

THE McGARR TROPHY or THE NORTH EASTERN SECTION TROPHY

I was asked at the recent AGM to describe how this trophy came about and as it is nearly thirty years since its inception I struggled to tell the tale. This being another piece of Section history I thought it might be a good idea to put it into print then we will all know.

At the May 1978 Section meeting held in the Vintage Hotel near Scotch Corner, Wilf Davis, the then secretary, informed all present that "through the good offices of Bill McGarr and his brother who owned the garage in Barnard Castle, we now have a challenge cup to be known as The McGarr Trophy which will be competed for at the first Teesdale Rally to be held on Sunday 11 June 1978 and each year hence". Sadly, because of lack of support, the Rally was cancelled and at the June meeting Wilf resigned as secretary and the Trophy sat on a shelf for a year or so.

It was after the Section's success at winning the Club Enthusiasts' Trophy in 1979 that we, Margaret, Barry Chapman and myself, the then committee, decided to use the McGarr Trophy as our own Section Enthusiasts' Trophy to be awarded annually to the member who proves his/her enthusiasm by attendances to meetings, rallies and events held by our Section plus EFFORT to the benefit of the Section.

This Trophy was aimed for the ordinary member, not the committee member. The first recipient was Harvey Bailey who gave me lots of help with organising the Durham Castle weekend. Ian Hick was the second recipient for the great works in the first North of England Rally at Harewood. The third winner was Richard Harrison who suggested and helped in trying to put a newsletter together which is still going strong, although greatly improved from our first issue.

I can't remember the year Paul Roberts was presented with the Trophy but I remember how keen he was even though he didn't have a proper car. He was a very regular attendee at all things R-R and never missed our monthly meetings at Sedgefield. One year he was seconded to work in London for a short while and was going to miss a particular speaker we had coming to Sedgefield. He took it on himself after work, to set off from London at around four o'clock in his Alpha Romeo and arrived in time for the meeting. He left us at about eleven o'clock when the meeting had finished, with our best wishes, and apparently arrived at his digs at around 3am.....That is what I call enthusiasm!!

Gordon Blacklock
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