



ELVA May 2015 Newsletter

Donington HF and the ELVA 60th Anniversary 2-4th May 2015

We celebrated the first of the ELVA 60th Anniversary gatherings at the superb Donington Historic Festival over the long weekend 2-4th May 2015 thanks to Duncan Wiltshire and Karen Coe (Donington Promotions), Sarah Mitrike (FJHRA) and ELVA Racing. Huge thanks also due to Stuart Rolt who spent much time preparing his ELVA rear-engine F/J (200) ready to be displayed in the foyer of the on site and fully booked Radisson Blu hotel where it attracted much attention. A wonderful contribution from a highly respected engine builder much in demand.

We had just over twenty cars on the list including the three versions of ELVA Formula Juniors, one Scorpion F/J, one Mk.IV, two Mk.V's, two Mk.VII's, one Mk.VIII, one GT160, a McLaren-Elva M1B and M1C, two Courier roadsters and one Courier GT coupe. It was a very popular meeting which resulted in some pressure on the organisers who were having to make last minute decisions about where we were to display the cars, with those racing in paddocks 2 and 3, and others eventually assigned to a prime spot outside the Paddock Club which was well stock with free hot coffee and delicious bacon rolls! Last minute issues meant that the McLaren, the GT160, Scorpion and a Mk.VII were unable to attend but the remaining group had a busy enjoyable weekend with a photo-shoot fitted into a very hectic track schedule for the cars that were not committed on track.

The three Couriers on display were the rare blue GT coupe of Martin Greaves; the pretty dark blue roadster of Barry Worsey, and the eye catching yellow roadster owned by Paul Braisford. This car is booked to become a TV star when it appears in an antiques programme broadcast by the BBC in which the antique experts travel in a classic car to various locations. Many thanks to Dave and Steve for bringing the car on behalf of Paul who was on holiday. Another huge thank you to Rod Begbie and the TTP team who bought the Mk.IV and Mk.VII for display. Wonderful.

The front-engined Formula Junior racing was fast and furious with a determined effort and podium (3rd) finish from Mark Woodhouse who needed to undertake a hurried top-half engine rebuild just before the race, with further great racing by Crispian Besley, John Arnold, Bernard Brock, Tom DeGres and David Bishop. The rear-engine group was dominated by a Mallock U2 but in hot pursuit were ELVA Juniors of Christopher Drake (300), James Owen (200) and Gilbert Lenoir (200). The early ELVA sports racers entered in the Stirling Moss Trophy race were the Mk.V of Ralf Emmerling and Mk.V of Louis Zurstrassen, both having competed well against some much larger capacity cars of the era. The Kremer family entered Mk.VII managed a very creditable 3rd in Class in the World Sportscar Championship Cars Race with the M1C achieving the second fastest lap time of the 1000km race. The 60th mementos were well received and hopefully everyone went home with a smile!

60th gathering and other events ...

There were discussions about another 60th gathering in Bexhill later in the year and of course details will be circulated once decisions are made. There has been much progress with the other major ELVA event in New Jersey 18-20th Sept., with the VRG. There has been increasing interest and commitments from many people to travel great distances, even from Japan! Absolutely no reason not to get involved so watch the ELVA Forum for updates over the coming weeks. Hopefully see you there!

September 18-20: New Jersey Historic Races, Lightning Circuit, New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ

Featured Marque is Elva (60th Anniversary) Mark Donohue Cup for Best Prepared and Raced Elva Courier

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Event Chairman: Butch O'Connor, Tel: 973-295-3674 Email: bfo@spsk.com

Some images for you ...

The first image shows the Radisson Blu foyer display of Stuart Rolt's beautifully prepared and quick ELVA '200' Junior.



Next three images show the blue Courier coupe of Martin Greaves; Mk.IV sports racer of Rod Begbie; Mk.V of Ralf Emmerling, Mk.VII of Robi Burnberg and yellow Courier roadster of Paul Braisford.



Finally, images of the photoshoot show ... three pics from Donington



image7

Unfortunately not all cars were able to get to the photo-shoot due to other commitments on or off the track within the short time available. It was a BUSY but enjoyable weekend!
Drivers are L-R ... John Arnold, Crispian Besley, Mark Woodhouse, Gilbert Lenoir, James Owen, Bernard Brock, Tom DeGres, Dave Smith for owner Paul Braisford, and Barry Worsey.
Many thanks to Chris Byrne for taking the excellent photo's with more at <http://www.sunrisephotography.org/elva-anniversary.php>
Please note strictly copyright Chris Byrne of Sunrise Photography. Email c_byrne@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Webb

Together with journalist/photographer Mike Taylor I very recently met up with 91 year old Frank Webb who was a key figure in the Elva associated engineering companies Rytune and Nerus. Frank has had a most interesting career which I will précis on the website soon, but of course of special interest is his work on the development of the Rytune 'A' Series BMC and two-stroke DKW engines for the front-engined Formula Junior series, and later the superb BMW units for the hugely successful Mk.VIIS and Mk.VIII/VIIIS sports racers. Then on to Cosworth ... quite a story!
More soon.

Snippets



I had some special items produced for Donington including just 60 Anniversary key-fobs.

They have been very popular with just five in black available ... if you want one be quick.

<http://www.elva.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=584>

There are always some interesting ELVA cars listed on the ELVA Forum under 'Cars for Sale' which you can find at <http://www.elva.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=7>
Remember you can view without having to register.

Finally I have available one of the ELVA IOE conversions made to quite dramatically increase the power of the Ford 100E engine, and which produced an extremely important financial contribution to the success of ELVA Engineering in the early days.

These rare kits are hard to find nowadays so please make contact if of interest.



Have a wonderful Summer and fast but safe racing. Most importantly our sincere gratitude to Frank Nichols and all the talented people who were hugely dedicated and so enthusiastically produced such wonderful cars for us to celebrate and admire. ELVA ... She Goes!

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