



Honorary Secretary Report 2022

Navigation Classes

We got the year off to a good start on the 2nd March with a one night only navigation classes in the Swifts Football Club, with over 20 students in attendance and set us up well for the upcoming Snowdrop Rally. At this point it is only right that I thank David, Colin and John for running these classes so successfully each year. All been well we will have another good turn out this year when the new seasons classes start in February.

Snowdrop Rally – Friday 11th March – Sponsored by Moore & Faloon

The first event of our club year was to be the Snowdrop Navigation Rally on Friday 11th March. COC for the event was Hayes Robinson, this event was a massive success with an entry of 23 made up of mainly beginners and novices, we had put on a 45 mile route for the crews and gave the beginners most of the route to pre plot at Tullaniskan Church of Ireland, as well as a marked map.

Overall winners of the event were Martin McKernan and Ashley Boulton on 8 penalties in their Mazda Mx5.

Class 2 was won by John & Jonathan Henderson from Leslie and Gareth Hawe.

Class 3 was won by father and son pairing of Mark and Kyle Thompson, from Sean Devlin and David Johnston second and brothers Alastair and Jamie Kerr in third.

We had 12 crews out from this year's navigation class (Class 4) and at the finish it was the pairing of Johnny Armstrong and Rachael McCullough in their Volkswagen Golf who took the honours on 12 penalties, from Mike and John Henderson in the BMW Mini on 14 penalties and coming home in third was Robert Haslett navigated by brother Peter on 15 penalties.

Springfling Targa Rally – Saturday 30th April – Sponsored by Europarts Motor Factors

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our ever popular Springfling Targa Rally made a welcome return to the motorsport calendar on Saturday 30th April. With Europarts Motor Factors and Home Hardware Stockists as the new sponsor, and three brand new tests which would test the crews skills, it would prove to be an interesting day's action for all involved. Now widely regarded as one of the best events of this type, the 2022 entry list comprised of forty crews including some visitors from South of the border. Our second event of the season seen Malcolm McQueen return as COC for the event with a very experienced team of organisers to work with.

With targa events struggling to fill entries, we were happy to have entry of 40 crews. After a week of dry and pleasant conditions, the weather took a turn for the worse in the early hours of Saturday morning with heavy downpours throughout the day. The rain didn't dampened the enthusiasm of the marshals who braved the elements to come out and help the club, or the competitors as they worked their way around three loops of tests, all of which were conducted on private properties. The Rally Headquarters was the

Cohannon Inn at Tamnamore, and at exactly one minute past ten, the father and son pairing of Trevor and Adam Ferguson pulled away from the start to tackle the first loop of six tests.

Overall winners of the event this year were former DMC Chairman Eric Patterson at the wheel, with his brother-in-law Raymond Donaldson keeping him right from the passenger seat of their Mazda MX-5, finishing just ahead of Philip and Kim Hunter in their Toyota MR2.

Brendan Mooney and Pdraig McAtamaneý won the Expert FWD class in their Vauxhall Nova, from Eamon and Zoe Byrne in a Toyota Yaris, with DMC's Darrell and Jordan Burns third in their Ford Fiesta.

Robert Robinson and Jonny McCarthy brought their Mazda MX-5 home in first place in the Expert RWD class, ahead of Trevor and Adam Ferguson in another MX-5, with Dermot Carnegie and Mark Fitzsimon third in their Ford Escort.

In the Semi-Expert competition Kevin Daly and Alan Williamson won the FWD class in their Hyundai Accent ahead of Robert and Peter Haslett in a Toyota Yaris.

While the Semi-Expert RWD class, Philip and Kim Hunter came out on top, ahead of Adam and Mark Brogan

In the Novice FWD Sean and Daire Cleary were the class winners in their Ford Puma, from Brendan Mullan and Jeff Scott in a Honda Civic.

The Novice RWD class was won by Jonathan Watson and Andrew Emmerson in their Mazda MX-5, ahead of Alastair and Jonathan Hayes in another MX-5.

Our thanks go to all the competitors for their entries, to the Cohannon Inn for their hospitality, to the landowners for the use of their premises and to all the marshals and timekeepers without whom we would be unable to run this event.

Championship Autotest – Saturday 6th August – Sponsored by JRS Jewellery Repair Services

We hosted the eight round of the 2022 Northern Ireland Autotest Championship, sponsored by McMillan Specialist Cars of Antrim, took place on Saturday 17th July at Transport Training Services, Nutts Corner. With Malcolm McQueen as the Clerk of the Course and sponsored by Jewellery Repairs Services, Cookstown, the competition was as hot as the temperatures, but as at the previous four rounds it was Stewartstown's Steven Ferguson who took the win comfortably from James Wilson.

Steven set the benchmark for the other Championship competitors, setting fastest time on eleven of the twelve tests on Saturday, conceding the only one due to an uncharacteristic penalty for the reigning champion. Mark King and David Thompson battled it out for third and fourth, the advantage going to King by just 0.4 seconds.

With Ferguson taking the Overall win, and this let Wilson collect the Class A award and second place overall. It was a father/son battle for the second and third places in class between Chris Grimes Senior and Junior. Junior would take the runner up spot in class finishing 6.5 seconds ahead of his father.

Andrew Blair took the Class B win finishing 4 seconds ahead of Trevor Ferguson in his Stryker Salvia, with Paul Blair in third after a troublesome day for the Ballyclare man.

Robin Lyons continued his return to the championship with a Class C win despite a mechanical failure on the third run of the first test costing him twenty seconds. Brothers Andrew and Richard Earney would finish

second and third respectively in class despite their mini saloon running a little hot all day and needing topped up with water after each test.

Mark King took his first Class D win of the season with a flawless drive, finishing just 0.4 seconds ahead of David Thompson who suffered a mechanical failure on the final run of test two. Ardboe's Damien Mooney took the third spot in class, with Dungannon's Gary Campbell finishing fourth in class and as the top Semi-Expert.

In the Clubman category classes, Adam McMullan in his Toyota Starlet Special continued his dominance by taking the Class A win alongside the overall Clubman Challenges category win, with Ian McCann in his Vauxhall Nova taking the runner up spot in both class and category. Gordon Buckley took the Class B win in his Westfield. Ben McKee in his Nissan Micra would take the Class C win, ahead of Taylor Gribbon. Clubman Class D was again made up of all Mazda MX5's and it was Ian Lowry who took the class win from Lawrence Baird second in class, with Ryan Catterson settling for third.

There was again a small but highly experienced and competitive turnout in the Advanced Challenge category. Jack Gillis took the Advanced Class A honours in his Vauxhall Nova and finish second overall in the Advanced Challenge category. Noel Cochrane in his home-built sport car would take the Advanced Class B honours. Robert Dickson in his Mini Saloon would take the overall Advanced Challenge win alongside the Class C honours, with Robert Robinson in his Toyota Yaris finishing second in class. Gareth Dillon in his Mazda MX5 would take the Advanced Class D win.

In the Production Car Class Adam Ferguson would take the class win, with Andrew Molyneux Senior and Junior taking second and third respectively.

Autosolo – Wednesday 17th September

Wednesday 17th September seen the club run their third invitational Autosolo at Hayes Fuels yard. Clerk of the Course for the event was Mark King, and with twenty invited competitors including many club members turn out for a fun event, which seen everyone enjoy themselves and not take things too seriously.

The overall winner was Jordan Burns in his Ford Fiesta, with Norman Ferguson in second in his Mini, as well as taking the Class 1 win with Trevor Ferguson in third in his Mazda Mx5, alongside the Class 3 win.

With Jordan taking the overall win, this elevated Robert Robinson to first in Class 2 with Darrell Burns taking second.

Class 3 was a battle of the rear wheel drives, with Trevor Ferguson taking the class win, with Philip Hunter in second and Mark Ferguson in third.

Thanks should go to Malcolm McQueen and Harry Barr for all the preparations they carried out in the run up to this event, before passing the baton over to Mark so that they could both compete on the day. Thanks, should also go to Alastair Hayes of Hayes Fuels for the use of their premises and help in preparation for the event, it is greatly appreciated by all at Dungannon Motor Club.

Moonraker Rally – Friday 23rd September – Sponsored by Hobson Electronics

Was unable to take place due to lack of entries.

Autotests

Club committee members Mark King and Gary Campbell contested the ANICC Championship this year, with Gary having progressed up from the Clubman Challenge to competed within the main Championship during the previous season. In his second season in Championship Gary continued to show his great potential for the future and finished out the season as 1st in the Semi-Expert Championship winning the Patterson Cup and 3rd in Class D and 10th overall, which is a great achievement for someone who only started autotesting in 2017. Mark finished out the season as the Class D runner-up and 3rd overall was another fine finish for the Nova driver. Both Gary and Mark travelled to the Ken Wharton Memorial Autotest in Worcester to represent Northern Ireland. With the NI 'A' Team consisting of Robin Lyons, Steven Ferguson, Andrew Blair and Mark taking the overall win, as well as taking the NI total wins at the event to thirty-nine, with this win being their ninth in a row.

The NI B Team, though somewhat more inexperienced at the event than most others, put on a sensational performance to finish fourth team overall behind runners up England A and third placed Republic of Ireland. Andrew Earney put a challenging season in the NI championship behind him to finish sixth in Class A, whilst Dungannon's Gary Campbell in his Vauxhall Nova, having only taken up the sport a mere five years ago showed great promise for the future, as he finished fifth in Class B whilst helping his team mates to their fourth spot overall. The veteran of the team, Coagh's Trevor Ferguson, also took fifth in Class C, and James Wilson showed fantastic pace in his Mini Special to finish third in Class A, behind Ferguson the NI Champion and British Champion Alastair Moffett.

Mark King also attended the FIA Motorsport Games which were held at the end of October in Marseille, France. At the Games, he represented Team UK in the Auto Slalom category alongside his team mate Laura Christmas. The pairing competed over 3 days and finished a credible 7th overall, with the UK team placed 5th overall out of 72 countries.

2023 will see the Clubman & Advanced Challenge, as well as a Production Class continue to be run alongside the championship and I would encourage all members to consider giving it a go or helping in any way they can with these events.

Sprints

Ken Colbert was the Class 6b winner in the S W Adair Tyres Sprint Championship, with son Stephen finishing second in the same class.

Summary

2022 was yet another busy year for the club with navigation classes getting us off to an early start and paving the way for the Snowdrop Navigation Rally.

Once again, the Springfling Targa Rally was the big success of the year with a well-run event and challenging tests adding to the experience for the competitors. It is also good to see a few of the navigation crews out sampling this format as well. These grass root clubman events are what I believe the club is all about and if we can introduce new crews every year and give them a range of events to compete in then we are doing our job as ambassadors to the sport.

The Championship Autotest was again a great success and is always popular with championship contenders and this season will hopefully see the autotests continue to grow in popularity thanks to the Challenge classes, as they have during the previous few seasons.

Our Autosolo proved popular, and everyone enjoyed a relaxed, fun night, hopefully we can replicate this in the upcoming year. It was unfortunate that the Moonraker Navigation Rally was unable to run, but we remain hopeful that it will take place in 2023.

Another great asset to the Club is the reports on Club events and local motorsport news which appears in the local press, and our thanks go to the Tyrone Courier for their continued support and to the photographers who kindly provide us with pictures to go alongside the reports. The Club Website and Facebook are also beneficial media outlets that help to raise the awareness and profile of the Club, local competitors and events.

Once again, we are grateful to our sponsors, Moore & Faloon, Europarts Motor Factors and JRS Jewellery Repair Services for their generous support during 2022 and we look forward to working with them again in the future. Also, our thanks go to those landowners who provide us with test sites for our events, without which we could not make the events happen. The club owes a massive debt of gratitude to all the marshals and timekeepers who travel from all over the country in all sorts of weather conditions to help us out at our events. Without their dedication and professionalism, the events would not run like clockwork, as they currently do. But my biggest vote of thanks goes to all our club members who organise the events, help in the background, and recruit the marshals. Also, thanks go to those people that do the PR work, especially for the navigation events, it certainly is a task that hasn't got any easier over the years with the amount of building work that has gone on around our little country roads, but is a job that is crucial to the success of our events.

So, a massive congratulations to all involved in making our events a success. We always take pride in our events and try to make them as enjoyable as possible for the competitors, and judging by the feedback we get and how keen competitors are to take part in our events, it is safe to say we are achieving this.

Again, many thanks to everyone for all they do for the club and let's make 2023 another brilliant year for Dungannon Motor Club.

Grace King (Secretary)

Date:

David White (Chairman)

Date: