



# **NORTH ARMAGH MOTORCYCLE & CAR CLUB LTD**

**NORTH ARMAGH MOTORCYCLE & CAR CLUB (Tarmac Section) Ltd**

Affiliated to the MCUI, MCUI (UC) and the MRA  
[www.tandragee100.co.uk](http://www.tandragee100.co.uk)



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**



## **PRESS RELEASE 7 TANDRAGEE 100 2017**

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
7PM ON 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**

### **HUGE ENTRY FOR THE 57<sup>th</sup> AROUND A POUND TANDRAGEE 100**

The North Armagh Motorcycle & Car Club Ltd is delighted to launch the 57<sup>th</sup> **Around A Pound Tandragee 100** on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**.

“The circuit’s in deepest, greenest rural Northern Ireland, with a paddock that’s more gently waving grass and blizzards of blossom than tarmac and caravans...When you ride the circuit, what strikes you is how beautifully it all flows together, each corner feeding into the next one...The circuit really does have everything: tight corners; a long main straight; and fast corners you take in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> gear with the throttle wide open...and what you can’t see from a map is the way the circuit rises and falls the whole time.” (Patrick Walker, Works Racing)

Just a few of the stars you can expect to see at the Tandragee 100 National Road Races on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 include Guy Martin, William Dunlop, Derek Sheils, Derek McGee, Micko Sweeney, and rising stars Paul Jordan and Adam McLean.

The Tandragee 100 Course was, voted 4th Best Road Racing Course in the World (only the TT, Macau & UGP came higher) and the word is spreading as much loved Italian rider, Dario Ceconi (who thinks of Tandragee as his ‘home’ circuit) will be joined again this year the ever popular duo Michal Dukuopil and Veronika Hankocycova from Czech Republic; newcomers Mathias Winkenjohann and Vassitios Takos (from Germany); and Matteo Bleggi (from Italy) who together will provide a truly international flavour to this year’s event.

This year’s whopping Tandragee 100 Entry includes approximately **350** entries with competitors hailing from Northern Ireland (71), South of Ireland (50), England, Wales, Scotland & Isle of Man (39) and Europe (6) with **42** circuit newcomers, this is proof that road racing is still very much alive and kicking in the shallow hills of County Armagh!

As always costs have risen this year however we are delighted to be able to offer a prize fund of over **£10,000!** All the races this year will be Irish/Ulster Championships Races with the exception of the First Open Race and Forgotten Era class which will be non-championship events.

We appeal for everyone to support the Around A Pound Tandragee 100 by purchasing a programme as this is one of the main revenue streams for the event and/or make a donation in the bucket with the programme sellers.

## **OFFICIAL RACE SPONSORS**

The Club warmly welcomes our good friends Gerry and Siobhan Rice of Around A Pound as our continuing overall race sponsors.

**Around A Pound** - is a family run business formed in 1998. They deal mainly in discount soft goods and are based in Newry with outlets in Banbridge, Newcastle, Lurgan, Armagh and most recently in Warrenpoint. Gerard certainly is an enthusiast and is supporting Michael Dunlop, Shaun Anderson and Steven Clarke in the 2017 season. Sincere thanks to Gerard and Siobhan Rice for their continuing support.

**Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council** - have once again contributed substantially to the Race. Our thanks are due to the Godfrey McCartney, Regeneration and Development Committee. Also thanks are due to the Council Staff, particularly the Regeneration & Development Committee; Barry Pearson; Gregg Wilson; Andrew Johnston; Sarah McGearry (Marketing) and Susan Parks (Admin) for their on-going assistance.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer thanks to Councillor Garath Keating, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council for hosting the Press Conference in the Navan Centre. Thank you Lord Mayor Keating.

**Mahon Garden Centre** are for the third year a sponsor of an Ambulance. Mahon Garden Centre was established in 1988 by the Eakins family and is now a leading plant orientated, independent Garden Centre, growing the majority of the stock on their own nursery, ensuring the highest quality possible. Situated in County Armagh it offers a click and collect service to its customers via its website. Robert Eakins is no stranger to the motorcycle racing scene being a long-time sponsor and friend to the talented and very successful Marshal Neill, Woolsey Coulter and in more recent times up and coming short circuit star Mark Murphy.

The Club is indebted to Andrew Woolsey of **Woolsey Freight Ltd** who provides haulage of the necessary safety bales for the event.

Thanks also to the help of dedicated club members we have been able to put together what promises to be a first class event in 2017.

The other companies and individuals who have helped the Club, in either a financial or material way, to make the Tandragee 100 happen, are also greatly appreciated. In particular we'd like to acknowledge the Officials, First Aid, Marshals, Flag Marshals, Press, etc without who we couldn't run the event. To these, and many others, the Club owes a great deal of thanks and if we have left anyone out we can only apologise.

It is because of our hard working volunteers that the Club in 2016 was honoured with the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. This is the first time a motorsport group have received this esteemed mark of distinction. The North Armagh Motorcycle & Car Club (Tarmac Section) Ltd is immensely proud of the recognition that this Award represents. It is a demonstration to all of our many volunteers that what they do really makes a difference.

For up to date information and news please visit our web site: [www.tandragee100.co.uk](http://www.tandragee100.co.uk) or **Facebook** or **Twitter**.

We are also wish to thank Omnicoverage for providing the Promo Video that you can view on Facebook and u-Tube. Omnicoverage provides a range of services eg Event Coverage,

Filming Services, Feature Video Editing, Digital Photographic Manipulation (Photoshop), Audio Adjustment & Editing, Website Design & Management, 3D Graphics and Modelling(Autodesk), Facebook Page Management, Photo-shoots, Vinyl Graphic Design & Cutting Services, etc. For more information check out their website [www.omnicoverage.com](http://www.omnicoverage.com) or their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/omnicoverageni](https://www.facebook.com/omnicoverageni)

## **PARADE LAP**

**Downshire Coaches** are kindly sponsoring the Parade Lap awards for the first time this year. Mervyn Ingram also provided one of his luxury Coaches for the MCUI UC Roads Inspection in February 2017, much appreciated Mervyn. Many thanks also to Adrian Craig for co-ordinating the impressive list of entries for the Parade Lap.

This year there is a variety of interesting Parade Lap entries, in particular Talan Skeels-Piggins, the founder of the **Bike Experience Charity**. In March 2003 Talan was knocked off his motorcycle and thrown under the path of the oncoming traffic. The accident left him paralysed from the chest down and he thought he would never ride a motorcycle again. Eight years later Talan decided to try and learn to ride again. He bought and adapted a motorcycle, hit setbacks and failures, but eventually found a way to safely ride a motorcycle again. After a year of gentle practice, Talan ventured out into the realms of track day riding, and hasn't looked back since, getting onto the podium at Brands Hatch Indy circuit in the MRO600 class in 2016.

The feelings gained from riding again made Talan realise that there must be more disabled riders out there that would love to have the same opportunity and so he set up the Bike Experience Charity. The Charity does not charge any of the participants to attend the days experience, the reasoning is that many disabled people are living without disposable income and would therefore not be able to take part if a fee were imposed.

The Bike Experience will be located in the main paddock on both Friday and Saturday so please call in and give them a warm welcome to Tandragee!

Other notable entries include: Ray McCullough, Geoff McMullan, Brian Reid, Con Law, John Bell, Bertie Bradford, Mick Williams, Gary Millar, Stephen Ferguson, Nigel Moore and Charlotte Morton.

## **RACE 1**

The opening race of the day will be the **McCrum's Motorcycles First Open Race** – McCrum's Motorcycles is a family run business formed in February 2013. Wes also very much enjoys being part of the community, running weekly Wednesday runs during the bike season, hosting an Annual Bikers & Trikers Charity Run in July and an Annual Charity BBQ in August.

Entries include: Thomas Maxwell, William Dunlop, Vassitios Takos (from Germany), Guy Martin, Paul Jordan, Michal Dokoupil, Shaun Anderson, Rhys Hardisty, Sam Johnson, Micko Sweeney, Adam McLean, Davy Morgan, Dean Campbell, Derek Sheils, Forest Dunn, Andy Farrell, Seamus Elliott, Billy Mellor, Damian Horan, Alan Bonner, etc.

## **RACE 2**

The **Junior Support Race** for 201-400cc machines is sponsored for the first time by **Principal Insurance**. Founded in Manchester in 2011, Principal extended its operations into

Ireland by opening its Dublin office in 2015. It has grown quickly and now arranges cover for nearly ten percent of all road registered riders in Ireland. It is also a significant player in the UK motorcycle insurance market and along with its specialist car and van operations, now boasts over 30,000 policyholders.

Entries include: Liam Chawke, Antony Niholls, Malcolm Love, Paul O'Rourke, David Graham, Brian Loughlin, Ben Mullane, Andy McAllister, Jamie Williams, Stephen 'Cargo' Carr, Tommy Heaphy, Colin McDougall, Stephen Morrison, Derek Wilkie, etc.

### **RACE 3**

**McCullagh Property** are the sponsors for the **Supersport 600cc Race**. The Club is delighted to welcome onboard husband and wife team Jim and Susan McCullagh who have confirmed they will sponsor the 600cc Race in 2017. Jim, originally a local man, and his wife Susan who now live in Lisburn, will sponsor the hotly contested 600cc class in memory of Jim's parents who were lifetime Tandragee 100 supporters. Jim also competed at the Tandragee 100 during the 1980's and the family are well known to the racing fraternity.

Entries include: William Dunlop, Domonic Herbertson, Ian Pert, Callum Laidlaw, Paul Jordan, Michal Dokoupil, Dennis Booth, Paul Gartland, Paul Potchy Williams, Rhys Hardisty, Sam Johnson, Adam McLean, Micko Sweeney, Davy Morgan, Derek Sheils, Forest Dunn, Paul Cranston, Andy Farrell, Paul Fallon, Neil Kernohan, Alan Bonner, Shaun Wynne, etc.

### **RACE 4**

**The Phillip Riddell Memorial Classic Championship Race** is sponsored by **21<sup>st</sup> Century Backcare**. Under the banner of **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Backcare** Raymond & Trevor who are sons of the late Dick Knox, long time Club President and motorcycle and motor car racer extraordinaire are again overall sponsors of the Classic Race which is divided into three classes that have been individually sponsored.

**Up to 250cc Class** sponsored by Donald McMorran, proprietor of **Millside Engineering** who has been a long-time supporter of Tandragee and lives on the course on the Markethill Road. He has 30 years engineering experience and has produced precision parts for the riders.

**Race for 251cc – 350cc class** is sponsored by **R Heatrick Ltd** a local building firm who we welcome again.

**Race for 351cc – 500cc class** is sponsored by **William McCombe & Son** who we welcome as sponsor for the fourth time in 2017.

**Race for 501cc – 1000cc class** is sponsored by Dave & Christine Steele of **www.simleearth.co.uk** provide natural skin and body care join us for the first time in 2017.

Entries include: Richard Ford, Gary Hutton, Robert Wright, Alex McVicker, Philip Shaw, Sean Henry, Ian Thompson, Sean Leonard, Tim Stephenson, Gary Jamison, Patrick Walker, Barry Davidson, Chris Turner, John Scott, Trevor Stewart, Jamie O'Brien, Robert McCrum, etc.

### **RACE 5**

The **City Autos Lightweight Class** is open to **125cc grand prix** machines. City Autos Ltd owned by club member, Ivor Hadden, has rightfully gained a reputation for carrying out work to the highest standard in a friendly manner. As always thank you Ivor.

The **400cc Supersport Class & 450cc singles Class** is sponsored by **Groucho's Cafe Bar & Music Lounge** the place to be in Richhill. The Club again welcomes proprietor Peter Lyness.

The **Forgotten Era Class** is sponsored by **Portadown Recycling Ltd.** Portadown Recycling offer a variety of facilities including skip hire for domestic use and to the construction industry. Thanks to Wesley Jamison.

Entries include: Gary Dunlop, Sarah Boyes, Melissa Kennedy, Adam McLean, Nigel Moore, Neil Kernohan, Callum Laidlaw, Paul Gartland, Yvonne Montgomery, Dean Campbell, Andy McAllister, Stephen 'Cargo' Carr, Seamus Elliott, Billy Mellor, Stephen Morrison, Matteo Bleggi, Richard Ford, Jamie O'Brien, Robert McCrum, etc.

### **RACE 6**

**Tandragee Supervalu Irish Championship Senior Support Race** for 401cc – 750cc machines will be sponsored this year by **Tandragee Supervalu.** Neville and Philip Woods are well known local businessmen trading as Supervalu on the Portadown Road, Tandragee, on the Dobbin Road, Portadown and in Richhill.

Entries include: Sarah Boyes, James Chawke, John Cahill, Rodney Little, Stuart McCann, James Reverley, Yvonne Montgomery, Dario Cecconi, Veronika Hankocyova, Tommy Henry, Jamie Williams, Mathias Winkenjohann, etc.

### **RACE 7**

This year **Tayto NI Ltd**, who are our longest standing sponsor, are the sponsors of the **650cc twins** race and we welcome Mr Tayto tonight. We would also wish to take this opportunity to wish Tayto (NI) Ltd a very happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Tayto NI Ltd whose products are well known not only the length and breadth of Ireland but all over the world, will again have Mr Tayto and their mobile unit at the event. Thanks again to Stephen Hutchinson and his marketing manager Bob Brown.

The **250cc GP Championship** sponsored by **Simon Magee Plumbing & Heating.** The Club is delighted to have Simon on board. Simon provides a top class plumbing and heating service.

Entries include: Paul Jordan, Callum Laidlaw, David Lumsden, Matthew Rees, Paul Gartland, Shaun Anderson, Veronika Hankocyova, Sam Johnson, Adam McLean, Stephen Boyes, Micko Sweeney, Gareth Evans, Derek Sheils, Seamus Elliott, Rhys Hardisty, Davy Morgan, Neil Kernohan, Jamie O'Brien, etc.

### **RACE 8**

**Around A Pound Tandragee 100 Senior Open Race**, the final race of the day which is sponsored by our overall sponsor and this race will have prize money of over £2000. **The winner will collect £1,000.**

Entries include: Thomas Maxwell, William Dunlop, Vassitios Takos (from Germany), Guy Martin, Paul Jordan, Michal Dokoupil, Shaun Anderson, Rhys Hardisty, Sam Johnson, Micko Sweeney, Adam McLean, Davy Morgan, Dean Campbell, Derek Sheils, Forest Dunn, Andy Farrell, Seamus Elliott, Billy Mellor, Damian Horan, Alan Bonner, etc.

## Competition

This year **ONE** of our Race Programmes will have a message somewhere inside. If yours is the winning programme it will contain details of how to collect your prize of VIP hospitality and an official Club Polo Shirt. Please support the event by buying a Programme and you'll be in with a chance.

## Further Awards

The **Joe McKeown Memorial Trophy** for the Best Classic Newcomer Performance was introduced by Joe's family. Joe was one of our most senior and longstanding members who sadly passed away and is sorely missed – he was a real character.

The **Philip Riddall Memorial Trophy** will also be awarded at the discretion of the Riddall Family.

**Andrew Milne** has sponsored an award of £100 to the **Man of the Meeting**.

We are also very pleased that **Sean Halliday**, originally from Northern Ireland who now lives in San Diego, California, has also kindly donated the prize money for the winner in the 250GP class.

**Paul McClean** has donated a framed picture of Malachi Mitchell-Thomas and £250 raised from sales of this photos to be awarded to the Fastest Newcomer and will be presented by Eve Philips from Dublin outside the Race Office at the end of the event.

**David McWaters, MCW Photography** (who sponsor Colin Dunlop) has kindly donated £100 for the Best Newcomer in the Junior Support Class and £50 and an A3 Print to the Club.

## **PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR SPONSORS**

**Club Charity of the Year – Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund** - Ian Forsythe, Club Treasurer/Event Co-ordinator, was very fortunate on 11th December 2016 to celebrate 25 years of a successful kidney transplant! This year the Club has chosen the NIKRF as their Charity of the Year. NIKRF raise money to promote kidney transplantation and help the many patients who need transplants to stay alive. There will be collectors in the paddock at this year's Tandragee 100 so please give generously or donations can be sent direct to Mr Walter Kerr, Life President, 65 Ballylough Road, Donacloney, BT66 7PQ or to myself at 45 Kensington Park, Portadown, BT63 5PQ.

**Tandragee 100 Supporters Club** - On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 the Tandragee 100 Supporters Club, have organised a Ride Out. Please contact any of the Supporters Club Officials for more details.

**Injured Riders Sponsored Walk** - On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 The Injured Riders Welfare Fund will be holding their Annual Walk of the Circuit to help raise finances & awareness of this fund. The walk will start at 14:00hrs (02:00pm) from Moyourkan Orange Hall, walking the entire 5.3 mile circuit and returning to the Hall for refreshments. For further details regarding this event please contact Mrs Sheila Sinton MBE on 028 3884 1367 or 07780916107.

**Disability Access** - contact Mrs Sinton MBE if you require a Disability Access Badge and information for the Race Day.