

# HOFTalk



## The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame News Bulletin Autumn 2016 Issue III

Compiled and Edited by Simon Groves; additional words by Andy 'Tog'Rogers and Brian Taylor; on-line version by Nigel Holland

### From the Editor



Welcome to the third issue of HoFtalk.

We have just held our Gala Awards Dinner at the fabulous Sheraton Skyline Hotel and it surpassed our wildest expectations. The Gala has gained a global status as a drag racing social occasion.

In this issue you can see pictures of the marvellous event and the personalities who attended. We also look at the second half of the 2016 season and some of the treats in store for nostalgia drag racing enthusiasts in 2017.

A date for your diaries: next year's Gala Awards Dinner will be on 18th November 2017. **BE THERE!**

## Gallery of stars of BDRHoF Gala



Paula Marshall's Bootsie was accepted by Ian and Holley Marshall



Keith Bartlett and Roy Phelps accept Santa Pod Raceway's membership of the BDRHoF

Pictures: Eurodragster.com, Andy Willsheer



Engine building guru **Rob Loaring** accepted his Bootsie award from Ron Hope



Chris Goodnight and Lee Keith accepted **Bob Keith's** trophy from Don Schumacher



The Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award went to the **NHRA** and was accepted by Steve Gibbs



**The Beach Boys** won the NSRA Global Impact Award and David Lee Marks accepted it from Mike Read



UK drag racing legend **Dennis Priddle** was re-presented with his IDRHoF trophy



The Allard/Mintex award for photography went to **Julian Hunt**



**Brian Taylor** received the Allard/Mintex award for written journalism



An award for engineering innovation and excellence was presented to **Isky** by Lord Onslow



A special award went to **Ron Hope**, presented by Geoff Stilwell and Stewart Bassett



A new **Ambassador** status was given to those based abroad who have helped promotion of the BDRHoF

Chairman of the BDRHoF Stu Bradbury said, *"Congratulations to all our inductees, and all the other very worthy people who have received our appreciation for what they have done and continue to do for our sport. We were pleased to see the top National Championship finishers in Junior Dragster and Junior Drag Bike at the Gala as they are the future of the Sport. Thanks to all of our sponsors and in particular our sponsor partner and British Drag Racing Hall of Fame International Liaison adviser Geoff Stilwell of Beech Underwriting. The BDRHoF has achieved more than anything I could have imagined just a few years ago. We have also been able to launch a new registered charity to raise funds for the tracks' Air Ambulances and injured racers, the BDRHoF Benevolent Fund, and structured ourselves into a Limited Company."*

Members inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame are shown below in alphabetical order.

- |                     |                          |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alf Hagon           | Don Garlits              | Peter Crane              |
| Alan O'Connor       | Geof Hauser              | Peter and Erica Bartlett |
| Alan Wigmore        | Gerry Belton             | Peter Billinton          |
| Allan Herridge      | Harlan Thompson          | Phelps Family            |
| Barry Sheavills     | Harold Bull              | Phil Evans               |
| Bob Keith           | John Bennett             | Read Family              |
| Brachtvogels        | John Clift               | Rob Loaring              |
| Brian Chapman       | John Hobbs               | Roz Prior                |
| Brian Johnson       | John Ledster             | Rune Fjeld               |
| Brian Sparrow       | John Whitmore            | Russ Carpenter           |
| Clive Skilton       | Keith and Frances Parker | Sammy Miller             |
| Custom Car Magazine | Ken Cooper               | Santa Pod Raceway        |
| Carl Olson          | Krister Johansson        | Sydney Allard            |
| Dave Grady          | Murty Family             | Terry Gibbs              |
| Dave Lee Travis     | Nobby Hills              | Ton Pels                 |
| Dennis Norman       | Page Family              | Tony Densham             |
| Dennis Priddle      | Paula Marshall           | Tony Murray              |
| Dennis Stone        | Pete Davies              | Yvonne Tramm             |

**Send any contributions to [simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)**

Also available in pdf form at

[http://www.eurodragster.com/news/features/HOftalk/HOftalk\\_03.pdf](http://www.eurodragster.com/news/features/HOftalk/HOftalk_03.pdf)

## Also in this issue of HOFtalk

<b>HOFdiaries</b>	<b>Bench Racing at BDRHoF 2016 Gala</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Distinguished photojournalist attends Bench Racing and Gala</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Award for and Excellence in Engineering goes to Isky</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Allard Awards presented</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Junior Champions honoured</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Friends old and new at Gala</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Gibbs and McCulloch Ace Gala</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>New Global Impact Award goes to Beach Boys</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Rat Trap aims for 2017 Goodwood Festival of Speed</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>2017 UK Nostalgia Events In Calendar</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>HOFpeople</b>	<b>Keeping up with BDRHoF Members</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>HOFtributes</b>	<b>Remembering those the sport has lost</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>HOFteam</b>	<b>About the BDRHoF and who does what</b>	<b>21</b>

## HOFdiaries

### Bench Racing at BDRHoF 2016 Gala



One of the undisputed highlights of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala is the Bench Race which takes place in the afternoon, before the dinner and presentation. This year's Bench Race was no exception with thirteen of the sport's historical figures telling anecdotes and answering questions from the floor. Legendary photo-journalist Bob McClurg hosted the Bench Race whose panel consisted of Eileen Daniels, Paula Murphy, Steve Gibbs, Harry Hibler, Ron Hope, Tom Hoover, Ed Iskenderian, Ed McCulloch, Waterbed Fred Miller, Bob Muravez, Carl Olson, Dennis Priddle, and Joe Schubeck.

Bench Race organiser Geoff Stilwell of sponsor Beech Underwriting Agencies said that the event was amazing. "All those memories being shared with so many people", he says. "We had a full house. I cannot thank all those on the panel enough for taking part. For those in the audience I hope you all enjoyed it. You really were in the presence of greatness".

*Picture: Andy 'Tog' Rogers*

## Distinguished photojournalist attends Bench Racing and Gala

We were fortunate to have Bob McClurg to chair the Bench Racing Session which he accomplished with aplomb. The stories kept on coming as panel members reminded each other of similar incidents or their view on the same incident.

Bob McClurg grew up in 1950s Southern California, where he was heavily influenced by the early hot rod culture. He became photo editor of Super Stock & Drag Illustrated, Hot Rod magazine, Petersen's Kit Car magazine and McMullen/Argus Mustang Illustrated & Ford High Performance magazines.



After the Gala Dinner was a Grand Autograph Session at which Bob signed copies of his book Diggers, Funnies, Gassers & Altereds: Drag Racing's Golden Age.

*Picture: Andy Willsheer*

## Award for Innovation and Excellence in Engineering goes to Isky



Beech Underwriting Agencies and the BDRHoF wanted to mark Ed Iskenderian's visit to the UK by sponsoring a special Hall of Fame trophy and the Earl of Onslow was keen to present it. On the Trophy it says for Innovation and Excellence in Engineering.

Ed decided to enter the camshaft grinding business in the late 1940s after having to wait five months for delivery of a special cam. He soon had engines producing more than 1 hp per cubic inch, greater than any other racing cam maker. He pioneered drag racing corporate sponsorship in the 1950s by backing Don Garlits and produced the first co-ordinated cam and assembly kit for hot rodders.

In 1963, in collaboration with a few other industry pioneers, Ed created what is now the Specialty Equipment Market Association, originally the Speed Equipment Manufacturers' Association. One of the first official events which SEMA backed was the International Dragster Challenge organised by Sydney Allard in the UK during the same year.



Ed built his company into the world's largest racing, performance and economy cam manufacturer. In 1985 he was inducted as a member of Chevrolet's Legends of Performance and SEMA's Hall of Fame. Ed has certainly earned the title of the Cam Father.

BDRHoF Honorary Chairman Stu Bradbury said, "There can be nobody more deserving to receive this award. He not only developed horse power by his expertise; he has been involved in creating a sport – plus a complete speed industry to feed it. Ed is very much part of drag racing's DNA; admired all over the world. I thank him for making the journey."

*Pictures: Grace Roaf (presentation), Ian Messenger (trophy)*

### **Allard Awards presented**



The Sydney Allard Media Awards pay tribute to the influence of journalists and photographers in the promotion of drag racing, along with the role played by Sydney Allard in establishing the sport in Europe during the early 1960s. This year the awards are sponsored by Mintex, manufacturers of brake pads since 1908 and one of the sponsors of the 1964 International Drag Racing

Festivals organised by Sydney Allard.

The outright winner of the 2016 Sydney Allard Photo Journalism Award was Julian Hunt for a fire burnout photograph of Bob Hawkins in Time Traveller, his blown and injected Chevrolet methanol-burning dragster. It was taken during the 2016 Dragstalgia Meeting at Santa Pod Raceway.

The independent judges were David Lillywhite, Editorial Director of Octane magazine along with the magazine's designer Robert Hefferon. They initially selected the Top Ten. Pink Floyd drummer, Trustee of the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, and Co-Patron of the Allard Chrysler Action Group Nick Mason chose the top three and placed them in order.

Second place went to Stuart Mitchell for his photo of Tony Betts' 1934 Ford Coupe which sports a blown and injected 526 cubic inch Keith Black engine. Again this photo was taken at the 2016 Dragstalgia Meeting. Third place went to John Kennedy for his photo of Mark Moseley's Nissan R32 Skyline which has an RB30 engine. It was taken at the 2015 Flame and Thunder Show held at Santa Pod Raceway.

Choosing a winner for the 2016 Sydney Allard Written Journalism Award was very difficult but Brian Taylor is the judges' final choice for his work in compiling the twenty four-page 2015 British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner

Souvenir Programme. The Chief Judge was Guy Loveridge, Deputy Chairman of the Guild of Motoring Writers, who said "It sounds an easy task to write and edit an event programme, but a good programme is crammed with information, profiles, facts and the full course of the evening. The process of collating this information is hindered by ever-changing facts coming through as the copy date gets closer. All copy has to be approved by the show organisers and those featured in the programme – some based overseas. Then there are the advertisers to consider and liaison with the programme designers and printers. To edit anything is a tricky business, but to edit seamlessly, so that one reads and is not distracted by the editor's own spin is a rare gift indeed - and for that reason Brian must be recognised for his programme production.



"A very special mention for Martin Drake whose astonishing on-line photo book Power of Sport - Drag Racing read as an impassioned essay on our sport. If a picture paints a thousand words Martin has aced Shakespeare for word-count! And highly commended for a range of pieces entered, all of which entertained and informed, is Keith Lee. His work demonstrates knowledge and skills that convey the message clearly and the excitement of drag racing with passion."

### Junior Champions Honoured



At the Gala Dinner, US Automotive, the Santa Pod Racers Club, Lucas Oil Products UK Limited and Atlantic Fluid Tech again jointly sponsored two corporate tables for the Top Three Junior Dragster drivers and the Top Three Junior Bike riders.

Earlier in the evening they each received a selection of personally signed Hero Cards organised by Don Schumacher Racing and the signatures include people like Antron Brown, Tony Schumacher, Ron Capps, Jack

Beckman and Matt Hagan. Even Tommy Ivo got in on the act. The riders and drivers came up to the stage so that the guests could show how much they value these future stars' involvement in our sport.

The top three Junior Dragster racers of 2016 are Jordan Payne, Aaron Fensome and Ruaridh Hart. The top three Junior Bike riders are Liam Holgate, Louis Davies and Blade Dummer.

Thanks go to the people who have helped develop the scene for juniors, Andy Wheeler, Wayne Jackson and the recently married Liz Charman.

*Picture: Andy Willsheer*

## Friends old and new at BDRHoF Gala

Three weeks before the Gala, the BDRHoF announced new sponsors and guests for the occasion.



New sponsor **DialAFlight** is in its thirty fifth year of trading. Coupled with their major travel partners in all airlines, car hires and hotels, DialAFlight can tailor-make

itineraries suiting individual needs to virtually any destination in the world; from a first-class round-the-world ticket to a European city break. On a daily basis they juggle, shuffle and switch around flights, hotels and transfers – anything that can help their customers get to their destination when things go wrong. One of their customers, Diana Heimann, commented on the independent review site TrustPilot "Friends, who think they can make their own travel arrangements via the internet, moan about everything that doesn't go according to plan. I just tell them about DialAFlight. They soon become 'hooked' with the attention to detail, getting you the best deal and all with a very personal touch". Many of the overseas guests attending the 2016 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner used DialAFlight, as do US Automotive, ICE Automotive, Beech Underwriting and other drag racing fans visiting the USA. DialAFlight are protected by both ATOL and ABTA so all monies are safe from the moment of booking. The company has three hundred travel managers, many of whom have travelled the world and so have a real passion for their job. You can contact them on 01732 592997.

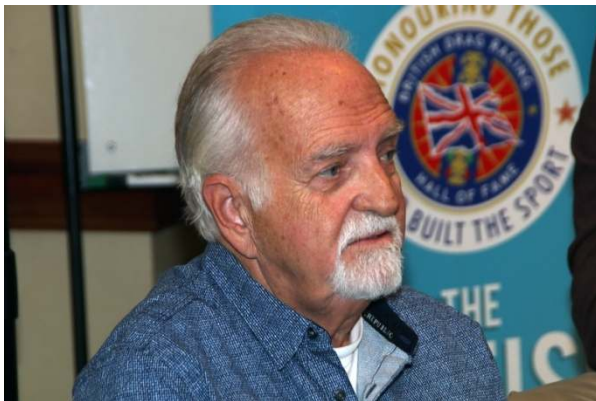
## The **International Organisation of Professional Drivers**

sponsored us for the second year – increasing its support. The IOPD was formed in 1990 to regulate and support the driving-experience sector of recreational motorsport in the UK. It was brought about by the MSA / RAC's refusal to recognise and permit Run What You Brung events and track driving activities, thereby denying participants and organisers a route to legitimisation and parity with mainstream motor sports. As well as drag and sprint events, the IOPD now takes on authorising permits for a range of disciplines of recreational auto activity across one-, two- three-, four- six- and eight-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 manufacturers' driving-experience programs and track days. Steve Murty of the IOPD said "We are more than 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 that have given so much to create our sport today. The annual Gala Awards Dinner is a fabulous event and we had a fantastic evening. Next year we celebrate forty years of drag racing at York Raceway so maybe we will start the party early."





The BDRHoF has been working with a division of **The Big Film Group** for some time regarding the BDRHoF logo appearing on popular TV programmes. That division is Prop Portfolio Limited and they have achieved considerable success on our behalf with multiple appearances on Hollyoaks and more to come. Thus far, the logo appearances have reached a media value of just over £5K, secured 45 seconds of airtime for the brand and reached an audience of 2.5 million people. Latest storylines have featured the sticker as an integral part of the show with it being in the pathway of a bullet used for attempted murder – one of the biggest storylines this year. Keep your eyes peeled for more placements on popular TV soaps.



**Tom Hoover** began his drag racing career in the summer of 1962 and took the Top Fuel Dragster title at the 1965 AHRA Winternationals. He switched to Funny Cars in 1968 and it this class in which he really found fame. Tom's cars were known for their fabulous looks as well as performance. He won five NHRA National Events and was 1976 AHRA Funny Car Champion. But in the UK we know him because we adopted him as a Brit when he

raced extensively at Santa Pod during the 1980s. Many of his cars had a second life in this country with different drivers. He always has time for the fans which is why he is considered one of the most popular Funny Car racers of all time.

Cleveland based **Gentleman Joe Schubeck** is the drag racer who started Lakewood Products back in the 1960s – Lakewood being a suburb of Cleveland. He had to retire from racing for a while as the business grew but George Hurst eventually persuaded him back in a car by promising that Linda Vaughn would be on his pit crew. Joe is a former SEMA Board Member, a pioneer on the SEMA Safety Committee, and has been inducted into the SEMA Hall



of Fame for his dedication to creating products that make racing a safer sport. Lakewood Industries is now a trademark of the huge Prestolite Performance business but Joe is still inventing parts for dragsters under the name Schubeck High Performance Solutions, particularly for the Nostalgia scene. He also runs a classic blown and injected 392 Chrysler Hemi nitro-burning slingshot which delights the fans at Nostalgia events.

**GiGi Carleton** was Robert E. Petersen's personal administrative assistant at Petersen Publishing Company for over forty years. Before its sale in 1996, Petersen Publishing had thirty six monthly magazines in its stable including Hot Rod, Motor Trend, Rod & Custom, Sports Car Graphic and Circle Track. Robert's



wife Margie Petersen and GiGi also formed Petersen Interiors & Designs and did all the design and purchasing for the company's sales offices throughout the USA along with company-owned suites at many sporting venues in the U.S. GiGi continues to work for the estate of Mr & Mrs Petersen and is President of the Margie & Robert E. Petersen Foundation whose mission is to fund cancer medical research, children's charities and support the world famous Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. Mr & Mrs Petersen were the founding benefactors.

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame CEO Brian Taylor said "It is fabulous that so many drag racing legends want to join us to celebrate our UK drag racing pioneers. The Gala has really developed into an event of global significance and we are very proud of it. Much of our recent success is down to Geoff Stilwell of Beech Underwriting Agencies who has renewed his support, and we are already working on some amazing ideas for 2017.

"Winning sponsorship is a tough game these days and it is vital that we attract corporate backers. That's why it is great to announce new sponsors such as DialAFlight and Mintex as well as the continued support from others such as the IOPD, Lucas Oil Products UK, US Automotive, Atlantic Fluid Tech and Rat Trap Racing. Some sponsorship comes in the form of support-in-kind such as Aptitude and Prop Portfolio. This can sometimes be worth many thousands of pounds. We thank these and our other sponsors for their involvement: Santa Pod Racers Club, Pennine Drag Racing Club, Eurodragster.com, Avon Park International Racing Association, Shakespeare County Raceway, Santa Pod Raceway, York Raceway, and the National Street Rod Association. We think that we have developed a product of significant value to the corporate sector and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss what we can offer in this regard.

*Pictures: Andy Willsheer*

### **Gibbs, McCulloch Ace BDRHoF Gala**

We were excited to hear that Steve Gibbs would be able to fly in for the Gala Awards Dinner where he accepted the Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award on behalf of NHRA. Accompanying Steve was legendary racer and tuner Ed 'The Ace' McCulloch.



**Steve Gibbs** got his first drag racing job at San Gabriel drag strip in 1961. By 1969 he had become Advertising Director for the NHRA publication National Dragster, was made Competitions Director in 1972 and then NHRA Vice President Competitions in 1980, conducting some four hundred NHRA National Events over a twenty seven-year span. He went on to initiate the NHRA Museum

of which he is still a Board Member along with being a Selection Committee member of the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame. In fact he has been inducted into a whole bunch of Halls of Fame and received many Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Steve has been instrumental in creating and organizing both the California Hot Rod Reunion at Bakersfield, now celebrating its twenty fifth anniversary, and the 14th Annual Holley NHRA National Hot Rod Reunion, Bowling Green. He continues to play an instrumental role in the planning and execution of both Reunion events.

Steve said "It has been a long time since we visited Santa Pod in 1980 so my wife and I are both very excited over the opportunity to visit you folks once again. We had heard nothing but good things about the event and it didn't disappoint. Also joining the entourage is my daughter Cindy Gibbs Arias, a renowned motorsports artist in her own right."



**Ed 'The Ace' McCulloch** began driving Top Fuel Dragsters in 1964 and Funny Cars in 1969. He won the first time he ever raced at the US Nationals in 1971 and before the end of the season had acquired backing from model kit manufacturer Revell. During the next six years with the company, he made the cars name RRRRevellution famous. He has taken six wins at the NHRA US Nationals at Indianapolis. Following

his retirement as a driver at the end of the 1993 season Ed carried out tuning duties for Connie Kalitta, Don Prudhomme and Don Schumacher.

For his successful drag racing career he has been inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame and the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America. To quote Jon Asher in his Motorsports Hall of Fame citation "In motorsport there are drivers, tuner / mechanics and builders. It's rare that an individual occupies more than one slot. Ed McCulloch is one of those exceptions."

Ed said "This is my first visit to the UK and a long overdue one because I have heard so much about Santa Pod Raceway and the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame but never had the time to get over there. It was great to meet the fans and racers in Europe."

*Pictures: Andy Willsheer*

## New Global Impact Award goes to Beach Boys

**The Beach Boys** were recipients of a special Global Impact Award being presented at the BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner being held at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel, London Heathrow on November 19th. One of the original Beach Boys, David Lee Marks, was there to accept the award on behalf of the band who have been behind the music which inspired more than a generation of hot rodders and drag racing enthusiasts, and who via their concerts have continued to raise awareness of these unique sports throughout the world for over fifty years.



Often called "America's Band", The Beach Boys are the number one-selling US band of all time. The band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Class of 1988. Specifically the award is being made for the 1963 Album Little Deuce Coupe although they have featured drag racing and hot rodding songs on many of their albums that have sold in excess of one hundred million copies. Little Deuce Coupe includes numbers such as Car Crazy Cutie, 409, Cherry, Cherry Coupe, Our Car Club and Shutdown.

David Lee Marks was Dennis Wilson's best friend, and lived across the street from the Wilson Brothers Brian, Dennis and Carl. He jammed with them, and was part of the band for the first four studio albums Surfin Safari, Surfin USA, Surfer Girl and Little Deuce Coupe. He left the band for a while and formed his own group The Marksmen, and also played with artists such as Delaney and Bonnie. He re-joined The Beach Boys in 1997 and was part of the band for their 50th Anniversary World Tour in 2012. At that time Mike Love said "David rocks. A phenomenal guitarist. When he does those leads on Surfin, Surfin Surfer and Fun, Fun, Fun it's so authentic. He's a fantastic musician". David has since worked on The Beach Boys' 50th Anniversary Album That's Why God Made the Radio and Brian Wilson's album No Pier Pressure.

David said "I am delighted to join those celebrating British drag racing pioneers and The Beach Boys contribution to the British motoring world. It is an honour to accept the award on behalf of the band which is still on tour. I'm thrilled also to be meeting fans of the sport and of The Beach Boys."

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Honorary Chairman Stu Bradbury said "It is an extraordinary opportunity to have a member of The Beach Boys with us at our Gala Evening and I



thank the National Street Rod Association for sponsoring this award and BDRHoF Management Board Director Guy Loveridge for organising this along with our Sponsorship Partner Beech Underwriting Agencies. This was the music of my youth and it is great that they still include those 1960s songs in their itinerary today. I can't tell you how much of a thrill it is to host this award presentation."

The National Street Rod Association commented, "We're so pleased we could take part in this fabulous occasion again and celebrate the music that has been a part of drag racing and hot rodding for so many years. The Beach Boys have, and always will be, the band that plays our music and it is fitting that we share this award with the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame."

Joining the presentation team was well known radio and TV presenter as well as popular music historian Mike Read. Famous for his time on Radio 1 and Top of the Pops, a little-known fact is that Mike's first voice over radio commercial in 1976 was promoting Santa Pod Raceway, so he has a long history with the sport. He recently launched his new TV series Tin Pan Alley, the first ever TV competition for songwriters which can be found on Showbiz TV (Sky 266). The show is broadcast on Sundays at 18:30 hours with a repeat on Fridays at 20:00.

*Pictures: Ian Messenger (Trophy); Andy Willsheer (Dave Lee Travis, Hannah Thomas, Mike Read and David Lee Marks)*

### **Rat Trap aims for 2017 Goodwood Festival of Speed**



The Fiftieth Anniversary World Tour of the legendary AA / Fuel Altered Rat Trap in 2016 was such a success that more dates around the world have been added for 2017, with additional appearances now scheduled for New Zealand and England.

The 2016 Tour wrapped up with a prestigious display of the Rat Trap race car at the BDRHoF Gala and a special surprise award for **Ron Hope**, presented by Stu Bassett of US

Automotive. BDRHoF sponsorship partner Geoff Stilwell made a detailed and amusing tribute to Ron which we have summarised below:

Ron lives, eats, sleeps, breathes racing. Not only drag racing but also Land speed racing. He has set records at Bonneville and at El Mirage where he is a member of the 200mph club known as the "Dirty 2" club.

Ron grew up in Whittier, California. Ak Miller's Garage was the place to hang out locally and Ron could be found there most days with the likes of Jack Lufkin, Jerry Kugel of Kugel Hot Rod fame and many others. Like so many kids of that era he was hooked on motorsports and regularly attended the numerous local drag strips and the dry lakes races.

His first trip to Bonneville was in 1960 and he soon found his way into the record books setting a land speed record in 1964 with partner Jerry Tucker in a Chrysler-powered '32 Ford C/Gas Roadster at 165 mph.

In 1970, Ron joined the infamous Fuel Altered Tour crewing for Don Green on The Original Rat Trap. The tall tales of their exploits are legendary as the crews used Ron's Chicago apartment as a home-away-from-home and impromptu workshop.



To get into the '2 Club' at Bonneville you have to set a record at over 200 mph, not just go 200 mph. Ron made it in 1998 driving Ron Benham's modified sports car with a speed of 216.116 mph.

Ron is one of the most family oriented racers there are. In total there are 6 children and 18 grandchildren and to keep track of the children and grandchildren Ron gives them all a number. Oh this is number 6 or

number 13 when they are running around the pits. The funny part about it is they all know their numbers...

Stories of their family get-togethers at Thanksgiving or Christmas are epic. Such as the time they all went Karting and were so competitive the operator shut down the track and banned them. But they went back the next day when a new attendant was there and caused more chaos...

Besides Ron, brother Steve is a long time drag and land speed racer. Wife Dianne has driven at Bonneville and The Ohio Mile. Son Brian, of course, drives Pure Hell and at Bonneville. Brian's daughter Victoria has a record at over 215 mph at Bonneville and has raced the Ohio Mile and has an NHRA Competition license.

Nephew Tom Hope has raced Bonneville, circuits and at the NHRA tracks while grandsons Blake, Wyatt and Michael have all raced The Ohio Mile. Wyatt attends the Frank Hawley School in the New Year to get his license by the way. The next generation of Racers is already in the planning.



Ron suffered a major heart attack in 2015. However, that did not slow him down. Just 28 days after his heart surgery Ron got on a plane to New Zealand because of a commitment he had to attend an event. During the event

Ron committed to return to New Zealand for the Beach Hop and Nostalgia drags a month later. When he returned as the Grand Marshall of the Nostalgia Drags, even though Ron was on "restrictions from racing" he kinda snuck in the car to do a fire burnout for the fans.

At this year's Dragstalgia Ron set his fastest speed ever in Rat Trap going 231 mph in the quarter.

This year was also another milestone for Ron in that he celebrated 45 years of marriage to Dianne in July actually over the Dragstalgia weekend. So many congratulations to you both.

He is without doubt one of the best ambassadors drag racing has. He has enabled Lord March of Goodwood to get his Land speed license and of course I came under his spell this year enabling me to get my "B" class license for driving at over 183 on the salt.

And when he's not racing Ron is still going full speed running his company Capital Automotive Reconditioning Services. Based in his hometown of Franklin, Tennessee, CARS has more than 1,000 employees all over the USA. Ron started the company in 2003 at age 60 when most people are winding down.



And there's no stopping him. In January the team are heading back to New Zealand for the Leadfoot Festival - the Goodwood Festival of the Southern Hemisphere. Funnily enough, at that inaugural Leadfoot meeting Ron forgot he was at a hill climb and missed the left turn going head on into a stream. No matter, the car was quickly rebuilt and they were racing just a few weeks later. Then it's back to Bakersfield for the March Meet Then on to Bowling Green for the Reunion before heading back to England to the Goodwood Festival of Speed. So as you can see Ron has no intention of giving up.

Ron and the family have touched so many lives here in the UK, Stu and Jayne Bassett, my good friend Tony Thacker, mine and of course Rob and Nick of HAVOC who, because of Ron's enthusiasm and 'can-do' attitude will be racing the nostalgia series next year in the US.

"I am truly touched by receiving this award", Ron said. "We had a fantastic time racing at Saskatoon, Canada, at Santa Pod in England and Hockenheim, Germany" said Ron. " Fan reaction has been so strong that we're planning on returning to England for the Goodwood Festival of Speed in 2017. And, of course, we've booked a full schedule of races in the US and dates in New Zealand too. Racing in front of the fans is what drives us to continue, and we're grateful to all our sponsors for helping make this tour possible."

*Pictures: Rat Trap Racing, Andy 'Tog' Rogers (Rat Trap), Ian Messenger (Trophy)*

## 2017 UK Nostalgia Events In Calendar

The UK tracks have published their calendars for 2017 and we highlight below the events that contain significant nostalgia content:

**29th April:** VHRA Nationals, Santa Pod Raceway

**23rd-25th June:** 24th Annual NSRA Nostalgia Nationals, Shakespeare County Raceway

**14th-16th July:** Dragstalgia, Santa Pod Raceway

**15th-17th September:** 29th Annual NSRA Hot Rod Drags, Shakespeare County Raceway

**18th November:** British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala, Sheraton Skyline Hotel, Heathrow Airport

There will be a full season at each track and you are urged to support them all.





These are stories about BDRHoF members and what they have been up to recently. Send your stories to [simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk) so we can include them in the next issue.

During 2017 the Havoc Fuel Altered team of driver **Nick Davies** and BDRHoF inductee **Rob Loaring** will be undertaking a tour of the US, sponsored by Ron Hope, Beech Underwriting, Lawrie Gatehouse and US Automotive. The team will be based out of Ron's shop in Franklin, Tennessee, and will be racing at the March Meet and 26th California Hot Rod Reunion at Famoso Raceway near Bakersfield, and at the 15th Holley NHRA National Hot Rod Reunion, Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Havoc ran with a nitro fuelled Donovan engine for the first time in 2016 and the results were spectacular to say the least. After a few dropped cylinders at Dragstalgia, the team returned at the FIA Euro Finals and ran their best to date, a 6.28/229mph.



During August, BDRHoF Sponsorship Partner and International Liaison adviser **Geoff Stilwell** visited Bonneville Salt Flats where he gained his B class licence following a run of 180.173 mph in Ron Hope's 7551 Gas Modified Roadster. Having caught an 'acute case of salt fever', Geoff is planning to return to the historic site to get a 200mph timing ticket.

At the start of October, Geoff topped up his air miles once again and returned to the US to run 7551 at the Ohio Mile at Wilmington. The car's sump had needed welding and different rear gears were installed. Geoff's best run was 183.4489 mph before rain halted proceedings.

At the FIA Euro Finals, Santa Pod put on a 'Meet and Greet session with BDRHoF members **Dennis Priddle** and **Barry Sheavills**. Others attending included Four-time FIA Top Fuel Champion Andy Carter, former FIA Top Fuel Champion Smax Smith who now races in the US, Sue Coles, Sylvia Read-Hauser, Gordon Appleton, Peter Bennett, and Brian Hazleton.



Dennis was present with his International Drag Racing Hall of Fame trophy which he received in Gainesville in March and was re-presented to him at the Gala dinner by Harry Hibler and Ed 'The Ace' McCulloch.



Whilst at the Euro Finals, Ian Turburville, who owns two nostalgia slingshot dragsters, met up with IDRHoF inductee and BDRHoF member **Dennis Priddle**. Ian has recently acquired the very Donovan 417 engine with which Dennis ran the world record slingshot dragster ET of 6.04 in 1975, and Dennis was able to verify it with its serial number of 144. He will be supplying Ian with technical advice and parts.

Ian will be putting the engine in his *True Blood* slingshot and running it in 2017 on nitro as a cackle car, with a special cackle tune to ensure maximum flames and noise, and also set up to be capable of burnouts and smoky launches with a chute pop at half track.

Allard Chrysler Action Group Chair and BDRHoF CEO **Brian Taylor** says that the Group's mission has been accomplished:

"We have achieved what I set out to do back in 2007 - to restore the dragster so that it can parade under its own power.

"There will be general maintenance to do of course and we have someone who has volunteered to redo the seat upholstery. The tacho needs to be fixed and we need to ensure that Beaulieu staff members are familiar with operating procedures. I also need to complete the full story for the Beaulieu library so everyone can access the story of the dragster and its restoration. At the moment that is about 390 pages.



"I will keep everyone informed about future appearances and ACAG team members local to the museum will continue to help out as necessary. Thanks to everyone who has helped. You have been a part of a very special story."

You can check out the final issue of ACAG Update at [www.drceurope.co.uk/acag/oct2016](http://www.drceurope.co.uk/acag/oct2016).

BDRHoF member **Robin Read** has had a busy and successful year running his nitro Daimler dragster as he awaits a new chassis. At the end of August, Robin took the car to York Raceway where he won an epic series of match races with Julian Webb's Split Second Jet Dragster, running over the eighth mile. He then took the car with its new blower and



various other changes in the interests of mechanical longevity to the Flame and Thunder Show at Santa Pod Raceway at the end of October, running his second-best ever time of 6.84 at 192mph. We look forward to seeing him in action again next year.

BDRHoF member **Gary Page** is busy as a crew member for Liam Jones's Top Fuel Dragster, racing on the whole FIA tour. In 2017 he will return to the driving seat in Mark and Jackie Hawkins' new Nitro Funny Car which they will be campaigning in the European Series in 2017.



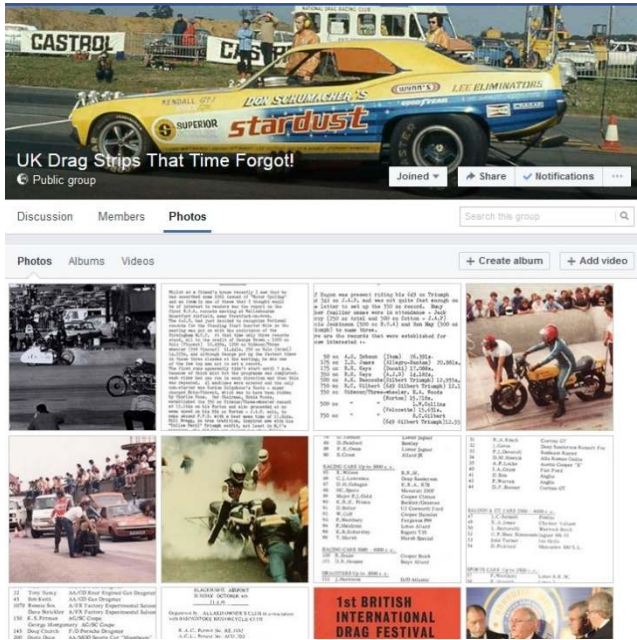
Mark and Jackie previously ran a Dodge Avenger FC with Gary at the wheel and their last outing was a rental of one of Knut Soderqvist's Top Fuel Dragsters, again piloted by Gary in the early 2000s. Gary will be driving the new Dodge Stratus Funny Car which is carrying the legendary *Panic* name which first appeared in 1970 on a BSA Scamp altered run by Gary and his family.

Simon Hayward, son of BDRHoF member **Nobby Hills'** driver Owen Hayward, is preparing a Plymouth Duster nostalgia FC in tribute to Nobby's Houndog 7, which in turn was previously Paula Murphy's Miss STP car. Simon told Eurodragster.com 'Most of the car is now complete, the body has been painted red, and just needs the graphics to finish it off. Darren West of Power Race Graphics has done an awesome job designing the paint scheme (*below*), which captures the essence of the original car.

Simon spent some time with the *Apache* nostalgia Funny Car team with BDRHoF member **Rob Loaring** at the National Finals at Santa Pod Raceway, to take notes on between-run servicing to get a better understanding of what needs to be done. As the number of UK nostalgia Funny Cars increases, it is encouraging to see inter-team co-operation to get the running of such cars spot-on and reduce the learning curve.



*Image: Darren West*



For those who visit Facebook, a fascinating new page has been set up by BDRHoF Selection Board member and Shakespeare County Raceway General Manager **Jerry Cookson**. Entitled UK Drag Strips That Time Forgot, it documents over eighty venues from the early 60s with the help of information from Sprint historian Clive Rooms. The site details events held and how the airfields came about as well as their construction by the RAF and the Ministry of Defence before or during WW2.

Jerry said ' There is so much history about these venues which has been and needs to be preserved and documented wherever possible. I want to create photographic albums for venues so that we can make the page into a valuable reference source of information to which everyone can contribute'.

## HOFtributes



We were sorry to hear of the death of UK Comp Altered and Pro Comp racer **Brian Cross**. After a long illness Brian passed away peacefully at home with his family at the age of 62.

Brian raced in his *Deadly Messiah* Competition Altered. He later ran in Pro Comp using Jim Read's *Le Patron* dragster. Both Brian and his brother Ray crewed for Robin Read on his nitro Daimler dragster

between 1990 and 1996 when he ran a full race programme both in the UK and overseas including Monza in Italy.

Our deepest sympathies go to Brian's family and friends.

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the UK's **Aidan Kenny** who died in August after a short illness. Cheerful, down-to-earth and popular in the pits, Aidan was a proud member of the legendary Bristol contingent and raced in several classes including Outlaw Anglia, Pro ET, Super Street and Sportsman ET. He will be sadly missed and not forgotten.



## About the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame is a not for profit organisation that was established in 2006 to recognise significant contributions or achievements in the sport of British drag racing. It is run by volunteers and the twelve Selection Board members include club & track officials, promoters, former racers, journalists and fans with a long background in the sport. They convene annually to nominate candidates for inclusion into the Hall of Fame.

Eligibility for induction into the British Drag Racing Hall Of Fame 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 for a 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 recognizable and significant contribution to the sport. Inductees are characterized by their desire to win, mastery of their own particular field and courage to innovate.

## British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Selection Board

**Stu Bradbury** – Former Santa Pod Raceway Chief Starter and Hall of Fame Chairman.

**Keith Bartlett** – Santa Pod Raceway CEO and FIA Championship Promoter

**Phil Evans** – Member of FIA Drag Racing Commission and Chair of MSA Drag Racing Committee.

**Robin Jackson** – MSA British Drag Racing Championship representative and Santa Pod Raceway Press Officer.

**Jeremy Cookson** – Shakespeare County Raceway Promotions Manager and UK Nostalgia enthusiast.

**Graham Beckwith** – Former Santa Pod Raceway Commentator and now event MC and track announcer at York Dragway.

**Ian Marshall** – Santa Pod Racers Club Chief Starter.

**Phil Cottingham** – Spectator Representative and Former Carter Motorsport Marketing Manager.

**Ian Messenger** – Former Bike Racer & BDRHoF Website Administrator.

**Darren Prentice** – Santa Pod Racers Club International Race Director.

**Andy Rogers (Tog)** – Eurodragster.com news editor.

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

Drag Racing History Consultants – **Nick Pettitt** and **Keith Lee**

The BDRHoF also presents the two annual BDRHoF Sydney Allard Media Awards for Photo and Written Journalism sponsored by Mintex. A further intermittent trophy is the BDRHoF Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award.

## British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Limited

In September 2016 a Limited Company was incorporated to place the BDRHoF on a corporate footing. The management of the BDRHoF is carried out by its Management Board which looks after strategy, finance, commercial, marketing,

sponsorship, press & public relations, membership liaison, international liaison, events and general secretary duties. The Directors are listed below:

**Stu Bradbury** – Honorary Chairman

**Brian Taylor** - Chief Executive Officer

**Simon Groves** – Company Secretary and Membership Liaison

**Robin Jackson** – Press Liaison

**Guy Loveridge** – Industry Liaison

**Andy Wheeler** - Social Media and Special Projects

**Bev Bradbury** – General Secretary and Treasurer

**Advisers: Geoff Stilwell** (sponsorship partner and international liaison), **Phil**

**Cottingham** (outdoor events), **Phil Evans** (special motorsport liaison) **Julian**

**Parsons** (audio visual)

The Board meets regularly to discuss issues associated with finance, operations and structure. For convenience meetings are usually held at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel (the Gala Awards Dinner venue) and major topics have included the Gala Awards Dinner and increasing promotional activity. This year meetings have been held on 17th February, 28th April, 27th May, 30th June, 15th July, 8th September and 20th October.

### **BDRHoF Benevolent Fund**

In March 2016 the BDRHoF Benevolent Fund was created as registered charity no. 1167197. The BDRHOF Benevolent Fund is run for drag racers by trustees who have had many years' experience in the sport. Trustees are: **Stu Bradbury, Simon Groves, Robin Jackson, Ian Messenger, Graham Beckwith, Ian Marshall and Phil Cottingham.**

Racers or officials who through injury have fallen on hard times may be invited to apply for grants. Money raised will also go to the Air Ambulances local to UK drag racing tracks. All money raised by donation goes to charitable grants.

Collections will be organised at meetings at three of the UK's drag racing tracks, Santa Pod Raceway, Shakespeare County Raceway and York Raceway. There will also be collections at BDRHOF events and through corporate giving by sponsors.

Many thanks to those who contributed a total of £500 to the appeal at the 2016 BDRHoF Gala.

### **Help Required**

If you would like to help the BDRHoF we are urgently seeking assistance with event management tasks such as Powerpoint presentations, journalism, script writing, programme producing, liaising with sponsors, managing Media Award entries, 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 [brian@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:brian@britishdragracinghof.co.uk).

## Contacts

Main Office - British Drag Racing Hall of Fame, Adelaide Cottage, 39 Hatton Park Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 5AT, United Kingdom  
Telephone 0044 1 933 297102; Website [www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk](http://www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## General enquiries

[stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## Industry Liaison enquiries

[guy@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:guy@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## Press and Public Relations enquiries

[robin@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:robin@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## International enquiries

[geoff@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:geoff@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## HOFtalk enquiries

[simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:simon@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

## Sponsors

The BDRHoF could not exist without the support of its sponsors. Three levels of sponsorship are available – Partnership, Primary and Regular/Event sponsorship. If your company would like to join these supporters please contact [brian@britishdragracinghof.co.uk](mailto:brian@britishdragracinghof.co.uk)

### BDRHoF Sponsorship Partner – Beech Underwriting

beech underwriting agencies

### BDRHoF Primary Sponsors – U S Automotive and Santa Pod Racers Club



**BDRHoF General and Event Supporters - The Pennine Drag Racing Club; Eurodragster.com; Avon Park International Racing Association; Shakespeare County Raceway; Santa Pod Raceway; York Raceway; Lucas Oil; Aptitude, Mintex; International Organisation of Professional Drivers and Rat Trap Racing.**



**MINTEX**



**York Raceway**

**eurodragster.com**



**Atlantic Fluid Tech**



## Items for sale

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame has a range of branded items available for sale. You can find details on [www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk/shop/](http://www.britishdragracinghof.co.uk/shop/). New items are being added and these include ball point pens and mouse mats.



Photo Credit Matt Woods

# Follow the Havoc Fuel Altered USA Tour! Book with DialAFlight

Speak to our travel experts  
Bobby or Austin today

- Tailor-made travel services
- Corporate and leisure travel
- Worldwide flights and private jets
- Competitive prices on hotels and tours
- Car hire, specialist supercars and American muscle cars



Call us 7 days a week

**01732 • 592997**

**Bobby.Tuggey@dialaflight.co.uk**

**www.dialaflight.com**

# DialAFlight

ONE CALL. ALL THE ANSWERS

ABTA & ATOL PROTECTED