

HISTORICS

"It's been in a garage for nine years"

Rally driver returns, below



DOWN THE PUB WITH

GUY ANDERSON

Age: 44 Lives: Harefield, Middlesex
The former rising young star is now having a second career in historic rallying.

He started rallying as soon as he could:

"I was 17-years-old for my first year driving a Skoda and I did the RAC Rally at 17. At the time I was the youngest driver to do the RAC and that's only been beaten recently by Tom Cave. That was a record I held for more than 20 years. I got involved through my father Pat. As a 14-year-old I was going to events like the Circuit of Ireland. Once you're into it, you can't get out of it."

He did one-make series:

"We did Skodas and then I dabbled with a Sunbeam Ti and then decided to go the one-make route and went into the Lada Challenge in 1989 and won that with a Samara. We were second in the Skoda Challenge in 1990 and then the Peugeot Challenge, which was my big push. You had people like Richard Burns, David Higgins, Julian Reynolds, Justin Dale all there cutting their teeth. I absolutely loved it."

He went the 4WD route:

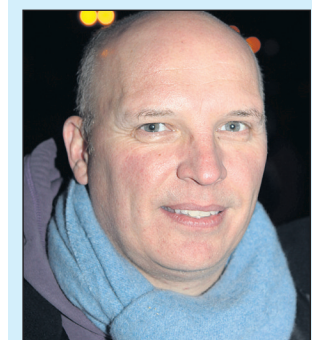
"Then I ended up driving for Proton in 1999 in the British Rally Championship. In 2000 I joined ADR Motorsport with the Lancer E6 and we helped put them on the map. They later became JRM Motorsport. Then came the usual things; buying houses and getting married so we took a sabbatical."

He ran a Mitsubishi Galant:

"I came across a Galant which was too good not to buy and we restored it so that I could do numerous odd events. I had a little bit of success in it and thoroughly enjoyed it. Then I sat down with the old man and decided we might as well run two Sunbeams and so we built a Lotus for me."

The car made its debut in Flanders last year:

"That was a great success and we've found 20bhp since Flanders. That was a great result and pay back for the whole team because the car had been a long time coming. I'd love to do the whole British Historic Championship but if I don't do it this year, I'll do it next year."



Anderson drives Sunbeam

Photos: Paul Lawrence



Pearcey and Shanks: BHRC favourites

Pearcey will skip sunny Wales for rally in Barbados

BARBADOS RUN FOR MK2 ACE PEARCEY

British Historic title contender to get free outing on island rally

By Paul Lawrence

British Historic Rally Championship contenders Tim Pearcey and Neil Shanks will have the rallying trip of a lifetime in June when they compete on the Sol Rally Barbados.

The trip is a prize for finishing second on the Roger Albert Clark Rally last November. Event

winner Gwyndaf Evans was unable to attend the rally, so the prize, valued at more than £5000, was handed to Pearcey and Shanks. The prize includes free entry and shipping for their Ford Escort Mk2 rally car; return flights and accommodation for 14 nights for driver and co-driver.

"I'm chuffed to bits that we have been able to arrange it," said Harrogate-based Pearcey. "I

can't wait; it will be a holiday as much as anything and I've never been to Barbados before. It's a fabulous prize."

Pearcey's Escort will be away for around two months but he hopes that he will only miss the Severn Valley Stages round of the BHRC, which runs on the same June 9/10 weekend.

After the Barbados trip, Pearcey plans to contest the

Ulster Rally in August and finish his season with a second assault on the Roger Albert Clark Rally. "I'm really grateful to Colin Heppenstall at the R.A.C for helping to make this trip possible," said Pearcey.

The prize was offered to the winners of the R.A.C. by the Barbados Rally Club and the island's Tourism Development Corporation.

From California to Harrogate... in a Cortina

Californian-based British driver Richard Martin will enter Tour Britannia for the third time this year, and has acquired a Lotus Cortina Mk1 for the classic race and rally tour on June 7-9.

Martin, who raced in Formula Ford 2000 30 years ago and ran Eddie Irvine in the FF2000 Winter Series in 1986, has spent

three decades in the US where he is a distributor for AP Racing. Martin was also involved with the Talon FF2000 chassis.

"I just like the format of the event, with the combination of racing and touring," he said of the Harrogate-based event. "It's a chance to see the UK again and tackle some special stages."



Brit Richard Martin is a regular competitor on Tour Britannia

Watts adds Formula B-spec Brabham BT28

Historic single-seater racer and preparer Matthew Watts has added a Brabham BT28 to his stable and hopes to give it a debut run in the Classic Racing Cars event at Donington on March 17.

Originally sold to Sweden when new with a one-litre F3 engine, the 1970 car recently came back to the UK as a rolling chassis.

Watts has restored the car at his family's Retro Track and Air operation and will race it in Formula B-spec with a 1600cc twin-cam engine. Watts will also race his ex-Norman Dickson March 772 in Historic F2 races this season.

Rally of the Tests to make first visit to Epynt

The Rally of the Tests will run onto the Epynt Ranges for the first time this November in a route that starts in Torquay and finishes in Chester.

The Classic Rally Association event, which didn't run last year, is styled on the RAC Rallies of the 1950s. It will start in Torquay on November 8 with night halts at Bristol and Llandrindod Wells before finishing in Chester on Sunday November 11.

Regular competitor Guy Woodcock will take over as clerk of the course of the Rally of the Tests.

"The Rally of the Tests has never been to Mid-Wales before and we've gone for some of the classic Welsh mountain roads," said Woodcock, who will also take route onto Epynt during Saturday afternoon.

The 2012 event will mark the 80th anniversary of the first RAC Rally, which ran in 1932 and finished in Torquay.

Australian reunited with TVR he first built

Forty-eight years after he built the car in Australia, Les Merrick will be re-united with a TVR Grantura for the Le Mans Classic in July.

The first TVR exported to Australia was shown at the Sydney motor show in 1964. It is now owned and raced by Colin and Helen Elstrop and a fluke connection put them in touch with Merrick, 70. He built the car into a racer.

"We'll be getting Les and the car together for the first time in 30 years," said Elstrop. "The car has a race history since 1964 and has been described by scrutineers as the most original Grantura."

IN BRIEF

Henderson in Lola
Historic racer Gavin Henderson had a first outing in his ex-Shaun Lynn/David Piper Lola T70 Mk3B in general testing at Donington Park last week. He also ran his Lotus Cortina and both cars are due out in HSCC and Masters races with Henderson's son Rory and veteran Ted Williams sharing the driving.

E-type has first run

Father-and-son Steve and Will Hodges tested their newly rebuilt Jaguar E-type at Donington Park recently. "We are debuting the car in the Guards Trophy here and also plan to do some E-Type Challenge races," said Steve. They will also race a Chevron B8 and a Chevron B31 if the B31 is not sold in the meantime.

Solloway turns 55

Mark Solloway's Historic Rallysport operation has just completed its 55th fresh-build Ford Escort rally car. Car 55, another Mk2, was on show at Race Retro and was due to be shipped to Australia straight after the show. Solloway's crew now has four more fresh cars in-build.

Classic F3 interest

Interest in the 1600cc class of the Classic F3 Championship continues to grow and the series organisers are hoping for a record turn-out of cars for the race at the Cadwell Park Wolds Trophy meeting on April 21/22. The target is to have ten 1600cc F3 cars racing at the event. More than 30 such cars are known to exist in the UK.

Rare Ferrari to run

A 1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB that has never been raced will feature in the Pre-'63 GT race at the Donington Historic Festival (May 5/6). The early aluminium-bodied competition Ferrari had a short hillclimb career half a century ago but will now make its race debut in the hands of owner Rohan Fernando and former F1 racer Jackie Oliver.

Senna helmet sells

A crash helmet used by Ayrton Senna during the 1991 season sold for £74,750 at the recent Silverstone Auctions event at Race Retro. A race suit from the same season sold for £35,650, with both lots reaching higher than expected prices. The helmet had been purchased directly from Ron Dennis in period.

Scannell crashes

BHRC contender Jake Scannell was airlifted to hospital on Sunday as a precaution after rolling his Mazda RX7 on the Hafren stage of the Mid Wales Stages. Although Scannell got out of the car, he was in some pain with what was later thought to be a broken collarbone. Co-driver Adrian Stevens was uninjured in the crash.

Hughes returns

Twenty-two years after his last rally, David Ceiriog Hughes campaigned a Saab 96 V4 on the Mid Wales Stages with experienced co-driver Cliff Simmons alongside. "I bought the car nine years ago and it has been sitting in the garage," said Hughes. A trip to watch the Roger Albert Clark Rally finally convinced him to return to the sport.