



RIAC
ARCHIVE
BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2021

THE ROYAL IRISH AUTOMOBILE CLUB PIONEER RUN FOR LAURA LYNN



Just as for fans of the Olympics, the European Football Championships & The Ryder Cup we motoring enthusiasts had to wait patiently for the easing of Covid restrictions so as to resume our motoring events. The RIAC Pioneer Run planned for Autumn 2020 was no exception & had to be cancelled. In 2020 we had hoped to return to The Moyvalley Hotel & Golf Resort as we had run a very successful event there in 2019. As restrictions eased we realised it would be possible to run an event in 2021 albeit we had to be cognisant of some remaining rules.

In June a group of us met to discuss what might be possible. Agreement was rapidly reached that as the Club premises were facing redevelopment it might be a final opportunity to bring veteran motorists & their machines

back to Dawson St. The club & our entrants took to this idea with great enthusiasm. The opportunity to have their veteran cars photographed leaving the garage with the historic sign above proving to be a major attraction. In previous years a beautiful dated badge was presented to all entrants but for 2021 a decision was taken that we would reflect the current difficult times and help a charity who would have lost income during the pandemic. The obvious charity being Laura Lynn who the club have had an association with through The Picnic in the Park event.

The Pioneer for Laura Lynn was held over the weekend of 21st & 22nd August. For entrants coming from the country we had a meeting spot at Cardock Classics in Kildare where trailers & tow wagons could be left on the Saturday

afternoon with a convoy drive into Dawson St. To comply with remaining restrictions entrants booked their own accommodation, though most choose to stay in Buswells. For those that wished they could book supper in La Ruelle which many did. The sight of both veteran cars & two veteran motorcycles overnight in the RIAC Garage was so heartening. Sunday morning in the garage was abuzz with old car noises & smells resonant of times long gone. On behalf of the club a presentation was made to Bob Montgomery, the founder of the event, by Arthur Collier. The cars started to leave at 10am to the amazed looks of by-

standers. The veterans travelled through the city heading northwards through Glasnevin & under the M50 at Finglas. From here a circuitous route took them through Kilbride, close to Clonee, Dunboyne, Maynooth & eventually to lunch in Rathcoffey.

All veterans had a successful run with no mechanical issues. Entrants were amazed at how we found such rural roads so close to the city. The icing on the cake for the organisers was that through the support of the club & some sponsorship 100% of the event entry income is supporting Laura Lynn.





THE RIAC CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR RUN





Events don't just happen, they require a lot of work and effort, this 'Run' being no exception. Dermott Quigley and his wife Romaine devised a wonderful if challenging route of 114.6 Kms. (71.3 Mls.) travelling through some magnificent Wicklow countryside. Directional instructions were presented in a 'Tulip Diagram' format. Richard Warbrick and Larry Armstrong were tasked with getting people to take part in the event, and did very well to achieve twenty-five entries.

The starting point this year was Taylors Grange, Rathfarnham, where Tea/Coffee & Scones were provided within the Entry Fee. Peter Cosgrave was responsible for the parking of participant's cars in the taped off area provided by our hosts. Peter then acted as Official Starter and he even found time to take photographs as well! Dermott and Romaine headed off before the rest of the cars, to ensure that the route was clear, and just as well they did, as one of the signposts that we were relying on had been cut down and thrown in a ditch. Dermott managed to prop the sign up pointing in the right direction again. There had of course been communal prayers to ensure the weather behaved itself on the day (you should see the state of our collective knees). The cars included Bentley, Ferrari, Gullwing Mercedes, Triumph, MG and a brace each of

Jaguar, Porsche 911's and BMW Z4 Coupé's to mention just some. Alex Sinclair and his son Alex Jr. acted as 'Sweeper' to ensure that none of the participants had run into trouble.

At one point the route brought the participants past a hostelry in Laragh, and for some the temptation was too great, with considerable time spent while they imbibed, meaning that the welcoming party at the finish at Russborough House, Blessington, were left standing for more time than they had expected.

We had permission to park the cars in front of the main House, and they really looked superb there, and were admired by the many visitors to the estate that day. There was also a non-obligatory Observation Quiz, which those who took part appeared to find fun. The quiz prize was won by the Father and Daughter Team of John and Jackie Keaney (Peugeot 205 GTI) who found and correctly answered nineteen of the twenty clues, well done to them. Since the event we have received telephone calls, texts and letters saying how much people enjoyed the day, and while this is gratifying for those involved in running the event, it was after all, the objective of the exercise.

Here's to next year!



RIAC PICNIC IN THE PARK IN AID OF THE LAURALYNN FOUNDATION

The concept of the RIAC organising a Motoring Picnic in aid of a charity was first conceived by Robin McCullough over fourteen years ago. The basic concept consisted of an organised picnic event in the afternoon where motor enthusiasts could bring their cherished cars and motorbikes along and have a pleasant time chatting and admiring each other's vehicles and catch up with times past and present.

A nice hamper and a glass or two of your favourite tippie - for the non-drivers - all added to the occasion. A nominal entrance fee was charged and this, along with a collection, was donated in its entirety to The Laura Lynn Foundation. It is a great charity, of which most of you are familiar, and does wonderful work providing support to sick children and their

families. Since that first Picnic organised by Robin, over €80,000 has been raised.

Along with so many other events, the Covid pandemic had a serious impact which meant that we could not hold live events in 2020 and 2021. However, we did run "virtual" events and still managed to get several thousand euro to Laura Lynn, largely due to the generous support of Archive members and the Goodyear tyre company for which we are very grateful.

The Future; Well, let's just say that the success of this event is definitely not "virtual" as it relies largely on the social element that is so difficult to achieve when everything has to be done online. Consequently, we look forward with renewed vigour to 2022 when we hope we can once again all get up front and personal!



AUTUMN TALK

The proposed talk scheduled for October has been postponed to next spring to allow all the restrictions relating to Covid-19 to subside fully. We do have a very promising guest of honour lined up that we are certain will prove very popular. We respectfully suggest that the important thing to do at this stage is to keep in touch by renewing your membership of the Archive. It costs just €50!

CARS & COFFEE

The final Cars & Coffee event for 2021 will be held in the club from 10am on Sunday 31st October. Those who attended previously will know the format; it consists of like-minded people chatting about their cars and motoring exploits (some real and some imaginary!) while consuming copious amounts of coffee and sticky buns. All are welcome.

PHOTO CREDITS

Photos provided courtesy of:

Sam Burgess
Barry Cregg
Alex Sinclair Jr.
RIAC Archive

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas lunch is on! Despite all the challenges surrounding the pandemic and its associated restrictions plans are now in place to hold the lunch in the club on 7th December. The cost is just €35 and you can reserve a place by contacting the office at 01 6775141. Kindly note that we require payment when making a booking as the attendance is limited to 52 people. Please also note that tables of six to eight are available and may not be adjusted to suit larger groups. This, unfortunately, is a requirement.

WHO ARE WE?

The RIAC Motoring sub-Committee consists of 9 members in total consisting of:

Robin McCullagh (Chair)
Arthur Collier (ex officio)
Richard Warbrick
John Larkin
Jonathan Bewley
Peter Cosgrave
Larry Armstrong
Dermott Quigley
Alex Sinclair

All can be contacted through the RIAC office at 01 6775141.

MEMBERSHIP

Please do renew your membership of the Archive (or indeed introduce new members). The person to contact is Holly at 01 677 5141 who will be only too pleased to relieve you of the paltry sum of €50!