

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE – KEVIN LYNAM

Kevin was born in Omagh in the latter part of the infamous 60's and moved to Dromore in 2007.

He married his wife Pauline in Rome in 1996, where he got to meet John Paul II. They have three children Chloe, Shauna and Conor, who have all officiated at rallies. Chloe used motorsport as her topic in obtaining her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and Shauna used motorsport as a step towards her First Aid certificate and Fire Safety (Under tuition of NI Fire and Rescue personnel).

His first interest in rallying occurred when the Bushwhacker passed through his uncle's farm at Aldrummond near Loughmacrory in the 70's - "I still don't know how the cars got through the 10 feet gap between house and shed at such speeds". Not too long after that he was assisting big brother Sean with timing duties all over the country. Sean was a regular finish timekeeper on the Bushwhacker for many years.

Kevin worked for the Post Office and retired due to ill health in June 2003.

He joined Omagh Motor Club committee in 2007 and comments "while my health has had a few ups and downs I am still able to enjoy motorsport in many ways, thanks to such a great club as Omagh MC"

"Being not too long there, I was thrust into the job of Chief Marshal under the watchful eye of Lewis Boyd. This was to be a baptism of fire but put to ease with more "tips" than you'd get from the local horse racing tipster. Many other jobs ensued through the years, Stage Commander on numerous rallies before venturing into International Rallies with Ronnie McAleer as my sidekick. You could always rely on Ronnie to get us outta a sticky spot with his silver tongue".

"Meeting so many people involved in major events and making new friends not just locally but internationally, I marshalled all over Ireland and the Isle of Man. I was to be Deputy Stage Commander on the 2020 Rally Isle of Man but due to the present pandemic, that's now a non-runner"

"Venturing into forestry rallying was a real buzz. I have to thank Nigel Simpson for that. Two results that come to mind were the 2008 Down Rally and the 2008 Lakeland Stages. On the Down Rally we picked up a puncture on the first stage finishing it 11th out of 15 in class. We set eight fastest class times and finished third in class. I must have done something right! On the Lakeland we were leading our class until sliding off into a sheugh a few hundred yards from the end of the last stage – a disappointing end to a great day".

Kevin has competed as a co-driver in a number of rallies and had a few good results with Barry O'Neill in his trusty Skoda Felicia. In the tarmac Pacenotes N.I. 2WD Rally Challenge in 2009, he finished joint 3rd co-driver in his class only to be beaten on a countback tie-break.

"Meeting up with fellow officials and competitors is surely the highlight of a day's motorsport. Nobody gets away without getting "a touch" about something or a good bantering before the next meeting".

Outside of motorsport his time is taken up quite a bit in the role of Dad's Taxi with the "girls" now working, while Conor has his football interests.

Kevin was the inaugural winner of the Motorsport Marshalling Partnership's Plunkett Boyle Perpetual Trophy in 2011 and was runner up for the JLT Motorsport UK Marshal of The Year Award in 2019. Modest as ever Kevin says "These were not individually won, but part of teamwork. There's no "I" in team. Thank you to all"

