the next four nights sleeping in the cab of the truck, while the rest of the team headed off to the hotel!

The circuit is called Ring Dursland and it was a fair eye opener in the free practice the next morning! Twice in one lap you get all four wheels off the track over some crazy drops and hills. I was more relieved than anything else later in the day to claim pole position for the race the following day, even though it



was only by a thousandth of a second!

The next morning I was desperate to repay the team by getting them their first win of the year. I was still asleep when we lined up of the grid at 8:00am but it was all looking good, until half distance when I made a wee mistake, and ended up running wide and finished 3rd. I was gutted but the team were delighted, and invited me out to do the final two races of the year.

Two weeks later I did the Danish Formula Ford Festival at Padborough Park. I must have broken a few mirrors or walked under a few ladders because I have never had so much bad luck in one day! Practice looked good with 3rd fastest time then it all went down hill from there. Broke a push rod on a curb in my heat, taken out by a local nutter on the first lap of

my semi, and then broke the same push rod in the final after I managed to get up to 5th from the back, disaster!

At the final round the following weekend I was desperate to put it right, despite the Danish weather's best efforts to make me feel at home, with three days of solid rain, we managed to score another podium in the final race. I even managed to accidentally decide the outcome of the Danish championship on the last lap of the last race, Oops!

Thanks to everyone for their supportive texts and phone calls, Knockhill for letting me take time off on three busy weekends, and obviously everyone at Fukamuni racing for the experience!

**Joe Tanner**

## SMRC Marshals at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2009

Back at the beginning of the year a few fortunate marshals received a letter out of the blue from The British Automobile Racing Club (BARC) asking us if we wished to be considered to marshal at the inaugural Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in November.

We duly and excitedly completed our applications and posted them back to BARC with baited breath and fingers crossed. The few months that passed seemed to go on for ever as we waited to hear if we had been successful or not. Eventually the letters arrived, was it good news or the dreaded "dear John" letter, eagerly we ripped open the envelopes to the news we had been successful, we were going!

So, gathered at the airport on a wet and windy Wednesday morning, we were greeted to an Etihad Airways Airbus A340 decked out in the official F1 colours, nice touch. After a 7 hour flight we touched down at 2am to temperatures of 28deg C and a short ride to our accommodation.

On the accommodation front let's just say that all that was missing were guard towers, dogs patrolling the perimeter, and the residents whistling the theme from the Great Escape! No but really it was ok it was just like youth hostelling for marshals. The weekend consisted of the usual Grand Prix content, standing about for ages then a test session, then standing about again etc etc.

The first thing that greets you on arrival to the Yas Marina circuit is the sheer scale and opulence of the venue, nothing has been left out or forgotten. The rows and rows of luxury yachts, the grandstands, the actual circuit itself and of course the Yas Hotel.

All the SMRC marshals and Post Chiefs present were allocated posts around the circuit, none of which could be classed as boring. My particular post had me



observing next to a waist high Armco barrier and only three meters' from the F1 cars doing close to 180mph in sixth gear, that certainly opens your eyes and makes you pay attention. Our support races consisted of GP2, the Porsche Supercup and the local UAE Chevy V8's all pretty good in their own way.

The Saturday of the GP weekend let us know what we were in for. By 11am the temperature had hit 35deg C and by 2pm the recorded temperature on my post was 42deg C, not good when you're decked out in Proban overall's and fire proof tabard. After much consumption of water and food the evening fell and GP qualifying started. Watching these cars running at sunset, and then into the night was truly fabulous. The lights from the grandstands and lighting columns around the track lit up the cars like Scalextric cars, all shiny and sparkling.

A few of the guys decided to attend the free Kings of Leon concert after qualifying on the Saturday, one of many concerts provided by the circuit free of charge, the Thursday being Beyonce, Friday Jameraqui and on

the Sunday night, Aerosmith!

So to race day and to our surprise the venue was sold out, almost every seat you could see had been taken, and the yachts in the marina had dozens and dozens of glamorous girls all over the place (not that I was looking, I was concentrating on the track of course). The race itself was pretty much a procession but being so close to the cars made it that little bit more special. As soon as the flag fell the Yas Hotel with its canopy of LED lights displayed the black and white checked flag all over its roof, and every person was cheering, and the yachts all blasted their fog horns, which turned out to be a bit of a battle to see who had the biggest boat and biggest horn, if you pardon the expression. Jenson Button of course had to celebrate. Heading down the main straight, one particular Scottish Post Chief stood on the run off area gesticulating to Mr. Button a hand signal resembling a circle, and Jenson obliged, stopping right in front of previously mentioned Post Chief and proceeded to do doughnuts in front of the post and grandstand. I just hope he never reported him for doing it!

After leaving the circuit as quickly as we could to avoid the masses, we headed back to our camp to collect our cases and belongings, and duly headed off to the airport, our Abu Dhabi GP adventure over and back home to the reality of British weather and normal life. In conclusion I have to admit that everyone who was lucky enough to be asked to participate in this event had a superb time, and represented the SMRC, Scottish marshalling and themselves to the highest level and with utmost professionalism.

I for one feel proud to have been part of it.

**Stuart Spencer**  
SMRC Examining Post Chief

**Dear Marshals**

On behalf of Napoleon (my car) and myself, I write to thank you for being presented with the new award of "Driver of the Year" which I gather is voted for by all the marshals.

This was totally unexpected and I am very flattered and proud to have been considered worthy of it. I can tell you that it means far more to me than any of the "results" trophies I have managed to acquire over the years.

Although I have not ever spent time marshalling, and even though I know that you all love what you do, I really appreciate your dedication in being out there all day in a variety of (and sometimes atrocious) weather conditions so that we, the drivers, can enjoy half an hour of adrenaline 'fix'.

Thank you all so much.

**Gerard McCosh**

**Hi Kevin**

This being my first season in racing, I was not sure of the procedures or how I would fit, but I must say everyone was so friendly and helpful.

Chris Edwards was always just a phone call away and very understanding.

Thanks to everyone involved with the S.M.R.C. especially the marshals for all their support and help, to Andrew Gallagher who performed an engine transplant at short notice to get me out there racing, and not forgetting all other competitors for making the season such a pleasure to take part in.

Thanks everyone!!!

**James McEleny**  
Subaru Impreza No.12

**Subject: A Canadian Visit to Knockhill**

We attended your event at Knockhill on 26th September and wish express our thanks for how we were treated by your officials. We are both members of the British Automobile Racing Club-Ontario Centre, and are very involved as Club officials at our races at Mosport Park, and also the Indycar Race in Toronto.

We approached your Grid Marshal and asked if we

might talk to some of the people in Control. He was most friendly and insisted that we do so since it was lunch break. We introduced ourselves to the Clerks and spent a most enjoyable and interesting discussion on the differences and similarities of running races in Scotland and Canada. Mike, sorry we do not remember his surname, also took us for a couple of laps of the circuit.

When racing resumed there was an immediate and lengthy red flag incident, and unfortunately we were unable to express our thanks to the people we talked to.

We would appreciate it if you would pass on our thanks, particularly to Mike (How) for taking the time to talk with us.

If any of your club members visit the Toronto area we would be delighted to return the hospitality given us.

**Mary Lobban**  
Past President BARC-OC  
Executive Steward CASC-OR  
Clerk of the Course  
Steward

## NEWS NEWSNEWS

**Championship Changes in 2010**

Check the new regulations when they are on the web site (late January), download your 2010 entry forms as well.

**Formula Ford**

New Classic Cup competition for cars made before 1990.

**Fiestas**

XR2s we say thank you and farewell to loyal sponsors Kumho Tyres (a new tyre may be announced soon, but its introduction would be phased in during the season) while STs will still race with XR2s starting behind them.

**Classics**

A new four engine class structure for the championship. All cars to have an MOT. New Saloon Car Cup included in the regulations. Check out their web pages on the club site.

**Legends**

Safety car to be used when necessary and the first 2 laps behind it do not count as race laps. Raceivers probably to be introduced, details will be sent to drivers once finalised. Penalty points system amended.

**Mini Coopers**

Safety car will be used as per Legends. Some technical changes.

**Saloons and Sportscars**

Body work regulations tightened up and all cars must continue to have working lights. Class structure reduced to 4 classes.

**Technical Racing Solutions**

Newly based at Knockhill, working on FF and other race cars. Services include: Welding and Fabrication; parts manufacture and re-manufacture; chassis set-up and repair; complete race team services.

Contact Cameron Doyle on 07775 791124 or email: cameronfabrication@hotmail.com

**Oly voted Number One**

For the second time in three years, Edinburgh-based Oly Mortimer has been voted Number One Club Saloon driver by Motorsport News. He won the National Mini Cooper S title again and is looking for drives in 2010.

## New for 2010 Ginetta Teen Cup

*An exciting new initiative for 16 to 19 year old drivers*

We are delighted to announce the creation of a fantastic new racing series for 16-19 year olds in Scotland - The Scottish Ginetta Teen Cup 2010. The series uses Ginetta G20 sportscars all powered by the same

Ford engine. A 10 race series is planned in 2010. There is an excellent promotional brochure which will be sent to all racing members, and further copies are available from Russell Paterson. The G20 was first introduced onto the UK racing scene in 2003 and has provided the natural progression route for teenagers to progress from karting. Our aim is to create a series, where all the cars are identical, to provide close, thrilling racing between evenly matched drivers. Backed by the full resource of Russell Paterson Motorsport, Knockhill and The Scottish Motor Racing Club. We are confident that this initiative, aimed at 16-19 year olds in Scotland, will be hugely successful. An all-inclusive package including a race car, race entries, race suit, testing, club membership etc is offered in the brochure.

**The Ginetta Calendar**

All double headers at Knockhill:  
27th June, Classic Speedfair Meeting  
25th July, 21st August, 19th September,  
17th October

All races at SMRC Championship Meetings

E-mail: russell@rpm-ginetta.co.uk log onto www.rpm-ginetta.co.uk



# Kevin's Comments...

We had a good diner and awards ceremony, with drivers dressed in DJs and ladies in evening or cocktail dresses. The Sheraton Hotel had over 300 members and guests, and the stars once again attended and entertained us. Our thanks to committee member Mike How for his continuing efforts in organising this gala night.

The new Season Calendar is coming together, the provisional dates are in this issue and on the club web site. They don't just happen and my thanks to the clubs I have negotiated with, and particularly BRSCC for giving several options at their meetings for away rounds. It's a slow job working on regulations with several updates required on each set. Please make sure you download them as soon as they are on the club web site (probably late January) Note updates are highlighted in bold type. Your new entry forms will be there as well.

My sincere thanks to Clerk of the Course Ken MacRae, who proof reads my efforts and adds MSA cross reference updates.

Other club administration work continues eg race meeting permits, please note some meetings will be over two days in 2010 including most away rounds.

We have another Saturday meeting in August at Knockhill after its success in 2009, where over 110 cars entered.

The Club has held entry fees at 2009 levels, but membership fees have a small increase, the first in several years, but we are still one of cheapest clubs to join in UK, and in most of our classes we do not charge registration fee. We also give you good value for money, and try to ensure every meeting has double headers for all, and this will be again the format for all meetings bar Speedfair.

Have a good years racing and enjoy reading your club magazine, which may be e-mailed in future, so please ensure you give your latest e-mail address is on the membership renewal forms. If it changes tell Chris Edwards (c.edwards@smrc-uk.com) or you will miss out on race reports, news and views.

Remember to use your SMRC Sponsorship brochure which was mailed to all racing members, and copies also given away at the Dinner. It could help you with valuable funds for racing this season.

Kevin Pick

## DAVE SLEEMAN - OBITUARY

On the 20th of November the Scottish Motor Racing Club lost one of its key Senior Officials when MSA & Club Steward Dave Sleeman passed away after a very short fight with a virulent form of cancer. Dave's very gentlemanly nature and attitude to life meant few were aware of the very difficult situation he found himself in. Although he advised me earlier of his condition, the speed with which his health faded meant we were all taken by surprise when his family advised us of the sad news that he had suddenly passed away.

Dave had been a relatively recent addition to our team having spent much of his life south of the border, where he was well known as a Clerk of the Course. His move to Blairgowrie as he followed his family north at the beginning of the Millennium, gave our club an opportunity to make use of his knowledge, and exposure within our sport. His addition to our team proved to be a great asset to the club. He was always happy to take on the role of SMRC Club Steward and his relaxed and knowledgeable oversight stood the officials, and many drivers in good stead when they were asked to explain the background to situations that were being reviewed. As an extremely fair and competent man, Dave would always give time and support to all he dealt with and I know of many drivers who have knowingly, and probably unknowingly, personally benefited from his input in to our race meetings - as I believe we all did.

Even when not involved at a meeting Dave and his wife Aileen were to be found wandering in the paddock at Knockhill, and such was the esteem that he was held in by the BARC that he was regularly chosen by them to be an official at their annual jaunt north to run the BTCC weekend.

Dave was buried at Blairgowrie cemetery on the 26th November where I am pleased to confirm the SMRC was represented. Dave's name will be added to the SMRC's deceased marshals and official's plaque on the Knockhill pit wall.

The club has lost a good friend.

**Nick Clarke**

SMRC Senior Clerk of the Course.

## 2010 SMRC Season

### ALL CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES - KNOCKHILL:

- April 18th
- May 8/9 ( GT meeting)
- July 25th
- August 21st (Saturday)
- September 19th
- October 17th

### SPEEDFAIR:

Knockhill - June 26/27

- CLASSICS, FF RACES and FF FESTIVAL
- MINI COOPERS TWO DRIVER RACE
- FERRARIS, MGs and FORMULA JUNIOR
- GINETTA TEEN CUP STARTS

### 2010 AWAY ROUNDS - (all double headers)

- MINI COOPERS

Oulton Park, July 31st (BRSCC)

Croft, September 25/26 (DDMC)

- SALOONS AND SPORTSCARS (with NSCC classes )

Croft, September 25/26 (DDMC)

- CLASSIC SPORTS AND SALOONS

Cadwell Park, June 5/6 (BRSCC)

- FIESTAS (XR2 & ST)

Cadwell Park, June 5/6 (BRSCC)

- LEGENDS

Anglesey, June 26/27 (BRSCC)

NB: All of these dates are provisional

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR SMRC MEMBERS 10% OFF GP RACEWEAR



To take advantage of this excellent offer you must order via the telephone order line on 01327 855585.

You can also request a new GP Racewear catalogue. Check out the latest items online at [www.gprdirect.com](http://www.gprdirect.com)

Remember, to get your 10% discount you must quote your SMRC membership number when ordering

## COMPETITION



To usher out the old year and see in the new, who is driving this car at Knockhill in 1999, what is it and what car did he race in 2009? Bonus point - who's behind him? Entries to your editor on [k.pick@smrc-uk.com](mailto:k.pick@smrc-uk.com) or ansaphone 0131 332 8287 closing date January 31st 2010.

## SMRC COMMITTEE

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