

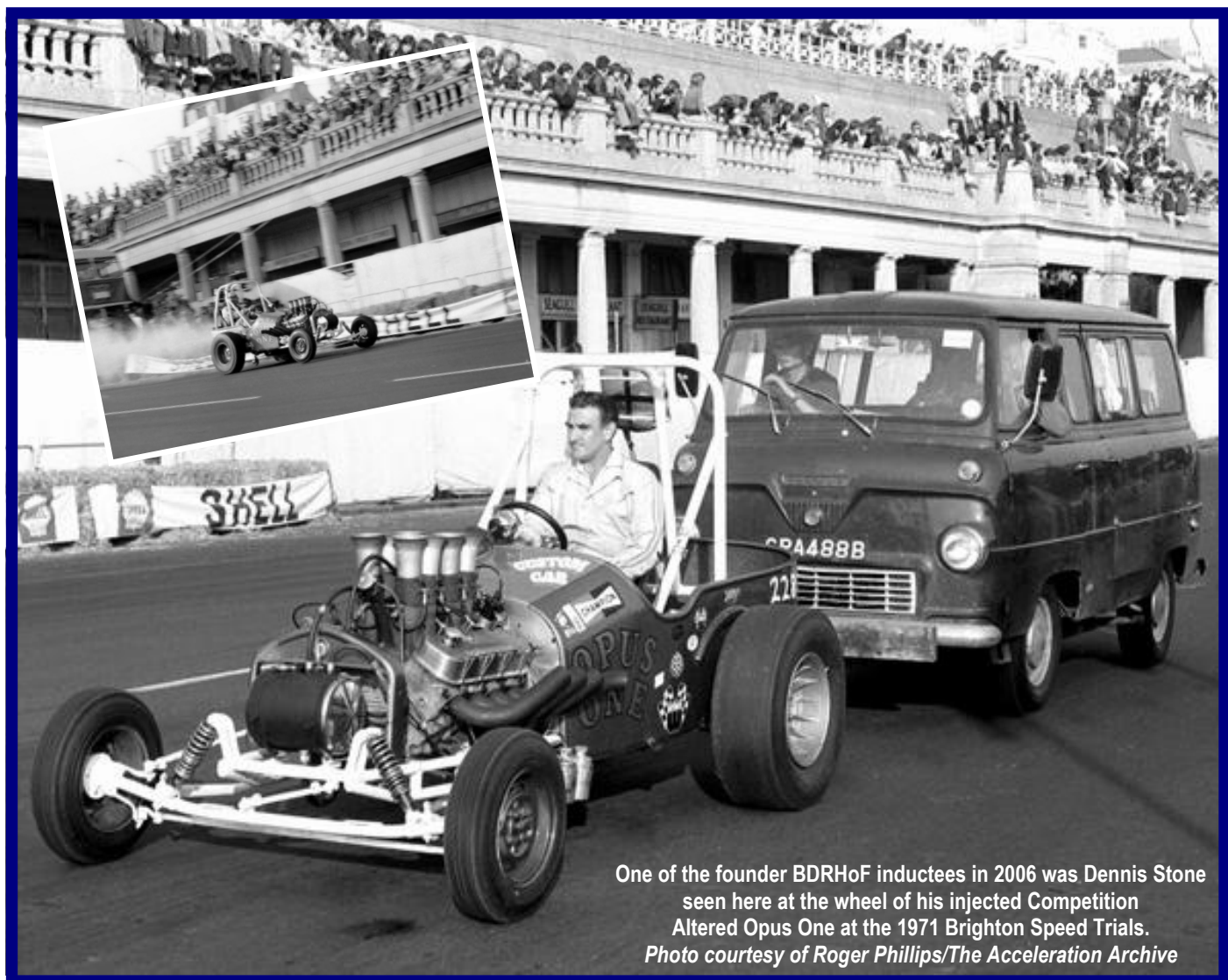
HOF TALK



The *British Drag Racing Hall of Fame* News Bulletin

Compiled and edited by Jeremy Cookson; additional words by Andy 'Tog' Rogers & Simon Groves

Pre-Gala Edition Issue 8 2019



One of the founder BDRHoF inductees in 2006 was Dennis Stone seen here at the wheel of his injected Competition Altered Opus One at the 1971 Brighton Speed Trials.
Photo courtesy of Roger Phillips/The Acceleration Archive



IN THIS ISSUE

All the Pre-Event build-up, news and gossip for the 13th annual British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Night - 23rd November 2019
Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey and much more

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Welcome From The Editors Chair

Welcome to the eighth issue of HoF Talk, the online newsletter for the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame. Thank you for all the positive feedback regarding the last issue. I hope this one turns out just as good! Well we're just a week away from this years Gala Presentation Evening and I, for one am looking forward to an evening away and relaxing with the stars and key people who have donated their time in creating this great sport of ours.



2019 has certainly been another memorable year for all the right reasons. Congratulations to the Queen of Speed Anita Mäkelä for her fourth FIA European Top Fuel title which in a few days time will be made doubly congratulatory with Anita's induction into the Hall of Fame as the Overseas Inductee.

As you can see flicking through the pages I have started to introduce further new items of interest. So my thanks to those who have contributed information and given permission for us to use photos for newer members and fans to enjoy. See you at the Gala.



Front Cover:

DENNIS STONE, one of the BDRHoF's original 2006 inductees, got hooked on Drag Racing after visiting the 1964 Dragfests at the insistence of his son Dave who had been reading *Hot Rod Magazine* and building model dragsters. Dennis was involved in circuit racing at the time but the sight and spectacle of the visiting American machines convinced him that drag racing was the way to go. After a short term racing a Jaguar E-Type at the early Santa Pod events our cover shows Dennis at the wheel of Opus One entertaining the fans at the 1971 Brighton Speed Trails with its wild and often showman style antics across the start line; a delight for the spectators if not for the Brighton & Hove Motor Club officials! Throughout the late 70's and into the 90's the Stones team successfully campaigned the 'Tender Trap' Ford Escort with BDRHoF member Dave Lee Travis in Top Modified, the nitro Funny Car 'Stardust' and 'Hemi Hunter' in Pro Comp travelling all round Europe and Scandinavia. Dennis also co-ordinated the Pro Comp and Top Methanol class and was founder member of the European Top Methanol Racers Association serving the class until his death in 2005.

Main photos courtesy of the Roger Phillips Collection/www.theaccelerationarchive.co.uk

Inset photo of Alan Herridge at the wheel of the DD Cadillac Dragster at a Graveley Airfield BDRA practice day courtesy of Martin Clark

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Thank you for your continued support.

beech underwriting agencies  **Santa Pod Raceway**

HOF TALK

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Simpson's BDRHoF Achievement Award

The BDRHoF has presented this years Mopar Performance Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Simpson, founder of Simpson Products and Impact! Racing.

The award was made in recognition of Simpson's pivotal role in raising safety standards and creating a safe environment throughout motorsport in general, and drag racing in particular. A former racing driver, Bill founded Simpson Performance Products and Impact! Racing. Safety innovations attributed to him include the modern fire suit, driver restraint systems and helmets, the drag racing parachute.

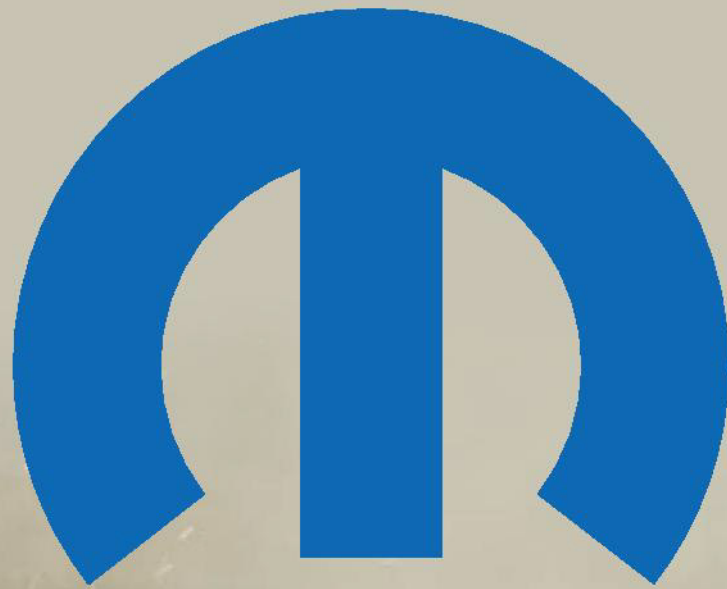
The award was created in 2014 to recognize a person, team, company, institution/organisation or any other body that, in the opinion of the judges, has increased the awareness and stature of drag racing on a global basis or contributed to the technical development of the sport that has resulted in advances on a worldwide basis. The recipients of the award were in 2014, Don Garlits, then in 2015, the Mopar brand itself received it for its work in developing the Chrysler HEMI engine. In 2016 the National Hot Rod Association was honoured and in 2017, Steve Gibbs, former NHRA vice president and founder of NHRA's Hot Rod Reunions received the award. In 2018, the SFI Foundation, a non-profit organization established to issue and administer standards for the quality assured of speciality performance and racing equipment, became the fifth recipient of the award.



This year, FCA US LLC's Mopar brand becomes the new title sponsor of this award. Mopar (a simple contradiction of the words MOtor and PARTs) is the service, parts and customer-care brand for FCA vehicles around the globe. Born in 1937 as the name of a line of anti-freeze products, the Mopar brand has evolved over more than eighty years to represent both complete care and authentic performance for owners and enthusiasts worldwide. Stuart Bradbury, Chairman of the BDRHoF, said, "We are delighted to welcome the Mopar brand as our new title sponsor of the Lifetime Achievement Award, after remaining close to us since winning the award in 2015. The winner of this year's award, Bill Simpson, has done more than any other parts supplier to innovate the products that help save racers' lives." Pietro Gorlier, Global Head of Parts & Service (MOPAR) said "We are proud to support an award that highlights the people or organisations that have helped develop the sport to the level it is today. The Mopar brand continues to be closely involved with drag racing in terms of vehicle development, technical support and competing in the National Hot Rod Association races. In the last year, more than 1.6 million spectators have attended the NHRA races in the US and over 80 million viewers have watched on TV showcasing its popularity."

Bill Simpson, member of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, said "I am deeply honoured to be the recipient of the Mopar Performance Lifetime Achievement Award. It's now fifty eight years since I first started experimenting using parachutes to stop cars from high speed, and over half a century since I first made a fire-resistant suit for drivers to wear. I didn't set out to make safety equipment, I just wanted to come up with something that would save lives. I was in the right place at the right time and I made a good quality product."

Attending this year's Gala and flying in from the USA is one-time Vice President of the National Hot Rod Association, Steve Gibbs, who has over fifty years' association with the sport, forty eight of those with the NHRA, will have the honour of presenting the Mopar Performance Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Simpson.



MOPAR®



Mopar Performance congratulates Bill Simpson on being presented with the 2019 Mopar Performance Lifetime Achievement Award by the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame honour Junior Champions

This year's UK Junior Dragster and Junior Drag Bike Champions will be celebrated at the BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner at the Oatlands Park Hotel on Saturday 23rd November. Santa Pod Racers Club, Atlantic Fluid Tech, Mopar Muscle Association, US Automotive, and the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame will sponsor two tables for the top three on four wheels and two, who will be guests along with their parents. It is an occasion they all look forward to and we must thank our sponsors for supporting the event and the Junior drag racing classes in this unique way.

Before the evening dinner they will be introduced to many of the drag racing legends at their own reception and later invited on to the stage to receive the applause of the audience attending the event. The Champions of Junior Dragster and Junior Drag Bike will each be presented with a cheque for £100 donated by the BDRHoF.



British Junior Club formed

In another fresh initiative towards Junior racing in the UK comes news of the formation of the British Junior Dragster Club. "The main reason for existing is to bring together what was normally just thirty-plus individual teams", writes Graham McDonald. "That's fine if that's your preferred way, but in gauging interest forming a Club we have had discussions with different Crew Chief's and teams in general about the possibility of group purchases of fuel and oil, setting up Club-owned race wear which could be loaned out to kids... The list goes on but in general we could do so much more as a group of like-minded racers, and the sky's the limit. We have yet to write a mission statement but I'm sure that it will include the prospect of bringing the British Junior Dragster Club to a worldwide audience, both in the media and by racing around the world as much as possible. I personally see the British club being just one part of a wider network which will start in England but which will encompass the surrounding countries to be part of one big Junior drag racing community: after all we are all about drag racing and we need to push the Junior racers more because, as everyone rightly says, they are our future," Graham added. Want to know more then check out the [British Junior Dragster Club](#) page on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Eurodragster.com



Jeff Bull Race Engines & Performance Parts join Gala sponsors

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame welcomes Jeff Bull Race Engines & Performance Parts as an additional sponsor of the tables for the top three Junior Dragster and Junior Drag Bike racers in the 2019 championships, who will be guests along with their parents. Jeff Bull Race Engines was created in 1990 when Jeff, who had been involved in UK Drag Racing as a competitor for almost 10 years, decided to take on building customer V8 engines. It has become a full time business in the last three years, and customers include drag racers, Brisca Formula 1 Stock Car teams and other forms of motorsport. Jeff's wife Belinda now races their Chevy S10 truck in Competition Eliminator within the UK National Championship. Jeff and Belinda said 'We are delighted to be able to support the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame and in particular our junior racers, who are the future of the sport'. Jeff Bull Race Engines joins Santa Pod Racers Club, Atlantic Fluid Tech, Mopar Muscle Association and US Automotive as sponsors of the Junior Drag Racing tables.

Photos courtesy of Eurodragster.com



BDRHoF Bench Race line-up

This years BDRHoF Gala is to be preceded by the popular Bench Racing session, starting at 12.30 pm lasting for 2 hours, and sponsored by US Automotive and Kelsey Media, publisher of Custom Car magazine. In the four previous years, a varied panel of US and European legends entertained a packed audience with their stories and views on the sport in the afternoon prior to the main Gala dinner and presentations in the evening.

The BDRHoF is delighted to announce that the Bench Racing session will again be held in the Terrace Room at the Oatlands Park Hotel and will mark the presentation of the Mopar Performance Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Simpson, who has done so much to improve safety in drag racing and other motorsports. Bill's companies have introduced many innovations in the sport to safeguard racers, officials and spectators.

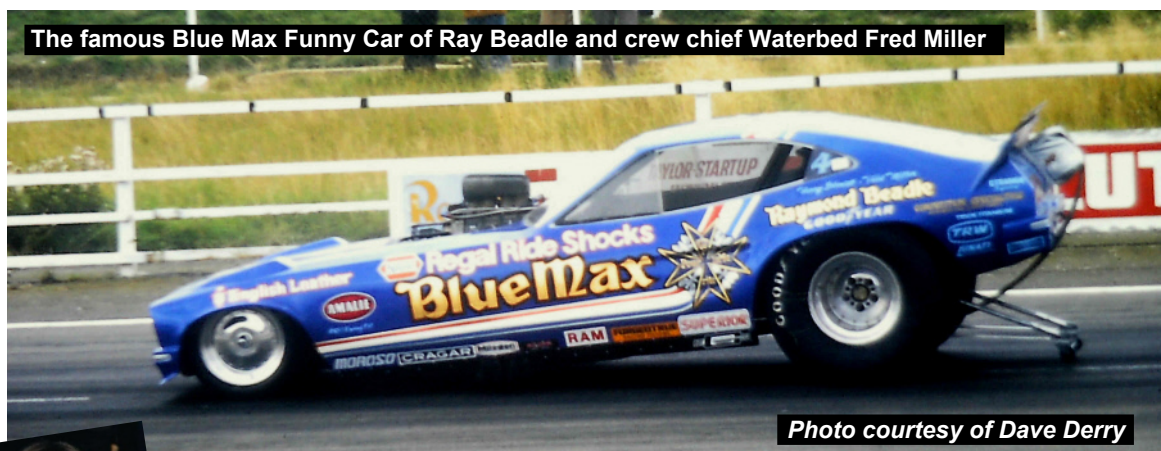
This years Bench Race will contain many hair-raising tales of the exploits of the members of the panel and include discussion on the safety in the sport. The bench race panel will be chaired by broadcaster, announcer and writer Bob Beck, who has been at the mic for a wide variety of motor sport disciplines, but is the best known for announcing from the US who have had a huge amount of drag racing experience over the last sixty years.



- **Steve Gibbs**, who as Vice President, Competition, with the NHRA organised the Safety Safari and over 400 NHRA National Events;
- **Doug Herbert**, four time IHRA Top Fuel Dragster champion and 10 time NHRA event winner;
- **Ron Hope**, owner and driver of the *Rat Trap* Fuel Altered which has raced around the world;
- **'Waterbed' Fred Miller**, one of the most respected tuners in drag racing who was a key member of Raymond Beadle's *Blue Max* Funny Car team;
- **Dan Richins**, who in 1973 was the eighth Top Fuel Dragster racer to join the prestigious Cragar Five Second Club; and
- **Bill Simpson**, founder of Simpson Performance Products and of Impact! Racing, who introduced many innovative products such as the modern fire suit, driver restraint systems and helmets, and the drag racing parachute.

BDRHoF Chairman Stuart Bradbury said *"Many thanks go to our main supporter Geoff Stilwell for putting together this years panel, which I am sure will include some tremendous stories and highlight the achievements made by Bill Simpson and other to progress Safety in the sport."*

Pre-booking is not necessary for the Bench Racing session, and attendance is not restricted to those coming to the Gala Awards Dinner.



The famous Blue Max Funny Car of Ray Beadle and crew chief Waterbed Fred Miller

Photo courtesy of Dave Derry



DID YOU KNOW!

Besides racing Funny Cars to three NHRA World Championships Texan Ray Beadle was also a successful NASCAR team owner, first with the late Tim Richmond as his driver, and then achieving the teams best success with a young Rusty Wallace. Beadle also found success with a World of Outlaws Sprint car team with the legendary Sammy Swindell. However we lost the talented Texan in 2014 aged 70.

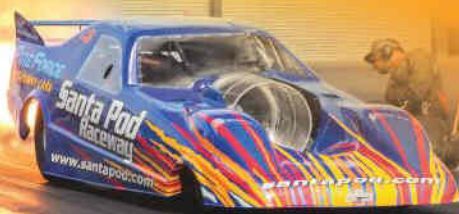
SANTA POD RACEWAY 2020 DRAG RACING DATES

FESTIVAL OF POWER

10-12 APRIL - www.SantaPod.com

An action-packed Easter weekend for the whole family featuring the famous annual Jet Car Shootout! See the awesome Nitro Funny Cars, 300mph Top Fuel Dragsters and the National Drag Racing Championships including 200mph Pro Mods. A full line-up of displays and attractions with Monster Trucks, stunts, sideshows, traders and more.

**FESTIVAL OF
POWER**

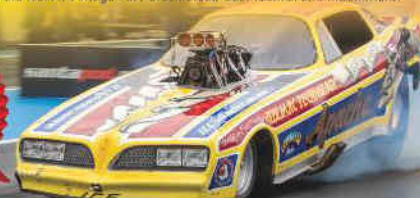


DRAGSTALGIA

10-12 JULY - www.Dragstalgia.co.uk

The 10th Anniversary! A vintage lifestyle weekend dedicated to race cars, bikes and hot rods from a bygone era. Enjoy Championship racing with the headlining Cannonball class for supercharged nitro and alcohol fuelled Altereds and Funny Cars, the Slingshot Showdown, period correct Gasser Circus, invited historic bikes and lots more. See vehicles from Santa Pod's illustrious history return to the strip. Plus live music*, Jet Car Show & Shine with the NSRA, Vintage Fair, Cracklefest, beer festival and much more.

Dragstalgia



SPRINGSPEED NATIONALS

2-3 MAY - www.SantaPod.com

National Drag Racing Championship event, with a huge variety of race cars and bikes that will keep the track action packed all day long.



NSRA NOSTALGIA NATIONALS

8-10 MAY - www.NostalgiaNationals.com

The 27th annual Nostalgia Nationals, supported by the NSRA. Pre-'73 RWYB for Hot Rods, Kustoms and Street Machines alongside traditional front-engine Dragsters, Competition Altereds and early Doorslammer race cars. Live entertainment, trade stands and 'power parking' show area.



THE DOORSLAMMERS

15-17 MAY - www.TheDoorslammers.co.uk

Huge cash pay-outs attracting the best Doorslammers in Europe. The quickest cars go head to head including the unlimited Pro Doorslammer class, True Street class, Big Bracket and FWD.



'THE MAIN EVENT'

22-25 MAY - www.SantaPod.com

The Spring Bank Holiday weekend presents Round 1 of the eagerly anticipated FIA/IRB European Drag Racing Championships. This hugely popular extravaganza features over 250 teams across 17 classes of cars and bikes. Witness ground-shaking, nitro-burning, 10,000-horsepower Top Fuel Dragsters accelerating from 0-100mph in less than 1 second, plus 200mph Drag Bikes, plus a full range of supporting classes. The Main Event is unrivalled for both the quality and quantity of racing. With the famous Jet Car, Monster Trucks and Live Action Arena shows, this is the ultimate adrenalin-inducing family day out with a difference.

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SUMMER NATIONALS

18-19 JULY - www.SantaPod.com

National Drag Racing Championships headlined by Motorsport UK 200mph Pro Mods, Drag Bikes, Nostalgia classes and the Jet Car.



GREEN LIGHT NATIONALS

22-23 AUGUST - www.SantaPod.com

National Drag Racing Championship event in the peak of the British Summer, with a huge variety of race cars and bikes that will keep the track action packed all day long.



'THE EUROPEAN FINALS'

10-13 SEPTEMBER - www.SantaPod.com

Santa Pod's most prestigious Drag Racing event features over 250 of Europe's finest teams. Witness the awesome power of 300mph Top Fuel Dragsters, 200mph Drag Bikes and over 20 supporting classes. See Europe's elite do battle on the quarter-mile in a bid to be crowned 2020 European Champion. A full schedule of family-style entertainment is lined up away from the track with the Live Action Arena show featuring Monster Truck and Stunt Displays. The Friday Nitro Session provides a rare opportunity to witness drag racing at dusk and header flames galore with a grand finale of Jet Cars and fireworks.

**THE
EURO
FINALS**



NSRA HOT ROD DRAGS

18-20 SEPTEMBER - www.SantaPod.com

Now celebrating the 32nd annual Original Hot Rod Drags, supported by the NSRA. It's a hot rod show at the race track! The usual, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' formula with Pre-'73 RWYB, invited race classes, fireworks, live music and much more. See you at the track.

**Hot Rod
DRAGS**

NATIONAL FINALS

26-27 SEPTEMBER - www.SantaPod.com

National Drag Racing Championship Finals headlined by the wild 200mph Pro Mod doorslammers! See over 20 supporting classes including ACU Championship Drag Bikes, Junior Dragsters and many more.



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IDRHoF announce 2020 inductees

If you're thinking of taking in next years Amalie Motor Oil NHRA Gatornationals (12th/15th March) at Gainesville raceway then why not take time out to support the 30th annual International Drag Racing Hall of Fame Ceremony taking place on Thursday March 12th at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Gainesville Florida. The next celebratory inductee's for 2020 include Gasser legend and NHRA Hall of Famer Robert "Bones" Balogh; retired Top Fuel and Funny Car crew chief Lee Beard; co-owner of the Adams & Enriquez injected dragster, Don Enriquez; former Pro Stock racer and drag racing school teacher Roy Hill; Texas racing legend and constructor of the world's first drag racing super track Billy Meyer and former Top Fuel and Funny Car team owner Larry Minor. Special awards to be presented include the 2020 Founders Award recipient to legendary photojournalist Don Prieto, and the 2020 Pat Garlits Memorial Award recipient Etta Glidden, wife and crew chief for the Ford Motorcraft Pro Stock cars of the late Bob Glidden.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

2020 INDUCTEES



Robert Balogh



Lee Beard



Don Enriquez



Roy Hill



Billy Meyer



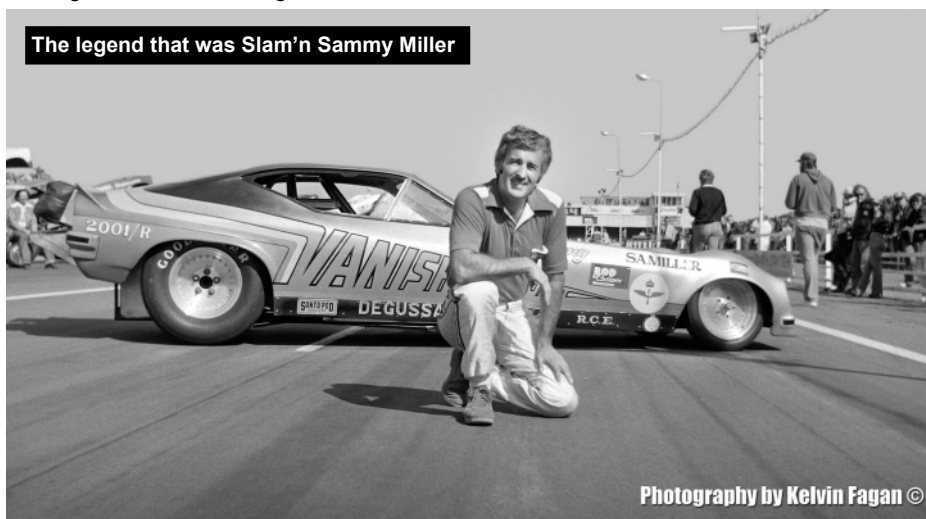
Larry Minor

So far, the following companies have committed to sponsorships as they have in the past. Summit Racing Equipment; Ring Sponsor, Pat & Jerry Blates; Trophy Sponsor and Total Impact Wear; T-Shirt Sponsor. Sponsorships are still available and contact can be made with Rodney Garlits via the Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing web site www.garlits.com. As the IDRHoF is very dear to the hearts in the UK especially with the 2016 induction of Dennis Priddle in future issues of HoFTalk we'll be bringing you all the latest in pre event build up news, profiles and photos from the 2020 Presentations. Stay tuned.

Linda Miller to attend BDRHoF Gala

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame is pleased to announce that Linda Miller, daughter of Rocker Funny Car legend Slam'n Sammy Miller will be attending the forthcoming BDRHoF Gala Presentation Evening at the Oatlands Park Hotel this month. Linda has been eager to make the trip for a couple of years and has at last been able to reorganise her schedule to make it possible. Europe became the beneficiary of the NHRA clampdown on rocket-propelled vehicles and Santa Pod's fans in particular took Sammy Miller to their collective hearts. He made his debut in the *Vanishing Point* Vega in 1978 and ran the first four-second and 300 mph passes outside the USA in 1978 and 1979.

Although she never saw her father race the cars which made Sammy such a legend in the UK Linda remembers him as a great father, cooking food his children loved, watching movies they chose, and doing anything to make the ones he loved happy. And when they weren't happy he was able to bring a smile back to their faces with his inimitable Donald Duck impressions. Linda was thirteen when Sammy was taken from us and she strives to keep his memory alive, helped by his many fans. Linda is very much looking forward to meeting some of those fans first-hand in a few weeks time.





British Drag Racing Hall of Fame



2019 Inductees

Five inductees have been selected for induction into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2019. They are builder and racer of the iconic 'Gonzo the Great' altered and former project foreman at York Raceway Ian Lloyd; great bike innovators known for their *Jade Warrior*, the McCoy Dynamics team of Angus 'Ag' MacPhail, Mick Hand and Keith Parnell; Europe's leading Drag Racing website Eurodragster.com; pioneers of UK nostalgia drag racing The Wild Bunch; and from Finland, winner of four FIA Top Fuel Dragster Champions and two European Top Methanol titles, Anita Mäkelä.



Ian Lloyd



McCoy Dynamics



Eurodragster.com



Wild Bunch



Anita Mäkelä

Their names join those whose contributions to, and their influence on, British drag racing are considered to have been extraordinary. We thank them for their dedication and their induction into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame will ensure their names are honoured for all time. Their detailed citations can be read in full on the BDRHoF web site www.britishdragracinghof.com. Previous issues of HoFTalk are available as a downloadable pdf at www.eurodragster.com by clicking on the 'Features, Interviews and Tributes' button on the left hand side of any Eurodragster.com page.



BDRHoF Roll Of Honour 2006 - 2018



Members of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame are shown below in order of induction.

1. Allan Herridge*
2. The Phelps Family
3. Phil Evans
4. Dennis Priddle
5. John Ledster*
6. Tony Densham*
7. Roz Prior
8. Dennis Stone*
9. Clive Skilton
10. Sydney Allard*
11. John Hobbs
12. Nobby Hills
13. Custom Car Magazine
14. Ton Pels
15. The Page Family
16. The Read Family
17. Brian Johnson*
18. Alan Wigmore*
19. Sammy Miller*
20. John Bennett
21. Dave Grady*
22. Alf Hagon

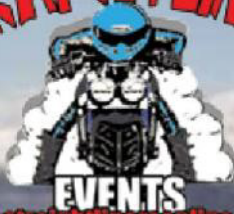
23. The Murty Family
24. Rune Fjeld
25. Harold Bull
26. Geof Hauser
27. Al O'Connor
28. Peter & Erica Bartlett*
29. Krister Johansson
30. Peter Crane
31. Terry Gibbs*
32. Brian Sparrow
33. Pete Davies
34. Harlan Thompson
35. Barry Sheavills
36. Dave Lee Travis (DLT)
37. The Brachtvogel Family
38. Tony Murray*
39. Carl Olson
40. Keith & Frances Parker
41. Brian Chapman
42. Russ Carpenter
43. Gerry Belton
44. John Whitmore

45. Dennis 'Stormin' Norman
46. Don Garlits
47. Yvonne Tramm
48. Ken Cooper
49. John Clift
50. Bob Keith*
51. Santa Pod Raceway
52. Rob Loaring
53. Paula Marshal*
54. Karsten Andersen & Per Andersen
55. John and Lesley Wright
56. Steve Woollatt
57. Lawrie Gatehouse
58. Pip Higham
59. Stuart Bradbury
60. The Cookson Family
61. Steve Horn
62. Team Pegasus
63. Andy Robinson
64. Peter Lantz

*indicates member passed away



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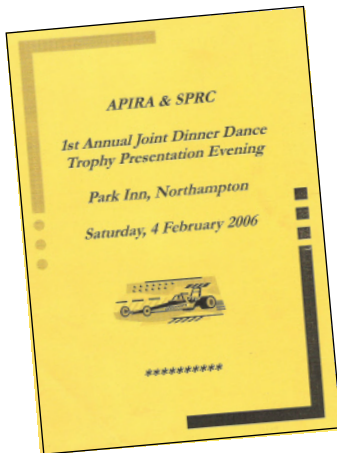
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Photos: Dunk Ross, Mannmotorsports.co.uk

Looking back through time!



Long before the lavish Gala Presentations we all enjoy now, the BDRHoF held its inaugural presentation in 2006 at a shared evening honouring the winners and runners up of the previous year's National Championship, Ultimate Power and Santa Pod Racers Club champions and runners up with their trophies. Held at Northampton's Park Inn, the evening was a first in itself for being the inaugural joint club presentations between the Avon Park International Racing Association [APIRA] and the Santa Pod Racers Club [SPRC].

The first three inductees selected from a long list of British drag racing legends – independently selected by a handpicked panel consisting of some of the sport's respected dignitaries and ambassadors – were Allan Herridge, The Phelps Family (accepted by former Santa Pod Chief Starter Stu Bradbury) and Phil Evans. All were presented with their coveted 'Bootsie' awards encapsulating an image of the late Allan 'Bootsie' Herridge, a man who put so much into British Drag Racing as a racer and constructor. Allan's trophy was accepted by his then partner Lesley Wright who gave Eurodragster.com this tribute.

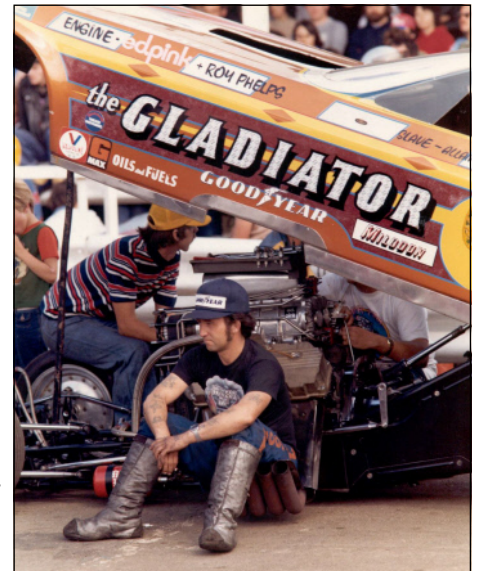
"In 1962 when Allan built his first dragster there was no rule book, no drawings to follow – just pictures in American *Hot Rod* magazine. In the early days the dragsters were run at the National Sprint Association meetings at various RAF and USAF airfields around the country. If there were barriers they were straw bales, the runways had no grip juice and there were no spectators. In 1966 that all changed when Santa Pod Raceway opened its gates to the public. Allan fully engaged in the development of the sport, helping to form an organising club and writing construction rules for the safety of participants and spectators. Along with John Harrison and Brian Sparrow, Dragster-Developments made all their own parts and became renowned for shortening rear axles.

When I met Allan in 1976 what struck me was his happy-go-lucky attitude to life. He would say he was "just lucky" being in the right place at the right time to be offered the drive of the Santa Pod-owned cars: the *Gloworm Funny Car*, *Commuter*, *Firefly*, *Asphalt Alleygator*, and the *Gladiator Funny Car*.

Bob and Roy Phelps popularised the sport by bringing over top drivers and riders from the States. During the course of a meeting, Allan would be helping out other teams by doing repairs over in Number 6. He moved up to live close to Santa Pod and was its full-time track manager. On Sunday he'd be driving a Fueller, Funny Car, Jet or Rocket and on Monday supervising the litter pickers and emptying toilets!

I like to think that Allan's character – his friendly and helpful nature, his passion to develop the sport – is still stamped right through it today.

I know that Allan would be very humbled by the Hall of Fame award being named after him. I can almost hear him laugh and rattle off a dozen names of people he would think were more deserving than him, but on his behalf and on behalf of the magical memory many of us have of him – thank you from the bottom of my heart."



The evening was judged to be a tremendous success and made even more special by Santa Pod CEO Keith Bartlett's announcement of a planned Drag Racing Museum at Santa Pod which amongst other features will house a Hall of Fame display. This was fantastic news for everyone including Stuart Bradbury who commented 'it's the icing on the cake'.

During post-presentation remarks Stuart also thanked key individuals who made the evening possible on Eurodragster. These included now Santa Pod Chief Starter Ian Marshall as without Ian's help the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame would never have happened.

The year's remaining inductees – Dennis Stone, John Ledster, Dennis Priddle, Tony Densham, Roz Prior and Clive Skilton – were all honoured during a freezing cold, wet day at the traditional season-opening Easter Thunderball during Santa Pod Raceway's 40th Anniversary celebrations. The track had first opened its doors on 11th April 1966 as Santa Pod (on that day it rained too!) although prior to this Podington Airfield, home to the 92nd Bomb Group of USAAF, was first used for car and motorcycle 'twisty' sprints by a variety of clubs.

In later issues of HoFTalk we'll take up the story again in 2007 when the selectors' panel inducted a further five 'stars and characters' from the world of British and European drag racing into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.



2006 BDRHoF Presentations



Photos courtesy of Tom 'Sharkman' Ward/Eurodragster.com



Stuart Bradbury accepting one of the first HoF's on behalf of the **Phelps Family**



Lesley Wright accepts the very first 'Bootsie' award on behalf of **Allan Herridge**



A proud moment for former racer and FIA Commission member **Phil Evans**



Easter Thunderball photos courtesy of Roger Gorringe

2006 Hall of Fame inductees (L to R) Dave Stone accepting for dad **Dennis Stone**, **Roz Prior**, Dave Riswick accepting on behalf of **Clive Skilton**, and **Dennis Priddle** with 'Bootsie's' presented by BDRHoF chair and former SPR starter Stuart Bradbury at Santa Pod's Easter Thunderball



Britain's first female Top Fuel racer **Roz Prior** was thrilled to bits with her 'Bootsie' as well as being recognised for her contributions to the sport racing front and rear engined nitro dragsters.



Dennis Priddle, the first racer into the sixes outside of America said 'it was quite an honour to be remembered like this,' with a career spanning from 1968 to 1985 in Britain and Europe.



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NSRA membership is open to anyone with an interest in Rods & Customs, whether or not you currently own one.



2020-EVENT-DATES-



8 March 2020 - Southern Swap Meet, North Weald

8-10 May 2020 - Nostalgia Nationals, Santa Pod Raceway

12-14 June 2020 - Fun Run, Rutland Showground

10-12 July 2020 - Dragstalgia, Santa Pod Raceway

6-9 August 2020

Hot Rod Supernationals, Old Warden

18-20 September 2020 - Hot Rod Drags, Santa Pod Raceway

NSRA Members enjoy :

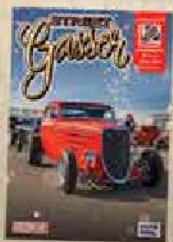
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To find out more about joining the NSRA and information on 2020 events, visit www.nsra.org.uk



These are stories about BDRHoF members and what they have been up to recently. Send your stories to quatermileneismakers@yahoo.co.uk so that we can include them in the next issue.



The 70's Gasser. Photo: JC Collection

One racer that we failed to recognise in the last issue of HoFTalk after Dragstalga was the heroic return of BDRHoF member 'The Professor of Super Gas' of course Mr **Al O'Connor** and the equally as famous *Al's Gasser*. After crashing the Pop at the 2017 FIA Main Event in qualifying for the aptly named Al's Gasser Super Gas Shootout, the car was totally destroyed in a mid-track excursion which saw the flamed Ford destroyed after playing tag with the Santa Pod walls. A kind of mirror image that befell Al and the original Pop at Santa Pod while racing The Stone's Tender Trap Ford Escort in Top Modified at the 1978 Supernationals. However, you can't put a good car down and thanks to Al's amazing friends within the Outlaw

Anglia group and especially Phil 'Ginner' Middleton who took the wrecked race car to his work shops and set about restoring it, and with assistance from crew man Dave Eady who sourced most of the parts from generous benefactors, Phil managed to piece 90% of the original Pop back together again. But the real scoop on the story was the surprise unveiling at Dragstalga. Just weeks before Phil had entered his own Ford to race in the Outlaw Anglia class. But at the eleventh hour Phil bought along the newly finished Al's Gasser instead. Al was there too and put in a few tentative laps and wheels up launches too. And to recognise the efforts put in by those who cared about Al's Gasser, Al, Phil and crew were award for the spectacular efforts the weekend's 'Spirit of Dragstalga' title. Well done guys as two years ago we all feared the worst that it was the end for Al's iconic Pop. They just keep getting stronger.



A reborn Al's Gasser at this year's Santa Pod Dragstalga. Photo courtesy of Eurodragster.com



BDRHoF member **Andy Robinson** and the whole Anger Management Pro Modified team would like to thank everyone who placed bids on various items of the Camaro body recently. Andy's championship winning car was wrecked last year at the season ending Pro Modified final during the National Finals. *"We raised a good chunk of money which will go towards the new race car and getting back on the track as soon as we can"*, says Stefani Fisher. *"Andy was very humbled by how many people were interested in winning memorabilia from the race car, he and the entire team are beyond grateful. When we decided to do the auction for the body we also chose to keep back two pieces which were auction separately at*

the [annual Racers v SPR/SPRC Staff] Charity Football match with proceeds going to Bloodwise." Bloodwise funds world-class research into all types of blood cancer.



Photo courtesy of Eurodragster.com

Nostalgia Funny Car racer Tony Betts was in test mode during September's FIA/FIM Euro Finals at Santa Pod after a visit by American legend **Roland Leong** in July produced a long list of items to change and upgrade. Tony said *"We have a new clutch and gearbox and is now shifting properly. The tyres are spinning up so the clutch needs to slip a bit more. We learned a lot from Roland's visit and have invited BDRHoF member **John Wright** to advise on tuning at this race."* Tony is pictured with son and crew member Dean. In the Nostalgia Funny Car final Tony took the Venom Chevy Camaro unopposed to a 6.438/228.92.



Photos courtesy of Eurodragster.com



Staying with the FIA/FIM Euro Finals Nostalgia Funny Car racer Paul Harris ran his best ever numbers of 6.788/212.80 with the Chi-Town Hustler Dodge Omni Funny Car, and counting as his first full pass in the car since licensing earlier in the year. *“It was an awesome run,”* said Paul afterwards. *“It pulled strong and straight, I shifted at half-track although I wanted to shift earlier. I was happy enough with the ET but to run my first 200 mph and then have it run 212 mph was beyond awesome.”* With the season now over the chassis alterations to accept the tribute Monza body to BDRHoF member **Dennis Priddle** have gone to plan and hopefully for a 2020 debut.



Top Fuel Dragster racer and BDRHoF member **Anita Mäkelä** suffered from uncharacteristic handling issues at Tierp, Sweden a couple of weeks before the FIA/FIM Euro Finals which ultimately cost her the final against Maja Udtian. *“The car moved violently before the finish line and I had to lift to avoid going into the guardrail,”* Anita recalled. *The car needed to run straighter every pass, so after the event we added some extra tubes to strengthen the chassis. In the first session the car ran very straight and I got the quickest time and fastest speed of the session (3.903/308.24).* By the fourth session Anita was bumped down two places by Jndia Erbacher and top qualifier Maja Udtian with a jaw dropping pass of 3.806/315.52 mph; the quickest ever Top Fuel run in Europe coupled to a new European ET record. By now the European Championship had all been gift wrapped for a fourth time and heading Anita’s way. *“I always think that I have got to beat them all. The car has been consistent so I can’t thank my crew enough. They have worked so hard and they have been at their best this year. They deserve a lot of the glory”,* Anita said after the final. In round 1 she defeated Stig Neergaard with a 3.903/296.83 to Stig’s 4.062/245.25 and then in the semi-final the fast Finnish dragster improved to a 3.821/313.52 before taking out super Brit Liam Jones in the final with an engine destroying 3.850/297.01. Congratulations Anita on your 2019 FIA Championship and win number four to add to the tally of a very successful career as a Top Fuel drag racer.



Top Fuel Dragster & Funny Car racer and BDRHoF member **Gary Page** was forced to miss the Swedish round at Tierp Arena having been involved, but not injured, in a multi car motorway accident. Gary talked to Simon Groves about the monumental effort need to prepare his driver Liam Jones for the last hurrah at the FIA/FIM European Championship. *“After Tierp we had damaged blocks [to work on] so we had to get to work preparing for the arrival of replacement parts. We spent the week before taking Liam’s and Maja’s cars apart and between team owner and BDRHoF member **Rune Fjeld** and members of the team, stayed up late every day to build up the engines and cars to put on a good show.”* As reported above Maja qualified first and Liam finished runner up to Anita.



- GALA NIGHT PHOTO REVIEW
- BENCH RACE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
- HoF RETRO 2007 AND MUCH MORE!

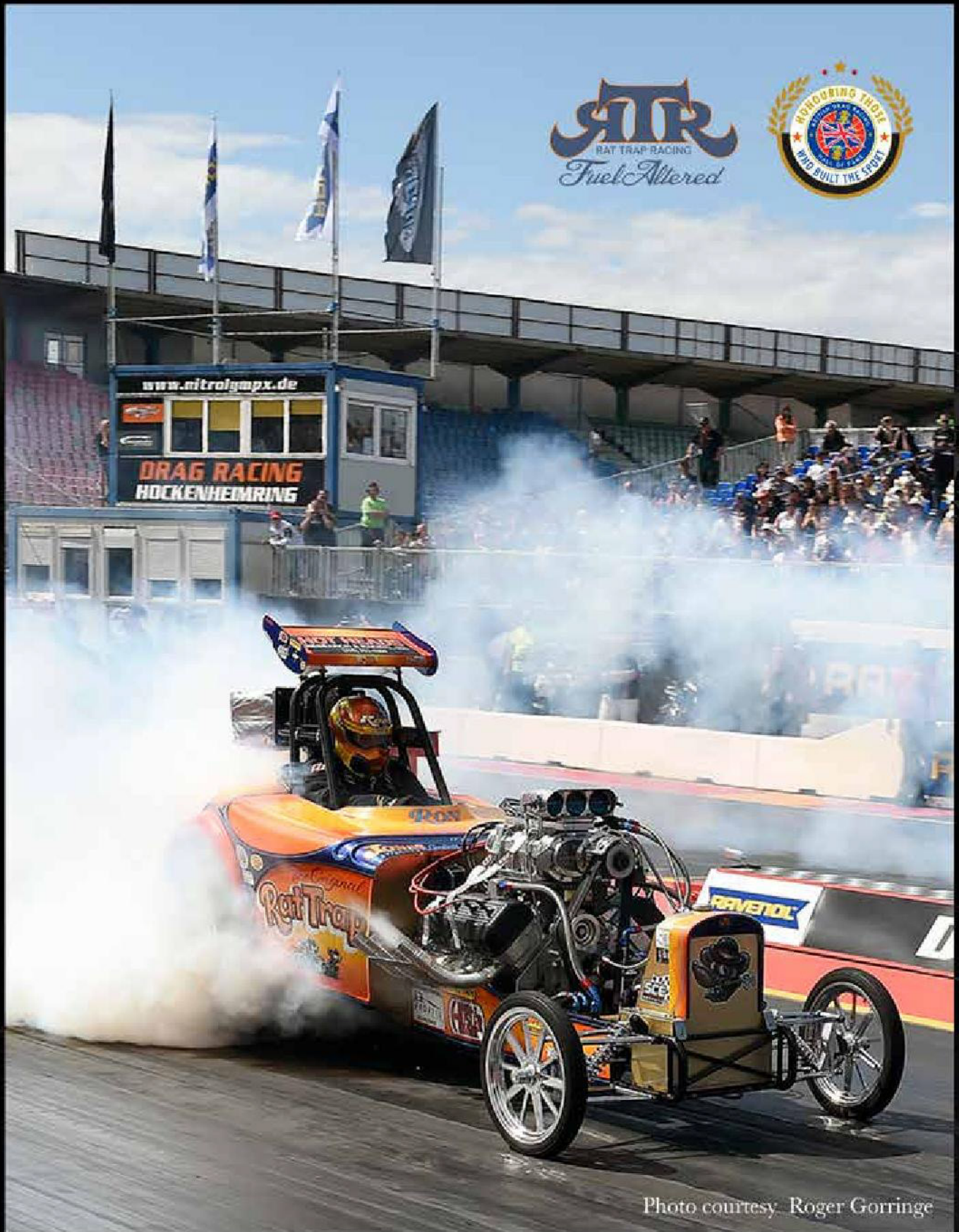


Photo courtesy Roger Gorringe

**Ron Hope and Rat Trap Racing
Congratulate All Of This Years
Award Recipients**

After experiencing major engine damage at Santa Pod's Main Event in May Top Fuel Bike racer and BDRHoF member **Steve Woollatt** has a new bottom end, crankcase, liner, sump, rods and pistons in order to compete at the FIM Euro Finals. "I also have a stroker crank which increases the engine capacity from 1327cc to 1405cc," commented Steve. "But the effect of all these changes is that I have to tune the bike all over again to find the sweet spot. On the first pass it [engine] was too rich and dropped a cylinder which put it into tyre shake." Running in a later session the bike headed towards the wall and had to shut off by the eighth but the next run was good for fourth from the bubble at 6.334/195.40." In round one Steve raced past Frenchman Eric Richard (6.245/211.91 to 6.530/208.09) but he didn't really have to bother due to Eric registering a red on the tree, and then lost out to Fast Filippou Papafilippou with the Gulf Oil Team machine in the semis.



Photo courtesy of Eurodragster.com

Top Methanol Dragster racer Johnny Lagg was assisted at the FIA/FIM Euro Finals by brothers **Tim and Glen Read**, members of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame. They said "Going back to the Brad Anderson [BAE] heads has meant that the inlet manifold is larger than the head and as a result there was too much fuel going in. It sounded good but we will need to tune for the race". However in the first round against eventual winner Manty Bugeja. Jonny's tyres went straight up in smoke!



Photo courtesy of Eurodragster.com

The Backdraft Slingshot rail, which runs with 2019 BDRHoF inductees, **The Wild Bunch**, had a disappointing return to the track at Dragstalgia in July. 'Crazy' Chris Hartnell said of a more optimistic run at the NSRA Hot Rod Drags, "We discovered that storing the car with fuel in it had caused the fuel tank to corrode, so we renewed the tank, cleaned out the pipes and was straight back into the eights on our second pass of the weekend." Running alongside Ollie H Smith's Comp Coupe dragster, the teams recreated a race from the early seventies when Backdraft, known back then as Malcolm Olley's Pink Panther, ran alongside Chicken Coupe, owned at that time by former circuit racer Mike Treutlien.



Photo courtesy of Eurodragster.com

Photo courtesy of Alan Currans/The Acceleration Archive



DID YOU KNOW!

BDRHoF member Sammy Miller still holds quarter mile records in Canada, Denmark, England, Sweden and Mexico and eighth mile records in Belgium, Holland, England, Germany and Corsica. He also set a world ice speed record when he put skis on the *Oxygen* dragster (pictured) and recorded 247 mph at Lake George. He was also the first man into the fives, fours and threes in the USA and the first into the fours and threes in Europe. Sammy was inducted into the BDRHoF posthumously in 2008. You can read Sammy's full citation at <https://www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk/inducted-members/sammy-miller/>.

Photo: JC Collection



Photos courtesy of Salt Flat Racer Geoff Stilwell

Salt Flat Racer and Beech Underwriting's CEO Geoff Stilwell (well respected supporter of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame & Bench Race Sessions) has sent us the following update after the recent weather affected Bonneville Speedweek. "As you all know the team worked so hard to get the car ready for Bonneville Speed Week in August, but Mother Nature had other ideas though and then after everything we had a small issue that could not be fixed at the track. So back at the race shop out came the rear axle and

transmission. Problem solved and now back together. We are tidying up lots of little jobs including cleaning all the fuel lines and pump, lube [oil] up the blower and all those other important little places. Huge thanks go to Kiwi Steve, Mick Jenkins, Brad King, Jimmy White of Cicle City Hot Rods, John at So-Cal and the team at Mick's Paint. Thanks guys. Also huge thanks go to Lucas Oil for all their help and support of the project. Not forgetting John Beck and Paul at Vintage Hot Rods for putting together a stunning motor, Donny Cummins for all his help and guidance on the car. You are a genius Donny!! Nick Davies, BDRHoF member **Rob Loaring** and Scott Barnes from Havoc Racing in the U.K. plus the Hope Family of Rat Trap Racing for all the help they have given the project, and to Tony Thacker for all the ink and pictures. The race car is now being readied for the Grand National Roadster Show in January at Pomona [Fairgrounds] and if you're going you will find us with Lucas Oil. So, see you there!"



Recent visitors to the shop to see the car were 'The Hawaiian' Roland Leong, my good buddy Jerry Inouye, Stu Bassett from US Automotive, Rat Trap Racing's Ron Hope, from the UK drag racer Paul Watson and No Prep Drag Racing's flagger Joseph Harris, Mick Jenkins of Micks Paint and Kiwi Steve Davies. Photo courtesy of Tony Thacker

DID YOU KNOW!

BDRHoF member Brian Johnson started competing in 1976 when he and wife Ann bought a 750 cc single cam Honda. They painted it, tuned it, fitted 40DCOE Weber Carbs, and chromed this and that. Then a friend, Jon Morton, said "Why don't you try it at Blackbushe to see how fast it really is?". Brian came third in Street Bike and was hooked. From there Brian moved on to Pro Stock Bike and several championships later Top Fuel Motorcycle setting numerous world, European and British records. Brian retired from racing at the end of 2001 but was still an enthusiastic follower of the sport, and was inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2008. Sadly Brian passed away unexpectedly in April 2015. You can read Brian's full citation at <https://www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk/inducted-members/brian-johnson/>. Photo courtesy of Dick Parnham



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About the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) is a not for profit organisation that was established in 2006 to recognise significant contributions or achievements in the sport of British drag racing. The twelve Selection Panel members include club & track officials, promoters, former racers, journalists and fans with a long background in the sport. The Selection Panel convenes annually to nominate candidates for inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Eligibility is extended to any person who has driven, piloted, owned, designed, built, maintained, prepared, promoted, officiated, supported or taken part in any capacity connected with British drag racing. An inductee must have been retired at least three years or must have been engaged at the top level of his/her area of British drag racing for at least 20 years, or made a recognisable and significant contribution to the sport. Inductees are characterised by their desire to win, mastery of their own particular field and courage to innovate.

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Selection Panel

Stu Bradbury – Former Santa Pod Raceway Chief Starter and BDRHoF Honorary Chairman.

Keith Bartlett – Santa Pod Raceway CEO and FIA Championship Promoter

Philip Evans – Member of FIA Drag Racing Commission and Chair of Motorsport UK Speed Committee.

Robin Jackson – Motorsport UK British Drag Racing Championship and Santa Pod Raceway Press Officer.

Jeremy Cookson – Former Shakespeare County Raceway Promotions Manager, UK Nostalgia enthusiast & editor of HoFTalk.

Graham Beckwith – Former Santa Pod Raceway and York Raceway Commentator.

Ian Marshall – Santa Pod Racers Club Chief Starter.

Phil Cottingham – Spectator Representative and former Carter Motorsport Marketing Manager.

Ian Messenger – Former drag bike racer.

Darren Prentice – Santa Pod Raceway Track & Race Operations Manager.

Andy Rogers (Tog) – Eurodragster.com News Editor.

Keith Lee – Photo journalist, Santa Pod Raceway commentator and BDR&HRA committee member.

Drag Racing History Consultants – Nick Pettitt and Keith Lee

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Limited

The management of the BDRHoF is carried out by a separate Limited company which looks after strategy, finance, commerce, marketing, sponsorship, press & public relations, membership liaison, international liaison, events and general secretary duties. The company's title is British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Limited and the Board consists of the following Directors and Advisers:

Directors

Stu Bradbury – Honorary Chairman

Bev Bradbury – General Secretary and Treasurer

Ian Hart - Sponsorship

Robin Jackson – Press Liaison

Nigel Payne - Transport liaison

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Phil Cottingham - Outdoor Events

Phil Evans - Special Motorsport Liaison

Simon Groves - Company Secretary

Julian Parsons - Gala Technical Advisor

Tony Thacker - Gala Announcing and Script

Andy Wheeler - Gala A/V display

Jordan Payne - Gala logistics

Lesley Wright - Membership Liaison

The Board meets regularly to discuss issues associated with finance, operations and structure.

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Supporters

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame is sponsored by many businesses, individuals and associations. Without this support it could not exist. We thank all of them for helping us to celebrate our pioneers in some style.

Honorary International Ambassadors

Eileen Daniels, Donna Garlits, Ron Hope, Traci Hrudka, Fred Miller, Bob Muravez, Sharon Muravez and Carl Olson.

BDRHOF Benevolent Fund **Caring For The Drag Racing Community**

The BDRHoF Benevolent Fund was established by the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame and registered with the Charities Commission in 2016 to create a professional fund-raising platform to support injured racers and the Air Ambulances that support Britain's Drag Racing tracks. During 2019, the Benevolent Fund made a donation of a patient-monitor device to Santa Pod Raceway's medical services team, and in previous years there were grants to the charities that operate the Air Ambulances that serve Santa Pod Raceway and York Raceway. The BDRHoF Benevolent Fund charity registration number is 1167197. It is run for drag racing by trustees who have had many years' experience in the sport. They are: Stu Bradbury, Simon Groves, Robin Jackson, Ian Messenger, Graham Beckwith and Phil Cottingham. They would like to thank all those who have contributed during the year.

Help Required

If you would like to help the BDRHoF we welcome assistance with event management tasks such as journalism, script writing, programme producing, liaising with sponsors, and more besides. In working for the BDRHoF you will have a chance to network with legends of drag racing around the world and enhance your CV skills base. Contact stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk.

Contacts

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Items for sale

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame has a range of branded items for sale. You can find details on www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk/shop/.

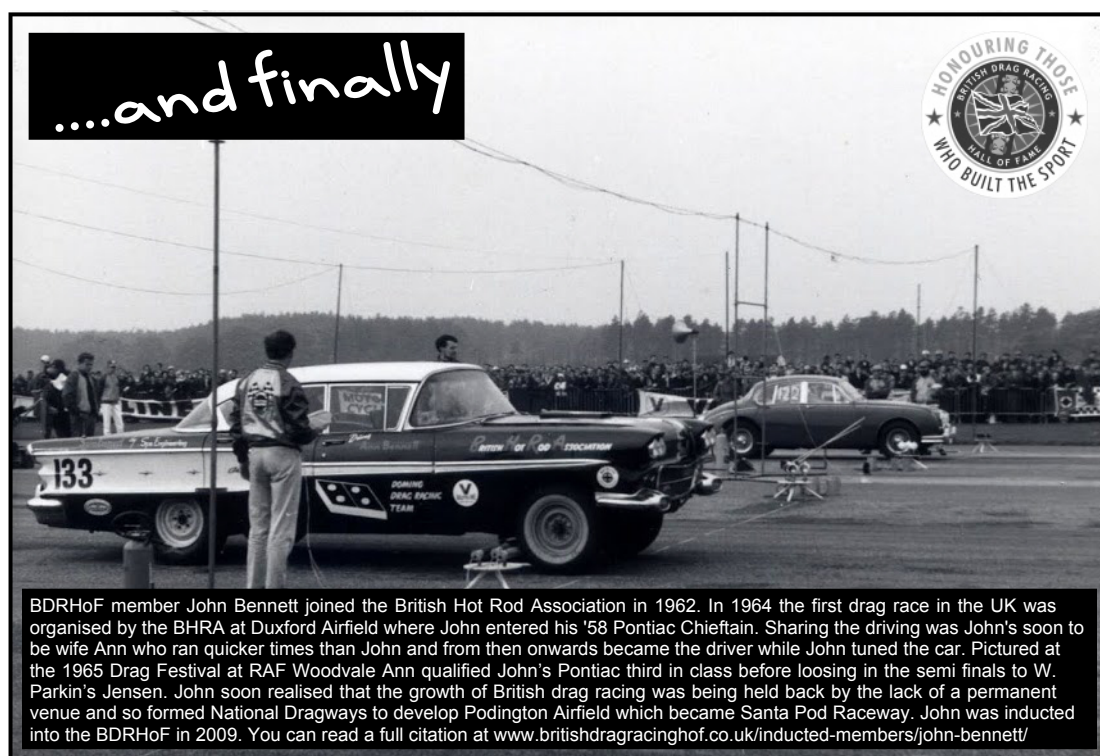


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The International Organisation of Professional Drivers



The International Organisation of Professional Drivers (IOPD) was formed in 1990 by Steve Murty, Edwin and Karimah MacKnight to regulate and support the driving experience sector of recreational motor sport in the UK. This was brought about by the MSA/ RAC refusal to recognise and permit Run What Ya Brung events, including so called outlaw events, and track driving activities thereby denying participants and organisers a route to legitimisation and parity with mainstream motor sports.

From the IOPD's recognition by the DOT and subsequent statutory empowerment in 1991, (giving the IOPD the same authorising powers as the MSA) the IOPD soon grew to be disapplying the Road Traffic Act for some 70,000 to 100,000 participants per year, not only for driving experiences but for full competition and Drag Racing.

The IOPD also took on the authorising (permitting) some 38 other disciplines of recreational auto activity across 1,2,3,4,6 and 8 wheeled activities, including tracked and jet thrust vehicles. In fact any discipline from Mini Moto to F1. Through its statutory powers the IOPD also authorises and permits many of the world's international motor manufacturer's driving experience programmes and track days.

The IOPD is proud to authorise and licence 12 sprint and drag racing venues in the UK, including speed record testing and demonstrations. These venues have catered for more than 10,000 participants and 1 million spectators over a 20 year period. The IOPD has also pioneered permitting closed road motor racing demonstrations in city centre locations for up to ¼ million spectators per event.

The IOPD continues to defend organisers and participants for corporate manslaughter charges and charges of death by dangerous driving including HSE/ EHO prosecutions. The IOPD is currently at the forefront in the consultation process on the British Government sponsored review of the EU Motor Sport Insurance Directive (Vnuk) and Motor Sport Safety Guidance.

The IOPD is happy to support the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame as a totally non-political, impartial organisation dedicated to recognising and celebrating the special people who have given so much to create our sport today.

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