

HOFtalk



The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame News Bulletin Summer 2017 Issue 4

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

2017 INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) has just announced the names of the seven people selected for induction in 2017. They are record-setting Top Fuel team principals Per Andersen and Karsten Andersen; long time photographer and the man who revived the Fuel Altered class in the UK, Lawrie Gatehouse; committed husband-and-wife racers, organisers and drag racing supporters John and Lesley Wright; legendary Suzuki drag bike racer Pip Higham; and Top Fuel Bike racer Steve Woollatt. They are joined by BDRHoF Chairman Stu Bradbury, who was inducted in a special ceremony on 15 July at Dragstalgia.



Karsten and Per Andersen



Lawrie Gatehouse



Pip Higham



John and Lesley Wright



Steve Woollatt



Stu Bradbury

Their detailed citations are in the next five pages and the Induction Ceremonies will take place at the BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner being held at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge on November 18th when drag racing personalities and fans from around the world will celebrate the commitment and the influence they have had on drag racing. We welcome them all into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.

From the Editor



Welcome to the latest HOFtalk! Congratulations to all the inductees for 2017 on their huge achievements in the sport in the UK. We will be thrilled to see them at our Gala Dinner on 18th November at the Oatlands Park Hotel.

We are also very excited to announce Steve Gibbs as recipient of the Lucas Oils Global Achievement Award for 2017. Steve has had a large influence on the sport's development in many areas, and he is going to be celebrated by many fantastic US stars who will also be attending.

The Oatlands Park Hotel is a great venue, close to Brooklands and Mercedes Benz World and the Gala weekend of 18th November should be in your calendar.

US Automotive is proud to have been associated with the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame since its launch in 2006 and we are very pleased to continue our support through 2016 and beyond.

It is important to recognize those people whose commitment and expertise have helped to grow the sport of drag racing in the UK since the formative years of the late 1950s and early 1960s and, in parallel, grown the businesses potential of companies linked to the sport.

The Gala Awards Dinner has now expanded into an event of worldwide significance and its influence is reflected in the many legendary drag tracing names attending, along with the increasing number of business and media guests. US Automotive is honoured to have played a part in this growth and along

with congratulating all the award winners we wish everyone a pleasant evening.

It promises to be very special.



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Karsten Andersen, Per Andersen – A Profile by Andy (Tog) Rogers



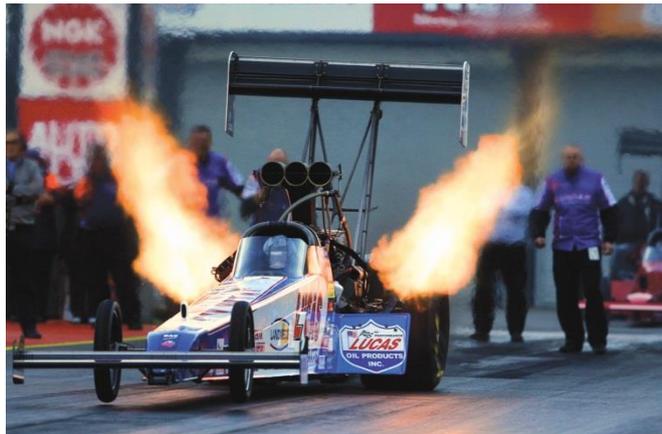
On a trip from Denmark to Mantorp Park in the late 1980s, fellow Car Club members Karsten Andersen and Per Andersen noticed a Comp Eliminator dragster for sale. The rest is history. After alternating drives in the Comp Dragster Karsten and Per were invited to join the Top Fuel team of fellow Dane Jens Nybo. Jointly calling the shots, they tuned Jens to European series wins preceding the FIA era and then the first FIA European Top Fuel Dragster Championship in 1996.

Kim Reymond bought Jens' dragster in 2002 and, tuned by Karsten and Per, took that year's FIA Championship. In August 2003 there was a sign of things to come at Gardermoen in Norway when the team didn't bother with the 4.8s but went straight from 4.9s to Europe's first 4.7-second run, followed a few weeks later by the shot heard around Europe, Kim's 4.645/317.56 in qualifying at the 2003 FIA European Finals at Santa Pod Raceway, although an injury sustained at the hit of the parachutes ended Kim's racing career. In 2005 Karsten and Per assisted Swedish Top Fuel racer Tommy Möller to runner-up spot in the FIA Championship.

Karsten and Per started their own Top Fuel operation in 2006 with a state-of-the-art dragster imported from the USA and driven by Swedish Pro Modified standout Håkan Nilsson. Håkan set an ET record of 4.830 seconds and won that year's FIA Championship before retiring. UK legend Andy Carter stepped into the dragster and Karsten and Per tuned him to the FIA Championship in 2007 and 2009, equalling Kim's 4.645 ET then in 2010 setting his third quarter-mile record of 4.572 seconds, which will never be broken.

Karsten and Per shipped the car to America for several events with Norway's Thomas Nataas in the seat before returning to Europe. American star Tommy Johnson Jr drove the dragster in 2011, setting a 1000-foot ET record of 4.008 seconds and building a clear Championship lead before a licence suspension ruled him out mid-season. Thomas returned to the seat and won the FIA Championship in 2013. Thomas set three speed records, finishing with a best of 316.40 mph, and amassed the most Championship points in 2014 before a controversial point's reallocation after a licence suspension robbed him of the European title.

As a result Karsten and Per withdrew from European racing and sold the dragster to US racer Scott Palmer. Karsten continued in racing, working with Sweden's Jonnie and Johan Lindberg in Top Alcohol and Fuel Funny Car on the NHRA Tour, whilst Per retired from racing to develop his business although remaining involved in a local car club.



Tuning seven Top Fuel Dragster racers to a long list of European Championship titles, event wins, round wins, and ET and speed records is one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of European drag racing and it is for the tuning skills and tactical nous which generated this success that Karsten Andersen and Per Andersen are inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.

Photo Credits: Andy (Tog) Rogers and Dom Romney

Lawrie Gatehouse – A Profile by Simon Groves



For over half a century Lawrie Gatehouse has contributed much to drag racing in the UK. His story started with sprinting a Triumph Bonneville, however things changed after his first contact with drag racing at the Blackbushe DragFest meeting in 1964. He had learned of the American racers coming over and was 'amazed and dumbfounded' at what he witnessed. He became one of drag racing's regular photographers contributing to magazines like Autocar, Motor, Autosport, Custom Car and National Drag Racer. He then took a few years away from drag racing to start his own company - Process Systems International. His training as a professional mechanical engineer provided the foundations for business success and this gave him the resources to return to the sport with some bold new ideas.

He initially sponsored a few teams but in 2004 he renewed his acquaintance with Ollie Burn, whom he knew from the 1970s. Ollie inspired him to get more closely involved with a class that he always had a passion for – Fuel Altered. Lawrie conceived and formed the Nostalgia Fuel Altered Association (NFAA) with the prime aim to put on a show like it used to be when he was in the US. The first meeting for the NFAA was Easter 2005 and, later, as many as fourteen teams competed, with Lawrie providing run money to contribute to the teams' running costs.

He then turned to race car ownership and had the legendary Chaos Fuel Altered built from scratch in twelve weeks at the start of 2006. John Wright was the original driver and crew chief, experiencing the car's evil handling. It usually ran mid to high sixes, but got away from John at Shakey and a new chassis was in order - with which John recorded even quicker runs. Gary Page was the next driver of Chaos but the aerodynamics of the car still made it a handful with it rolling twice more, each accident requiring a new chassis.

The turning point came with the involvement of Jason and Roy Phelps in constructing a lighter body with improved aerodynamics. Nick Davies drove the car until it was retired at the end of 2015. Its PBs were 6.08/232.76mph. It is for his contribution to photo journalism both here and in the US, the formation and running of the NFAA, and creation of the quickest Fuel Altered in Europe of its day, that Lawrie Gatehouse is inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.



Photo Credits: Simon Groves ; Ivan Sansom and Rose Hughes

Pip Higham – A Profile by Graham Beckwith



Pip Higham's first introduction to Drag Racing was in 1964 when a round of the 'International Dragfest' took place at Woodvale. After crewing for Fred Whittle of 'Shutdown' competition altered fame at early UK drag races he switched to two wheels and in the early 1970s was competing as a rider with a selection of his own machines, a Rickman Triumph, a Honda and a triple Kawasaki.

There followed a series of giant killings with a Suzuki GS750 during 1977 as he made a name for himself in production drag racing and record breaking at Elvington the following year.

The quest for more performance saw the development of a Suzuki GS1000 followed by a GSX in subsequent years - racing across Europe and ultimately America, during which time he also campaigned a turbo-charged Suzuki 'Funny Bike' alongside his regular stable.

The background for all this success revolved around Pip's own business, the 'Village Bike Shop' in Manchester where he provided a service for those who wished to go that much quicker than the rest. Built following the successes of his previous Street class rides, where Pip had become first European into the 10 second bracket and then the first rider ever into the nines, 'The Deuce', a VBS development producing 160 bhp from Pip's own tuning parts, ran in the 9.0 second bracket many times at terminal speeds up to 154 mph for the quarter mile. With backing from Heron Suzuki GB, Texaco and *Superbike* Magazine, he did more than his fair share to establish Pro Stock Motorcycle racing in Europe.

The Brighton Speed Trials saw Pip take 'The Deuce' GSX1100 to an incredible 160mph through the beams. In the course of its competitive life this bike saw racing at Santa Pod, Brighton, York, Le Mans, Paul Ricard and Monza along with several regional events. The stablemate for the 'Deuce' at this time was the innovative 'Suzuperbike', a turbocharged B-class gasser which lay claim to a best ever 9.00 / 152mph from just 1,176cc. Pip's incredible career continued with winning the Pro Stock Bike class three years running at Le Mans, on board a VBS Suzuki. He also built and prepared the late Chris Hampson's ACU championship winning Turbo Suzuki.

He made a significant contribution to the future of drag racing in the North when he became the catalyst that brought together sponsors, workers, fund raisers and contractors to create a new quarter mile tarmac track at York Raceway capable of holding the best of Europe's racers. The result of his efforts has enabled PDRC and York Raceway to hold safe and successful Drag Racing events on the original strip to the present day. It is for his support and enthusiasm for bike drag racing as a competitor and a builder, plus his help in establishing drag racing in the North of England, that Pip Higham is inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.

Photo Credits:
Pip Higham Collection,
Roger Gorringe



John and Lesley Wright - A Profile by Simon Groves



John and Lesley Wright have substantially influenced the direction of drag racing in the UK. In 1985, after racing a series of cars since 1973, John commenced his involvement with the sport's organisational side. As Chairman of the Midland Drag Racing Association he helped overhaul the safety rules, race licence procedures and the introduction of log books for cars. In 1988 he joined Anthony Hodges as track manager at Long Marston. The track was renamed Avon Park Raceway in 1989 and in the same year John published Fire Up Magazine, which became an international journal of the sport. In 1991, with Ron Clark, John promoted the Pro Comp Classic.

He was an active committee member of the Avon Park International Racers Association (APIRA) and around the same time was a founding member of the SPRC, representing APIRA and sat on the RAC sub-committee. After a period working with Stu Vallance, Jonathan Lovett and Oyver Jacobsen, he commenced a successful period as crew chief for Swedish racer Viveca Averstedt which culminated in 1998 with two events in the USA running a best of 4.88 at 271mph – at that time, the quickest run ever by a European team. He went on to work with Alan Jackson, Knut Soderquist, Tony Betts and Smax Smith. Between 2002 and 2005, with Darryl Bradford, he owned and tuned the Wildside Top Fuel car. Following this from 2006 to 2009, he was crew chief and driver of the Chaos Fuel Altered, recording a 6.195, then Europe's quickest Fuel Altered pass.

Lesley Wright (nee Digby) grew up locally to Santa Pod. She and Allan Herridge became partners during the period when Allan was track manager at Santa Pod, and her job was to hand out the pit gate money to racers. After Allan's passing, Lesley joined the BDR & HRA committee to represent street classes and with Al O'Connor, undertook a tour of the US in 1988, attending 17 NHRA events. After a further US tour in 1990, which was documented in Fire Up Magazine and seeing bracket racing first hand, Lesley promoted it in the UK, joining the newly formed SPRC committee. She also gained sponsorship for the Super Gas Drag Racers Association.

By the mid-1990s Lesley was full time SPRC Secretary and she masterminded its formation into a Limited Liability Company to protect its members. She worked with the Technical Committee to revise the drag racing rule book that John had worked on a decade previously which introduced SFI safety measures to Europe. In 1997 she and John were married and Lesley became the lynchpin of the Wildside and Chaos crews. Lesley was also involved at the start of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame. It is for John's and Lesley's work in helping to create a stable and safe platform for drag racers that has lasted over 20 years, their achievements in promoting the sport and competing at the highest level, that John and Lesley Wright are inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.



Photo Credits:
Simon Groves,
Eurodragster.com

Steve Woollatt - A Profile by Keith Lee



Steve Woollatt has successfully raced in the top tier of drag bike racing for some 30 years. He started in 1976 riding a Z1 Kawasaki. It ran low 12 second times and was the catalyst for racing a full season the following year during which he won his first Street Bike Eliminator. The following year saw him win five more and by this time he had fitted the Kawasaki motor into a distinctive Egli frame. The desire to go quicker led to purchasing a part-built blown Kawasaki drag bike that was believed to be the first of its type to be built in the UK. With help from Pat Neal, the Daytona Motorcycles sponsored machine was completed and running in 1979. Reliability on nitro was a major issue so the pair decided something better was needed.

In 1980 they fielded their completely new entry – a distinctive blue metalflake B.Fuel machine that raced in the Top Bike Eliminator. It quickly hit the mid 9 second bracket, and over a number of years of development it ran a best of 7.8s/175mph, winning on its final appearance in the Pro Fuel class of the late 1980s. Steve was then offered a ride on the fuel bike of fellow rider Phil Baimbridge. Enjoying the experience he took up the offer to purchase the bike and still rides it today. Phil has remained a big help over the years, as numerous developments to produce ever more power have been made.

Over the years, Steve has won no fewer than 15 ACU Pro Fuel championships on that bike, known as 'The Dealer'. One of the highlights of his many years of racing was cracking the sixes and 200 mph in the early 1990s. Since those days times have improved to a best of 6.19s/228 mph in the Top Fuel Bike class, making him the third quickest British rider of all time. His best 60 foot time is an impressive 0.97s!

Steve really made the headlines in September 2014, when he featured in an amazing race against Fil Papafilippou at the FIM Finals event at Santa Pod. An out of control Fil changed lanes under full acceleration - and crashed into the side of Steve's bike at high speed! Somehow the Greek rider ended up hanging on for dear life to Steve's wheelie bars. Totally unfazed, Steve rode his own monster bike safely to a standstill, to the immense relief of his unexpected passenger, who escaped with just minor tyre burns! This unsettling incident happened in the first round of eliminations, but it did not stop the fearless Woollatt going on to win the final!

With help from his hard-working team, this low budget veteran racer shows no signs of slowing down in the premier league of two-wheeled racing as he aims for his next championship win. It is for his long and successful career in the top echelons of Drag Bike racing that Steve Woollatt is inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.



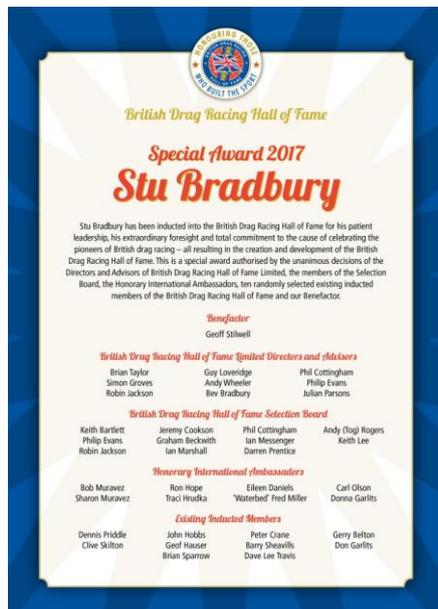
Photo Credits: Callum Pudge; Daily Express; Ivan Sansom and Rose Hughes

Stu Bradbury - A Profile by Brian Taylor and Robin Jackson

Few personalities in British drag racing are as well-known and respected as Stu Bradbury. For years he served as Chief Starter at Santa Pod Raceway and subsequently became Founding Chairman of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame, which has since achieved international acclaim. He discovered drag racing in 1964, not at one of Sydney Allard's International Drag Festival events, but at a famous stately home, Woburn Abbey. Performing in a pop group at a function there, he stumbled across a display organised by the British Hot Rod Association, then a sparse group of enthusiasts with a dream of organised drag racing in the UK. The hot rods and dragsters on show struck a chord with Stu and he joined the club, beginning a love affair with drag racing that has lasted over fifty years.

In 1965, Stu and his parents provided accommodation to club chairman John Bennett while a permanent drag strip was being developed on Podington aerodrome, a disused wartime base located near Stu's Wellingborough home. Stu himself lent a hand building Europe's first permanent drag racing venue, christened Santa Pod Raceway.

Santa Pod opened in 1966. Stu spent non-race weekends digging and painting, while his first race-day job was crowd control. The following year he was promoted to Deputy Starter and then Chief Starter in 1968. Stu encountered his first American racers when the 'American Commandos' team visited Santa Pod in 1966, and Scandinavian, Dutch and even South African entrants followed. Stu controlled the line when Don Schumacher and Paula Murphy brought over their Funny Cars in 1973 and when Don Garlits made his historic appearances in 1976 and 1977. Many other US stars he started included Tony Nancy, Raymond Beadle, Gene Snow, Don Prudhomme, Sammy Miller and TC Christenson.



He even spent time on America's NHRA start line with Buster Couch. Alongside these drag racing stars, show business personalities became involved and Stu's circle of friends encompassed many household names. In 1990 Stu quit as Chief Starter to join then employer John Woolfe Racing in a venture to develop Long Marston Airfield into an NHRA-sanctioned track. Local planners thwarted the full plans, but the track continues today as Shakespeare County Raceway. Stu joined UK parts supplier US Automotive on its launch and also assisted Top Fuel Dragster star Andy Carter.

Remembering departed friends, in 2005 Stu and several colleagues founded the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame, his chief focus since then, together with the restoration of Europe's first dragster, Sydney Allard's 1961 Allard Chrysler. He has lent support to Santa Pod's Dragstalgia meeting, now Europe's premier nostalgia drag racing event.

Stu's personal credibility has helped his team develop the BDRHoF into today's internationally respected organisation. Sometimes fighting ill health, but always supported by wife Bev and daughter Genna, Stu has continued the task of preserving the

names of those who helped create the sport in the UK. Stu Bradbury – an inspiring individual who truly deserves to be in the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame.

Speaking on the selection of inductees, Chairman of the BDRHoF Stu Bradbury said, *"I would like to thank the Selection Panel for all their input in choosing inductees. They are a tribute to the values we share in our sport: competition, innovation, excellence in preparation and a desire to improve performance. Once again they are noted for their long time in the sport, attaining record attaining performances and leading the organisational side which is so important. In doing so, our inductees are examples and role models to those who may be just setting out on a racing career"*.

Their names are added to the list of members of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame who 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

Also available in pdf form at

www.eurodragster.com/news/features/HOFTalk/HOFTalk_04.pdf

Also in this issue of HOFtalk

HOFdiaries	HOFtalk at Dragstalgia 2017	10
	Oatlands Park Hotel to be venue for 2017 Gala	11
	Spend a weekend with Kalitta Motorsports at the 2018 NHRA Gatornationals	13
	2017 Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award Goes to Steve Gibbs	16
	Straightliners Events Joins Sponsors of BDRHoF Gala Dinner	18
	DialAFlight helps fly in Drag Racing Legends	20
	Three Sydney Allard Media Awards for 2017	23
	IOPD & Rat Trap Racing Renew Support of BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner	23
	US Automotive Backs BDRHoF Awards Gala Again	28
	Lucas Oil & Kelsey Media Support BDRHoF Gala Dinner	28
	BDRHoF visits Aston Martin factory	30
HOFpeople	Keeping up with BDRHoF Members	31
HOFtributes	Remembering those the sport has lost	33
HOFteam	About the BDRHoF and who does what	34

HOFdiaries

BDRHoF at Dragstalgia 2017



Since its introduction Dragstalgia has become the 'must go to' event for all fans of nostalgia drag racing and the 2017 event, despite some rain on Saturday, promised much and certainly delivered on that promise. The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame again had a presence in the nostalgia Marquee and organized the daily autograph sessions attended by many stars from the early days. Saturdays session was preceded by a static fire up by Ian Turburville and his fantastic looking front engine car complete with

an ex-Dennis Pridde engine, how nostalgic is that? After the crowd pleasing cackle session many fans took the opportunity to get autographs from their heroes.

For the BDRHoF the highlight of Saturday was the induction of our founder Stu Bradbury into the Hall of Fame. It is against our rules to induct a member of the management board or board of selectors but a unanimous decision was made to break the rules. We were summoned to the Quarter Mile Club at midday; 'for what?' Stu asks; 'no idea' we say, but we all knew apart from Stu and Bev. An emotional presentation followed and Stu was now a long overdue Member of the Hall of Fame.



On Sunday the cackle session featured not one but two front engine cars with Bill Sherratt's Yesterday's Dream joining Ian's. After both had performed their impressive cackle sessions the large crowd that had gathered burst into cheering and applause. Another well attended autograph session followed.

The Hall of fame also had a merchandise and information stand In the Marquee and we also ran for a second year the very popular children's colouring competition which saw many entries over the weekend making the judging very difficult but thanks to our judges Syd and Carol

McDonald we had our winners.

Thanks are due to the Hall of Fame team on duty over the weekend, Bill Sherratt Ian Turburville and their teams for the cackle sessions , Santa Pod for their help and providing some prizes for the colouring competition and the Heroes of our sport who attended the autograph sessions .



Photo credits: Signing and competition: Phil Cottingham, Dennis Priddle, Ian Turburville and Turbo and Bill Sherratt: Dave Buckland

Oatlands Park Hotel to be venue for 2017 Gala

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) Annual Gala Awards Dinner is moving to a new venue for the 2017 event - the luxurious 4-star Oatlands Park Hotel in Weybridge, Surrey where the magnificent grounds were originally the site of a grand Tudor palace built by Henry VIII in 1538 for Anne of Cleves. The hotel website is www.oatlandsparkhotel.com.



Other monarchs, including Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I, also resided at Oatlands during their reigns. It opened as a hotel for the first time in 1856 and has played host to a number of world-famous guests including writer Emile Zola, novelist Anthony Trollope and artist and poet Edward Lear. Now some of the great names from drag racing will join this list on Saturday, November 18th as the sport of drag racing celebrates its British pioneers.



A BDRHoF spokesman said, "It is very difficult to find a venue that is convenient, that can take our numbers and enable us to pay tribute to our pioneers in a fitting yet affordable style. It is true that we had a very successful event in 2016 at the Sheraton Skyline, London Heathrow, but we really wanted a venue that could more readily handle all the activities held during the day and, most importantly, one with character

and a sense of being in Great Britain. The Oatlands Park Hotel and its associated history certainly do that in spades and we are very pleased to have hunted it down."

Honorary Chairman of the BDRHoF Stu Bradbury said "We are always trying to improve the event, particularly the environment for guests to socialize with old friends they haven't seen for years and to give time to mingle with the celebrity guests. We also wanted a hotel that has local interest for those making a weekend of it. The Oatlands Park has easy access from junction 11 on the M25 and is near London Heathrow Airport. It is only a few minutes' drive from the world-famous Brooklands Motorsport and Aviation Museum. This features many historic aircraft and cars, including one of the few Concorde's in existence and the fabulous 24-litre Napier Railton that graced the Brooklands circuit setting many records in the 1930s.



"On the same Brooklands site you can find Mercedes-Benz World where you can put your driving skills to the test on the Handling Circuit in a range of Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Or let the Silver Arrows Display Team show you how it's done. Plenty of Mercedes vehicles on static display too. Also nearby you can find Hampton Court, Windsor Great Park, Legoland, Windsor Castle and lots more. Trains from Weybridge station

can take you to Waterloo Station in London so we think this new venue has it covered."

The main part of the Gala Awards Dinner evening is of course devoted to introducing and inducting the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame class of 2017 The

Sydney Allard Media Awards and Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award will also be presented at the Gala – this year introducing an award for best video.

We are now taking reservations for the 2017 Gala Awards Dinner by email at stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk or by telephone at 01933 279102. This year the tickets are priced competitively at £65.00 each. The event always sells out well in advance, so if you would like to join us for the occasion we suggest you make your reservation sooner rather than later. On receiving your reservation you will be given the procedure to book rooms at the negotiated room rate that includes breakfast and VAT as well as parking.

Spend a weekend with Kalitta Motorsports at the 2018 NHRA Gatornationals



We are excited to announce that Kalitta Motorsports will be attending the 2017 Gala Awards Dinner at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey on 18th November - and will be offering a special charity auction prize for bids to raise funds for the BDRHOF Benevolent Fund.

The prize on offer is a package of two event tickets and Kalitta Motorsport VIP Hospitality tickets to the NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville Raceway, Florida from 15th to 18th March 2018. In conjunction with BDRHoF sponsors DialAFlight, the prize includes two return flights from UK to Orlando and seven-day car hire. Up to £500 towards hotel cost booked through DialAFlight is also offered. The prize can only be used at the 2018 NHRA Gatornationals.

In order to bid for this fantastic prize valued at over £2,000, you will need to hold a ticket for the 2017 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner. Bidding will take place in sealed envelopes to be circulated on the day of the dinner and collected during the event. Bidding is open to all attendees except the Board of Directors and Selection Committee of the BDRHoF. The highest bidder will win, and in the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by drawn lot.

BDRHoF Sponsor Partner and international liaison officer Geoff Stilwell said, 'This is a fantastic prize and we are hugely grateful to Kalitta Motorsports and DialAFlight for their generosity in enabling us to create a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are lining up other amazing prizes for the Gala Dinner so every guest will have several chances to bid.'

Jim Oberhofer, Vice President of Operations for Kalitta Motorsports, said, 'We are thrilled to be attending the BDRHoF Gala awards dinner and the chance to provide hospitality in return for two lucky winners of the charity auction was too good to miss. Congratulations to the BDRHoF for making all this possible.'

Team profiles



It takes a special kind of man to run one of the most successful Funny Car and Top Fuel Dragster teams on the American drag racing scene while also operating one of the world's largest and award-winning cargo airlines. But 79-year-old **Connie Kalitta** is such a man. His drag racing career spans seven decades during which he has guided nephew Doug Kalitta and his late son, Scott Kalitta, to victories and championships. In fact, since its launch in 1959, he or his teams have won six World Championships and over 100 national event titles. Somehow he also found time to prime Shirley Muldowney's drag racing career, as featured in the film Heart Like A Wheel.

During the '60s Kalitta moved steadily up the ranks, first as a Top Gas Dragster driver and then in Top Fuel. It was in Top Gas that Kalitta's 'Bounty Hunter' nickname was coined. He painted a list of drivers he vowed to defeat with a large "Wanted" at the top. As he beat each one on the list he crossed-off the name like a gunslinger, earning the name 'Bounty Hunter'. He later moved into Funny Cars when match racing Funnies became lucrative.

Connie was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1992 and is the first recipient of the NHRA's Lifetime Achievement Award. He continues to compete at the top level of drag racing on a massive scale – currently fielding a five-car team. His nephew Doug Kalitta gave up a solid driving career in open-wheel sprint cars and midgets to take over a Top Fuel driver's seat. Other Top Fuel dragster team members are Troy Coughlin Jr and Shawn Langdon. JR Todd and Alexis DeJoria drive the team's Funny Cars.



Doug Kalitta is the nephew of Kalitta Motorsports' owner and multiple drag racing champion Connie Kalitta. Doug formerly raced in USAC events, becoming 1991 USAC rookie of the year in the midget series, and winning the 1994 championship in the sprint car category. In a successful USAC career he won 21 USAC events: 14 in midget races and 7 in sprint competitions. In 1998 he switched to drag racing, successfully driving a Top Fuel dragster for Kalitta Motorsports. He is fifth on the all-time Top Fuel wins list, netting 42 career wins with 88 career final rounds and winning the NHRA Finals at Pomona in 2016. His quickest elapsed time for

1000 feet is 3.686 seconds and his fastest terminal speed is 331.85 mph. He also finds time to operate an airline – Kalitta Charters.

A FANTASTIC AUCTION PRIZE WORTH £2000

raising funds for the BDRHoF Benevolent Fund

Spend a weekend with Kalitta Motorsports

at the 2018 NHRA Gatornationals



Exclusive to those attending tonight's BDRHoF Gala Awards Evening

Star prize details

2 event tickets and Kalitta Motorsport VIP Hospitality tickets to the NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville Raceway, Florida from 15th to 18th March 2018.

Plus two return flights from UK to Orlando plus seven-day car hire and up to £500 towards hotel cost booked through DialAFlight.

The prize can only be used at the 2018 NHRA Gatornationals. To enter you will need to hold a ticket for the 2017 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner. Bidding will take place in sealed envelopes to be circulated on the day of the dinner and collected during the event. The highest bidder will win, and in the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by drawn lot.

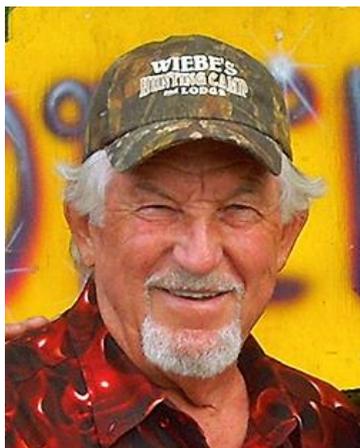
Bidding is open to all attendees except British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Limited Board members and BDRHF Selection Committee members.



Jim Oberhofer is the crew chief for the Mac Tools Top Fuel Dragster driven by Doug Kalitta, and the Vice President of Operations for Kalitta Motorsports – a business he first became involved with in 1983. Jim’s father Dave campaigned a Jr. Fueller as well as a Top Fuel dragster in the 1960s and ’70s so drag racing is in Jim’s blood, and in 1988 he joined Kalitta Motorsports full-time, working with Dick LaHaie after 1993 and later Ed ‘The Ace’ McCulloch. He met his wife Tammy there but sadly she succumbed to cancer in 2013. His daughter Ashley and his brother Jon also work for the business and his book Top Fuel For Life has been much acclaimed. He is a sought-after speaker and media commentator talking about building a successful drag racing team and dealing with family tragedy. And alongside his responsibilities with one of the most successful teams in drag racing, he also finds time to take part in competitive ballroom dancing.



2017 Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award Goes to Steve Gibbs



The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) and Lucas Oil Products UK are pleased to announce that long-time NHRA Vice President and drag racing pioneer Steve Gibbs is to receive the 2017 BDRHoF Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award. It will be presented later this year at the BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner being held at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey on November 18th.

On hearing that he was to receive this award he said, "This is all a bit overwhelming. I will be extremely honoured...humbled...and eternally thankful to accept the award. It would mean a great deal at any point in time, but is particularly rewarding at the present moment. I cannot adequately express my heartfelt thanks to the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame and the date is circled on my calendar".

Those of you who were at the Gala last year will know that Steve attended the event to accept the 2016 Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award on behalf of the National Hot Rod Association. But early in 2017 he shocked the drag racing community when he announced his retirement from the NHRA after 48 years. At the time he said, "I will be eternally grateful to Wally Parks for the opportunity to do the things I did ... and for so long. I'm proud of the "fingerprints" I have left on the sport. But it's time to move on."



In truth, his 'fingerprints' are more like 'huge footprints' and this year he is attending the BDRHoF Gala to accept the same award – the difference being that this time it is for the work and commitment that he personally has shown to drag racing since the late 1950s. It is his name on the award and you will have to look a long way to find anyone who doesn't think that he is most deserving.

Although probably best known as a former NHRA Competition Director and for re-establishing the NHRA Safety Safari Programme, and refining track preparation, Steve Gibbs started his involvement with drag racing in 1961 when he became a part time official (with a wide variety of duties including track reporter for Drag News and Drag Sports Illustrated) at San Gabriel drag strip. Between the years 1965 and 1968, Steve managed Irwindale and Fremont Raceways.

In 1969 he was hired by Wally Parks at the NHRA and he remained there until this year. Initially he was Advertising Director for the NHRA's National Dragster Magazine but within 6-months was promoted as Assistant to Jack Hart running NHRA events. In 1973 he became Competitions Director and later Vice President of Competition where he managed approximately 400 NHRA National and Reunion Events during a 48 year career. Many of the safety developments in place at NHRA events that continue to today are attributed to Steve Gibbs and his Safety Safari team.



In the early 1990s Steve formed NHRA Historical Services and in 1992 he helped launch the first California Hot Rod Reunion at Bakersfield – a living history bringing to life the sights and sounds of the early days of drag racing, with the proceeds of the original meeting and subsequent reunion events going towards the creation and maintenance of a drag racing museum to be based at Pomona that opened in 1998.

Its first Executive Director was of course Steve Gibbs and even after his retirement from NHRA full time activity in 2003, until early this year he remained involved in the Museum and the Hot Rod Reunions. He was inducted into The Don Garlits International Drag Racing Hall Of Fame in 2006 and, at the age of 77, he remains committed to his calling. He is now involved in organizing Nostalgia Events in his own name so the sport has not lost his amazing talent and enthusiasm.

He says, "My goal is to follow many of Wally's original concepts of the sport, and to provide events that celebrate and respect our rich drag racing and hot rodding heritage."

Someone once said that if the California Hot Rod Reunion had a face it would be that of Steve Gibbs. It is for his long and tireless service to the sport of drag

racing along with his extensive expertise that Steve Gibbs has been awarded the BDRHoF Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award. We thank him for the role he has played in creating our sport and wish him well with his future plans.



Morgan Lucas, Senior Vice President of Sales for Lucas Oil said, *"We are so pleased that a trophy with our name on it is being presented to someone whose commitment to drag racing goes back to the very early days and his positive influence on so many aspects of our sport will act as a guiding light for others in the industry.*

He has played a leading role in laying the foundations that have served drag racing well and will continue to be part of his legacy. We thank the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame for enabling us to be part of honouring Steve this way. You have chosen well".

Straightliners Events Joins Sponsors of BDRHoF Gala Dinner

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) has gained another supporter with Straightliners Events announcing that it is joining the list of businesses sponsoring the Gala Awards Dinner being held at the historic Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey on November 18th.



Straightliners Events is established over 20 years ago by Trevor Duckworth. Its ethos was to make motorsports sprint and speed events more accessible to motorcycle enthusiasts by removing much of the red tape yet retaining the safety and all other aspects of a motorsports event that enforced rider and spectator safety. It has opened doors to thousands of motorsports enthusiasts and spawned a cult following of not only

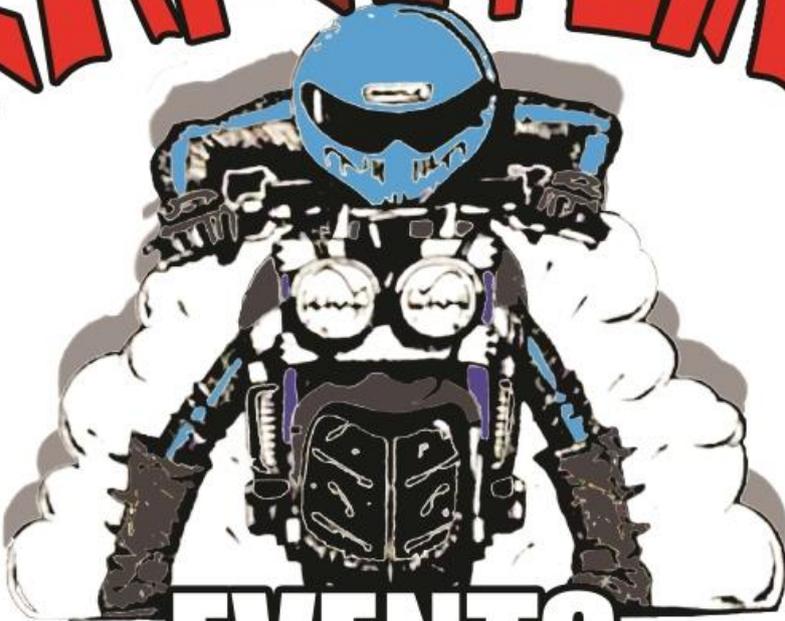
motorcycle fanatics but also the car tuning fraternity.

Trevor has spent 47 years in the sport and holds 27 World Records and numerous British National Records over 1/4 mile, kilo and mile - on both two and three wheels. His Straightliners Events business continues to grow and is now involved with a range of meetings that encompass Championship Sprints, Drag and Drift meetings and Speed Events. The venues include Santa Pod Raceway, East Kirkby (Lancashire Raceway), York Raceway, East Jurby on the Isle of Man, Elvington, Pendine Sands, Dakota Raceway in Devon and Spitfire Raceway in Cornwall.



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EVENTS

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Details about all these events and how to enter can be found by visiting the Straightliners Events website at <https://straightlinersonline.co.uk> and/or www.facebook.com/StraightlinersNewsChannel.

Trevor Duckworth said, *"There is a great deal of cross over between those attending Straightliners Meetings and the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner. Many of its members compete at our meetings and of course drag racing in the UK grew out of sprint and speed events. Both organisations celebrate the roots of drag racing in our different ways and we are pleased to add our support to what has become a fabulous occasion with the spotlight shining on the sport's pioneers"*.

A BDRHoF spokesman said, *"It's always good to welcome a new sponsor - particularly one that has broadened the opportunities for sprint and speed events to take place throughout the country. Straightliners meetings provide a key entry point to the sport, being accessible from Yorkshire to Cornwall and Wales to the Isle of Man. They also give out-and-out drag racers the chance to try out other forms of straight line motorsport. Looking back, many drag racers went to Bonneville in the USA and people like Dennis Priddle, Clive Skilton, Tony Densham and John Hobbs all set records at Elvington. Today, quite a few of our two wheeled drag racing legends find the more relaxed atmosphere of these events a welcomed addition to their drag racing schedule and very useful for final tuning. The Gala could not exist without sponsorship and I thank Trevor for his support"*.

DialAFlight helps fly in Drag Racing Legends

DialAFlight 

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) is pleased to confirm that DialAFlight has renewed its support of the Annual Gala Awards Dinner - this

year being held at the historic Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge Surrey on November 18th. Part of the multi-million pound Lotus Group and protected by both ATOL and ABTA, DialAFlight is in its 36th year of trading. They organise travel for over 450,000 people every year and the business has become the BDRHoF Official Travel Partner during 2016/17, helping to fly in the many drag racing legends who now attend the event.

DialAFlight has 300 travel managers. Working closely with their major travel partners in all airlines, car hires and hotels, they can tailor-make itineraries suiting individual needs to virtually any destination in the world; from a first-class round-the-world ticket, a European city break or maybe arrangements to get you to the USA for a major drag race meeting. And, as the name suggests, DialAFlight does not believe in operating an online transactional service but instead offers customers the opportunity to book over the phone which is a more efficient, friendly and customer focussed experience. Full details about the company can be found by visiting www.dialaflight.com or why not telephone Travel Manager Bobby Tuggey on 01732 592997. His e-mail is bobby.tuggey@dialaflight.co.uk

He says, "We are proud to be supporting the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner again. The evening was a fabulous affair last year and I am already looking forward to the 2017 event. It has been a great privilege to organise travel for some of the greatest names in drag racing who attended in 2016 and again this year. In fact we now arrange travel for many businesses involved in the sport and have made lots of new friends and it has been a thrill to be involved with team transport supporting the Havoc Fuel Altered Tour of the USA".

So who from the USA is joining the party to celebrate our own drag racing pioneers this year? For a start we have BDRHoF Honorary International Ambassador and the most successful driver of the twin Chevy engined 'Freight Train' Gas Dragster Bob Muravez (AKA Floyd Lippencote Jnr) who is returning for a third year. Then we have GIGI Carleton who is President of the Margie and Robert E Petersen Foundation that supports the world famous Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles as well as several cancer research and children's charities. She is joined by SEMA Hall of Fame Member 'Gentleman' Joe Schubeck – the drag racer who started Lakewood Products.

Long-time former NHRA Competitions Vice President and Nostalgia Supremo Steve Gibbs is returning, as is one of America's most popular Funny Car and Top Fuel Dragster drivers and Tuners 'Ace' McCulloch. One of the BDRHoF sponsors Ron Hope is joining us again after a very successful world tour with Fuel Altered Rat Trap, and we also welcome back Blue Max Funny Car tuner 'Waterbed' Fred Miller. Both are Honorary BDRHoF International Ambassadors.



Roland Leong and Dale Emery

Ed
his

World renowned and award winning automotive journalist, author and photographer Bob McClurg will be with us hosting the Bench Racing Session again and we will also be joined by two Gala first timers. The first is Top Fuel legend Marvin Graham (sometimes known as Marvin Who). Marvin was Technical adviser on the film about Shirley Muldowney; 'Heart Like a Wheel'. The second is chassis builder and Funny Car Crew Chief/Tuner Roland 'Hawaiian' Leong. Finally we will be able to welcome Dale Emery who first visited the UK in 1976 driving the Chadderton and Okazaki Vega Funny Car. Along with many other achievements he went on to become Crew Chief for Raymond Beadle's Blue Max Funny Car. This will be his first visit to the Gala.

Bobby says, "There are more legends to be announced but their names must remain a secret for a few weeks yet. Once again it is going to be quite a drag racing "CelebFest"; a unique occasion to talk with drag racing pioneers from both sides of the Atlantic and a fitting tribute to those who helped grow drag racing this side of the Atlantic".



Photo Credit Matt Woods

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Three Sydney Allard Media Awards for 2017

The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) has announced details of the 2017 Sydney Allard Media Awards for Written and Photographic Journalism that will be presented for the fourth consecutive year at the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner. And the good news is that 2017 sees a third award for Best Video.

Established in 2014 in memory of the founding father of British Drag Racing, the Sydney Allard Media Awards celebrate the best of the past year's written, video and photographic drag racing journalism and salutes the vital contribution the media makes to the sport's well-being and success. Entries are now invited from writers, photographers and those producing videos that are posted on You Tube, amateur or professional, to reflect coverage of British Drag Racing and associated activities during the 12-months ending July 2017. This means that anything taken or written since August 2016 is eligible.



Previous winners include Nick Brooke Langham, Jon Spoard and Julian Hunt. Andy Willsheer's photo shows happy 2015 winners Rodger Attaway and Jeni Long. This year's entries must be in by the end of August 2017. The winning entrant in each category will be invited, together with a companion, to attend the Hall of Fame Gala on November 18th and receive a crystal trophy in recognition of his or her achievement. The judging panel will include the Guild of Motoring Writers President, racer, motoring connoisseur and Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason, and the Editor of Octane Magazine, David Lillywhite.

The Written Journalism Award will be presented to the author of the year's best article, feature, book or blog, published or unpublished, in print or online in the designated time frame. The Photographic Journalism Award will be presented for the best picture and the Video Journalism Award will be presented for the best video – professional or amateur – covering the same period and with videos posted on You Tube.

Writers, video makers and photographers may make multiple entries but each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form to enable the judges to collate them accurately. Full entry details are available on the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame website under 'Allard Award Entries'. Scroll down and press the entry form button.

IOPD & Rat Trap Racing Renew Support of BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner

The International Organisation of Professional Drivers (IOPD) will once again be supporting the 2017 British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) Annual Awards Dinner being held this year at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge on November

18th. And Ron Hope of Rat Trap Racing has confirmed that he too is renewing his sponsorship of the event.

The IOPD was formed in 1990 to regulate and support the driving experience sector of recreational motor sport in the UK. It was brought about by the MSA/RAC 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 main stream motor sports.

The IOPD soon grew, facilitating events for some 70,000 to 100,000 participants each year - not only for driving experiences but for full competition and Drag Racing. The IOPD also permits many of the world's international motor manufactures driving experience programs and track days. A visit to their website www.iopd.org.uk will explain all.

Heading up the IOPD is Steve Murty who said, "We are very happy to support the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner for a third year. It is a totally non-political impartial organisation that is dedicated to recognising and celebrating those people that have contributed so much to create the sport we can enjoy today".



Photo; L-R Chris and Steve Murty with Pete Youhill's Chevrolet at York Raceway. (photos Graham Beckwith and Richard Smith 'Zenfolio')

Steve also operates York Raceway with his son Chris. He said, "The Hall of Fame embraces Nostalgia - something that has always been a part of the York Raceway culture and in association with the Pennine Drag Racing Club we have been instrumental in developing several of the classes that have become part of today's national Nostalgia scene. But as with some other drag racing and sprinting tracks in the UK, there are some tough battles ahead before we can ensure our survival.

This year is our 40th anniversary and racers can help by supporting our meetings – particularly the August Bank Holiday 7th Annual National Hot Rod Reunion that will mark our official birthday celebrations. It will be great to see the return of those that have burnt rubber on our track during our 40 years history. We plan a real northern welcome and it will be a party". Information about this meeting can be found www.yorkraceway.org.uk

York Raceway

15th April (Easter Saturday)

ULTIMATE RWYB

- Ultimate RWYB
- Open RWYB/Test 'n' Tune

16th/17th April (Easter Sun/Mon)

- **Easter Nationals**

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing

Race Classes include:

American Superstock, Pro ET, Sportsman ET, Super Cup, Volks Stock, NSCC, JDM-DRC, HRSC & Pro FWD

- Straightliners
- RWYB

29th April (Saturday)

ULTIMATE RWYB

- Ultimate RWYB
- RWYB for road legal vehicles ONLY

30th April/1st May (Sun/Mon)

- **Spring Nationals**

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- Straightliners
- RWYB

26th-29th May (Bank Holiday)

- **Volkspower's Powerfest**

Friday:

- Live Music
- Trade Stands

Saturday:

- VW Club Wars (VAG clubs RWYB)
- VW show
- Live Music

Sunday:

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing

Race Classes include:

NSCC, JDM-DRC & Pro FWD

- Nostalgia Superstock
- Straightliners RWYB
- Live Music

- Ultimate RWYB **ULTIMATE RWYB**

Monday:

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- VW Show 'n' Shine
- RWYB (& Straightliners RWYB)

1st July (Saturday)

- **Summer Nationals**

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- RWYB (& Straightliners RWYB)

2nd July (Sunday)

- **Street Racer Championship**

- 40th Annual Street Racer Championship
- The Big Bracket
- Straightliners RWYB
- Scoobyfest
- Ultimate RWYB **ULTIMATE RWYB**

26th August (Saturday)

ULTIMATE RWYB

- Ultimate RWYB
- RWYB for road legal vehicles ONLY

27th/28th August (Sun/Mon)

- **National Hot Rod Reunion**

York Raceway's 40th Birthday Celebrations

Sunday:

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- RWYB (& Straightliners RWYB)
- Hot Rods and Classics Show 'n' Shine

Monday:

- Nostalgia Drag Racing Demonstrations
- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- RWYB (& Straightliners RWYB)
- Rust 'n' Grime Rat Rods Show

30th September (Saturday)

- **UK Northern Finals**

- PDRC Championship Drag Racing (classes as Easter Nats)
- Straightliners
- RWYB

1st October (Sunday)

- **Judgement Day**

- The Big Bracket
- Straightliners
- Ultimate RWYB **ULTIMATE RWYB**

40TH

ANNIVERSARY

2017 EVENT CALENDAR



Dates or event content may be subject to change without prior notice. MOTORSPORT IS DANGEROUS. York Raceway recommends the use of ear protection for some events. Helmet required for RWYB. Scrutineering opens 9:00AM, Track action from 9:30AM.

race photography provided by:

ADimages.co.uk
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RWYB: £40 or Admission - Adults: £15.00
£10 per run Under 16s: FREE!

PDRC Race Entry: £60

All prices are per day. - Weekend discounts may apply.
Camping available (see website for details)

for more info find us on the web at:

www.yorkraceway.org.uk

York Raceway, Melbourne Airfield, Ash Lane, Seaton Ross, York YO42 4SS

BDRHoF Stu Bradbury said, "York Raceway and the Pennine Drag Racing Club have been strong supporters of the BDRHoF since it was formed in 2006. They have provided a focal point for the development of drag racing in the North of England and long may it continue. UK drag racing would be a poorer place without it".

Rat Trap Racing

Ron Hope and Rat Trap Racing have supported the BDRHoF for the past two years and have announced continued commitment for 2017. This year has seen Ron on a worldwide tour with BDRHoF member Rob Loaring and driver Nick Davies joining the American arm of the Fuel Altered show, racing the blown Chrysler Donovan Hemi powered Havoc. This renews the exciting battles seen at Santa Pod's Dragstalgia Meet in 2016.



Double engine Freight Train dragster driver Bob Muravez tries the seat in Rat Trap at the 2016 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner while Ron Hope and the Quarter Mile Foundation's Traci Hrudka look on. All three are Honorary BDRHoF International Ambassadors. (Photo; Andy Willsheer)

Ron said, "I am really glad to continue my sponsorship of the BDRHoF. Celebrating the sport's pioneers is an important task that all those in drag racing should support. The Gala Awards Dinner is an amazing event; one that I look forward to attending each year; meeting old friends and making new ones. What started as the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame has truly become an international organization. It was an honour to have Rat Trap on display at last year's event".

Once again, the Junior Dragster and Junior Drag Bike Champions will be celebrated at the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) Gala Awards Dinner, this year being held at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey on November 18th. As at last year's event, the Santa Pod Racers Club, Lucas Oil Products UK, Atlantic Fluid Tech and US Automotive will sponsor two tables of ten 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.

During the evening they will be introduced to many of the drag racing legends attending and asked on stage to receive the applause of the audience attending the event. Photos show last year's champions and Paige Wheeler in her Junior Dragster. (Photo credits Darren Skidmore and Andy Willsheer).

British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Limited Board Member Phil Evans of the Santa Pod Racers Club, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Atlantic Fluid Tech said,

"Last year it was such a pleasure to involve the young people entering our sport and introduce them to drag racing legends like Don Schumacher, Ron Hope and Bob Muravez at the Gala. I don't know who was more thrilled – the legends or

**RON HOPE AND RAT TRAP RACING
CONGRATULATE ALL
AWARD RECIPIENTS**



the juniors; and it was one of the highlights for me as well. This year we have a few more surprises for them so watch this space."

The BDRHoF also supplies Pit Tour Guides for the Institute of the Motor Industry Students Day hosted by Santa Pod Raceway.

US Automotive Backs BDRHoF Awards Gala Again

Another regular British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) supporter has announced that it will be sponsoring the 2017 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner – this year being held at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, on November 18th. That company is American parts supplier US Automotive which has helped fund the Hall of Fame since it was established in 2006.



Bedford-based US Automotive currently stocks in excess of 20,000 product lines that cover the most popular applications from the classics of the 1950's up to current models and are updated regularly to follow market trends. The company supplies parts from the most respected American manufacturers, including Crane Cams, Fel-Pro Gaskets, Clevite Engine Bearings, Sealed Power and TRW engine components.

As a Primary Sponsor, US Automotive's sponsorship is extensive and includes funding the Souvenir Programme production costs, co-sponsoring the Junior Drag Racing tables and table wine for all tables, plus help in other areas.

BDRHoF Honorary Chairman Stu Bradbury worked for US Automotive for many years and said, *"I was working at US Automotive when I set up the BDRHoF back in 2006 and when I floated the idea to them they immediately made a decision to help fund things and have sponsored us every year since."*



"It is no exaggeration to say that without them the BDRHoF would not exist and I can't thank them enough for their encouragement and financial support."

US Automotive Chairman Stewart Bassett (pictured) said, *"We are pleased to continue our support of the BDRHoF team who throughout the whole year put in an amazing amount of voluntary work to celebrate drag racing pioneers in style."*

"The Annual Gala Awards Dinner is a fabulous event and we are proud to be associated with it. It has become one of my favourite social occasions of the year. This one will be extra special for us because US Automotive is celebrating its 20th Anniversary."

Lucas Oil & Kelsey Media Support BDRHoF Gala Dinner

Lucas Oil Products UK has announced that it is renewing its sponsorship of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) Gala Awards Dinner - this year being held at the Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, Surrey on November 18th.



It will be joined by Kelsey Media as joint hosts of the pre-dinner drinks reception - welcoming guests to an evening celebrating those who have helped the sport grow since its beginning in the late 1950s.

Lucas Oil also sponsors the BDRHoF Lucas Oil Global Achievement Award. In 2016 this was presented to the National Hot Rod Association for the crucial role played by NHRA and its employees in organising, governing and growing the sport of Drag Racing throughout its 65 years of existence – including the establishment of the FIA Drag Racing Commission that organises championships in Europe and Australia.

NHRA President Peter Clifford sent a photo and message saying how thrilled they were with the award and that they are proudly displaying it in their Glendora Head Quarter's conference room.

Lucas Oil UK Managing Director Les Downey said, "Our company has a long history in drag racing and also sponsors the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame based in Florida and we are proud to continue our support of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner this year acting as joint hosts of the pre-dinner drinks reception with our friends from Kelsey Media.



Lucas Oil is committed to celebrating the young people entering Drag Racing by co-sponsoring two tables for the Junior Drag Racing Champions and their families. It is great that the 2017 Junior Drag Racing Champions can attend the Gala again and meet so many legends of our sport. I know they really look forward to the occasion. The British Drag Racing Hall of Fame is doing important work and I would encourage more companies to get involved."

The Andy Willsheer photo (below) was taken at the 2016 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner and shows, from left, Les Downey of Lucas Oil Products UK, Don Schumacher and the 2016 Junior Drag Racing Champions. Sponsorship Partner and BDRHoF International Liaison Advisor Geoff Stilwell of Beech Underwriting is on the right.

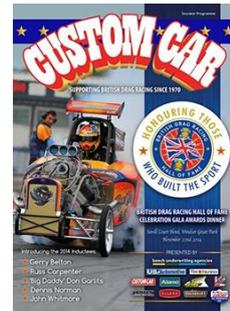


A BDRHoF spokesman said, "Les is a true friend of Drag Racing. This year the event will have a revised format aimed at streamlining the awards programme and providing more time for socialising. I can't think of anyone better to welcome guests before the Awards Dinner and set the right atmosphere of the evening and I thank him for his support."

Joining Lucas Oil this year is Kelsey Media – a business now publishing a multitude of magazines and organising events covering the automotive sector and many other areas too.

A visit to their website www.kelsey.co.uk shows you the amazing breadth of their coverage these days. The world of drag racing knows them for Custom Car – a magazine that has been helping to promote our sport since its launch in 1970. In 2007 the magazine was inducted into the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame for its long association with the sport and, along with US Automotive, sponsored the Souvenir Programme for the 2014 BDRHoF Gala Awards Dinner.

From low-budget traditional hot rods and customs to hi-tech street rods and 300mph dragsters, every month the team of writers at Custom Car brings together event coverage, technical articles, project cars, news and reviews and feature cars. In addition, the magazine offers a classified section for those looking to buy and sell. It is available in print and digital format and is part of the Fast Car Entertainment event series which brings motoring enthusiasts together to celebrate their shared passion.



Managing Director of Kelsey Media Phil Weeden said, *"Kelsey Media, and in particular Custom Car magazine, are delighted to be supporting the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Gala Awards Dinner. We're equally pleased to be sharing that support with a brand of repute like Lucas Oil. Custom Car magazine is part of a growing family of motoring publications, websites and events at Kelsey Media. All have a passion for motoring at their heart. The knowledge and enthusiasm for cars in particular is especially evident in a brand like Custom Car magazine, which has been*

around now for over 40 years, reflecting the best in hot rods, customs and Drag Racers."

Honorary Chairman of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame Stu Bradbury said, *"Custom Car is part of our family, being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007, and it is very rewarding that they are supporting us again. I remember when the magazine was launched and what a difference it made to how drag racing was perceived by the public and sponsors. Of all the titles out there this is the one that has shown longevity in its association with our sport and it is a special pleasure to welcome them back as a sponsor."*

BDRHoF visits Aston Martin HQ

Management Board representatives of the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame enjoyed a private tour of Aston Martin's global headquarters and factory at Gaydon, Wawickshire, on Wednesday 14 December.



The invitation for the visit was issued after the BDRHoF presented a static display featuring the dragster of past champion and Hall of Fame member Russ Carpenter at an Aston Martin Owners' Club event at Burghley in the summer. The relationship was enhanced when Aston Martin displayed its brand new DB11 model at the BDRHoF's Gala evening in November.

Board members who attended the visit were Stuart and Bev Bradbury, Simon Groves accompanied by his wife Ros, Guy Loveridge, Philip Evans, Phil Cottingham and Robin Jackson.

Aston Martin's Steve Waddingham said: "We were delighted to host the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame representatives at Gaydon and to have displayed our latest DB11 at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel Gala last month. Having now established a friendly and fruitful relationship with the Hall of Fame, we look forward to maintaining and developing it in the future."

HOFpeople

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

The Havoc Fuel Altered of Silverstone-based **Nick Davies** and BDRHoF member **Rob Loaring** is undergoing a four race tour of the US in 2017. In January it travelled by sea to the US following which it went, with **Ron Hope's** Rat Trap, to Rat Trap Racing HQ in Tennessee, its base for 2017.



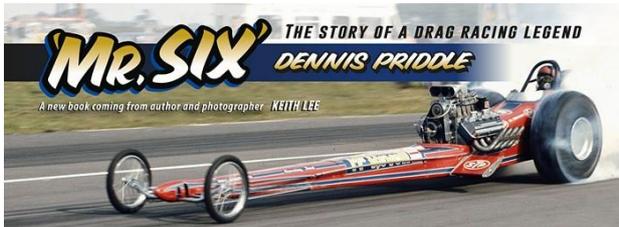
Rat Trap Racing then sent Havoc to Famoso Raceway, Bakersfield where it was reunited with the just-arrived Havoc team. After recommissioning, it made two qualifying passes and a best of 6.34 to go fourth. And then Nick was up against the 'Witch Doctor' car, and a fuel leak, in round one...

In mid June the team returned to the US to race in a four car classic Fuel altered shootout at the Holley Hot Rod Reunion at Beech Bend Raceway in Bowling Green, Kentucky. After runs of 6.46/214 and 6.55/223 in the 3,750 adjusted altitude air, Nick raced 'Nanook' and won on a holeshot, 6.449/228 to Nanook's 6.447/222. 'It doesn't get much better than that', said Nick.

The next stop will be in Mid August at Martin, Michigan as part of a six car show and the final stop on the tour will be the famed California Hot Rod Reunion, again at Famoso Raceway, in October.

The team thanks support from Goodyear Tyres, Beech Underwriting, Rat Trap Racing, Lawrie Gatehouse and the NFAA, US Automotive, Lucas Oil, Motorstate Distributing, ARP Fasteners, and Thacker & Co as supporting partners for the tour. You can read more on the team's web site at havocfuelaltered.co.uk, its Facebook page www.facebook.com/HavocDragRacing, and on Eurodragster.com.

In January, **Keith Lee** announced that he would be writing the story of how BDRHoF and IDRHoF member **Dennis Priddle** left his mark on the sport. As well as spending many hours with Dennis, Keith has interviewed other members of



Dennis's team, including **Tony Gane, Brian Savidge, Barry Dufty** and painter **Jeff Glasser**. Reference material has been supplied by, amongst others, BDRHoF member **Brian Sparrow** and **Jerry Cookson**.

Keith was chauffeur for Dennis when he made the trip to Dragstalgia in mid July. At the meeting, Dennis was present at the first public fire-up of his old Mr Revell Donovan engine, now in the hands of Ian Turburville. He was able to observe some of his handiwork that is still present at the track thirty years after he required. And he attended the book signings on Saturday and Sunday.

You can see more about Keith's book at his blog on Alan Currans' The Acceleration Archive web site and at the book's Facebook page Mr. Six - The



BDRHoF member **Robin Read** has an important objective: to be the first British-engined car to run to 200mph in the quarter mile. He planned a new chassis for his blown nitro Daimler engine but reverted to the tried and tested frame that has served him well for the last thirty years. Testing at Santa Pod's Race, Rock'n'Ride bike event, Robin had his old team with him and some new parts.

Fast forward to Dragstalgia and Robin came loaded. After a low-seven checkout, he ran 6.76/195 and 6.89/190 in the second and third runs of the Nostalgia Cannonball. Then in the run-off for third and fourth, he ran a new PB of 6.692/199.89, 0.11mph short of his target but fantastic times and new world bests for a British-engined car.

BDRHoF sponsorship partner **Geoff Stilwell** is travelling to Bonneville in August with the intention of breaking records. He said 'I will be driving Rat Trap Racing LSR car 7551 and the motor has been completely freshened with new parts. I will get my 'A' class licence on Monday and then go for the record in BB/GRMR (blown gas rear-engined modified roadster) which is currently 212mph'.

Geoff reports that the salt is drying out nicely for Speedweek in August and he will be joined by many of his US friends to encourage him, including film producer Ray Iddings who was producer of the IHRA Nitro Jam TV shows for MAV TV. Geoff also thanks his family, **Ron and Brian Hope** and their families, **Ed 'The Camfather' Iskenderian**, Technocraft Cabinets, **Rat Trap Racing** and **Bob and Sharon Muravez**.



Pic: Ralph Komives runs-on-salt.com



And finally...readers are recommended to view two galleries of never-before published photos on Eurodragster.com. The first is former Street Eliminator racer Pete Smith's slides of Santa Pod in the 1970s, scanned by Alan Currans of the Acceleration Archive, and the second is of Christian Bailly/KIN Conseil Automotive Artprints' pictures of the meeting held at Le Mans in September 1982. Both can be seen from:

www.eurodragster.com/news/features_and_interviews.asp.

HOFtributes

Terry Chandler, philanthropist extraordinaire and enthusiastic supporter of professional drag racing – best known as the lady backing Don Schumacher Racing's Make-A-Wish and Infinite Hero Top Fuel Dragsters and Fuel Funny Cars – sadly passed away in Florida on 27th June aged 65 after a short battle with brain cancer. Mike Lintern writes:

Make-A-Wish grants adventurous wishes to children with serious or life-threatening conditions, while the Infinite Hero Foundation, combats mental and physical issues facing returning military heroes and their families, both charities receiving valuable support by Terry and family via the funding of DSR cars carrying their liveries in recent years.



The UK's FGR Motorsport Fuel Funny Car team were introduced to Terry by Don Schumacher at this year's NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville and from that meeting sprung a tie-up which has led to the team's Gladiator Fuel Funny Car carrying the Make-A-Wish banner for its UK operation.

Both the FGR Motorsport team and Santa Pod Raceway, who are jointly hosting the first visit to the track by Foundation "Wish Kids" at Bug Jam later this month, extend their sincere condolences to Terry's family for their loss.

You can read tributes to Terry on NHRA.com by searching 'NHRA community remembers Terry Chandler' and a feature on Autoweek by searching 'NHRA super sponsor Terry Chandler living her dream while helping others'.

Picture courtesy and copyright Andy Willsheer.

Drag racing has lost a talented tuner, and a well-loved character, with the passing of **Phil Cornish** on 2nd May after a battle with cancer, writes Keith Lee:

Phil was a well-known figure on the strips in the seventies as, along with Geof Hauser, he was mechanic on Clive Skilton's highly-successful race cars. Phil and Geof went to college together in the Harrow area to study mechanical engineering, and made great team mates in those hectic times. "Phil was always very meticulous in the way he worked - and a deep thinker", remembers Geof of their time together working on Top Fuellers and Funny Cars.

Phil had a real feel for all things mechanical, and was always in demand to help out other teams with advice and assistance. Wearing his trademark woolly hat, and shambling around the tracks, he was an instantly recognisable figure, but was never one to seek the limelight. His idea of happiness would be to simply go fishing - something he could enjoy when he moved down to West Dorset to live, and to look after Mickey Naylor's dragster Medicine Man. Sharing a garage with the Dorset Horn and Fire Injun teams was a happy time.

Phil moved on to successfully working on classic cars and racers in later years, but just very occasionally he had his arm twisted to help out with the odd drag car.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Bernie.

We were very sorry to hear from Vickie Stone of the death on 15th March of **Mary 'Mummy' Stone**, wife of Dennis Stone and matriarch of the UK's legendary Stones Drag Racing Team:

Mum had returned to her roots in a County Cork, Ireland in 2014 and was enjoying a quiet life in the place where she was born. She was 91.

HOFteam

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 three annual BDRHoF Sydney Allard Media Awards for Photo and Written Journalism and videos. 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

Simon Groves – Company Secretary and Membership Liaison

Robin Jackson – Press Liaison

Guy Loveridge – Industry Liaison

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), **Andy Wheeler** (social media and special projects), **Nigel Payne** (transport), **Jordan Payne** (Junior Drag Racing liaison) and **Ian Hart** (event co-ordination).

The Board meets regularly to discuss issues associated with finance, operations and structure. For convenience meetings are usually held at the Oatlands Park 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 22nd January, 31st March, 7th June and 14th July.

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 £2,200 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 stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk.

Contacts

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International enquiries

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HOFtalk enquiries

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 stuart@britishdragracinghof.co.uk

BDRHoF Sponsorship Partner – Beech Underwriting

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

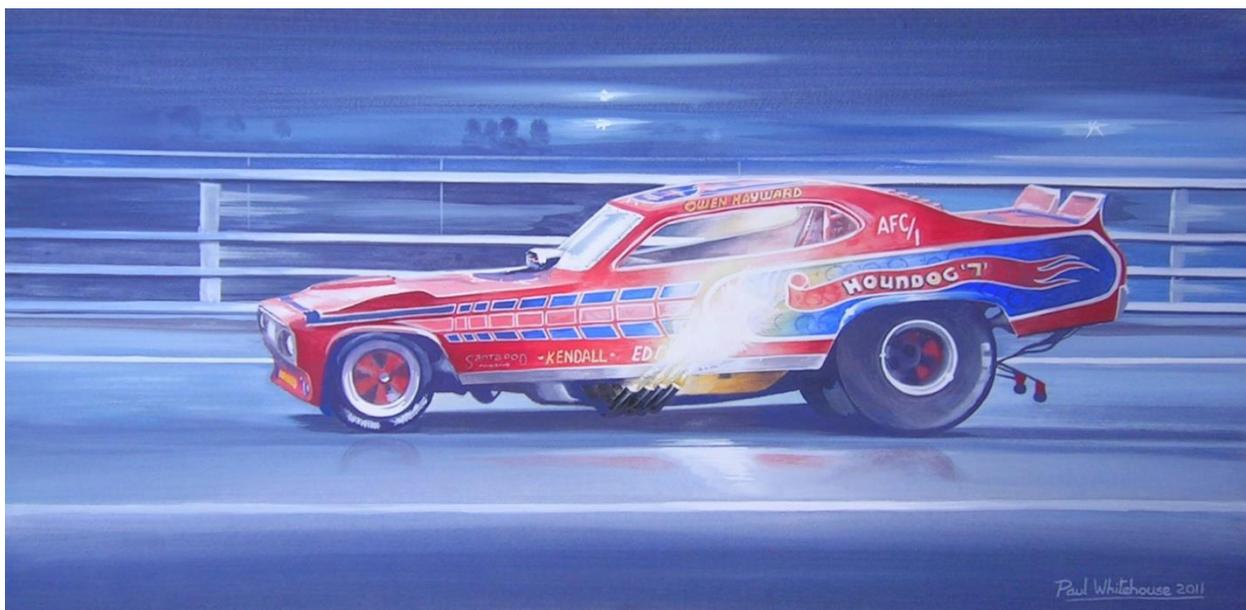


BDRHoF General and Event Supporters - Santa Pod Raceway; DialAFlight; Aptitude; Kelsey Media; Lucas Oil; Rat Trap Racing; The Pennine Drag Racing Club; Shakespeare County Raceway; York Raceway; Eurodragster.com; International Organisation of Professional Drivers; Kalitta Motorsports; Avon Park International Racing Association; Atlantic Fluid Tech; Prop Portfolio and Straightliners.



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/. New items are being added and these include ball point pens and mouse mats.



Framed versions of these fantastic pictures by Paul Whitehouse will be raffled at the FIA European Finals for the BDRHOF Benevolent Fund, tickets on sale at the event!

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