

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE – SIMON MACRORY**

Simon was born in 1970 and raised on the family farm at Deerpark, Omagh. He married Roisin in 2003 and they have a daughter, Aine. Roisin and Aine are regular timekeepers at events.

Simon has spent most of his working life as a lorry driver and is currently an Aftersales Support Driver for Scania.

He got interested in motorsport as a child when the Scallon Cup Rally passed through the family farmyard and remembers a quick run over the Pigeon Top as a treble zero passenger with Seamus McCanny in a yellow RS2000. In fact he remembers the reg. no. of the RS – BIB 8888.

He first joined Omagh Motor Club committee in the mid-90's having helped out at events for ten years previous to this. He has had many roles within the club, Chairman in 1998, Clerk of the Course of Fivemiletown Spring Rally in 1999 and 2000, and Secretary of the event in 2004 and 2005. He was Clerk of the Course for the Summer Autotest in 1998 and for Gortin Glens Hillclimb in 2003 when the event was ran in memory of Paddy Boyle and Gerard McCollum. He was Assistant COC on the Bushwhacker in the early 2000's and has represented the club as a delegate at ANICC and MMP meetings.

Simon has also been involved in International events. He was an Ulster Rally Stage Commander from 1999 to 2003 when he ran the Mary Gray and Armagh City Special Spectator stages. He won a Best Stage Award on the event and graduated to Chief Marshal between 2004 and 2007. He has also been the first point of contact for residents with PR issues on the event for the past 18 years.

He ran Mary Gray stage on the 2006 Circuit of Ireland Rally and ran a marshal's hit squad on the event for a few years.

For the inaugural Rally Ireland in 2006 he was asked to run Sloughan Glen stage and ran it again in 2007. At the 2009 event he ran the Ceremonial Start at Enniskillen Castle on Thursday evening, a marshal's hit squad on Friday, the re-fuel area in Fisher's Yard on Saturday, and the marshal's team for the Finish Ramp on Sunday. "Friday evening's stages were cancelled due to flooding and the hit squad team ended up shovelling water of the Saturday stages all of Friday night. The camaraderie was great and this was one of the best night's craic that I ever had at a rally" he says.

He started competing in the mid-90's co-driving for Willie Hawkes, Marty McKenna, Ian Irwin, Des McAleer, Colm Hagan and wife Roisin. "Results were never that important – we were there for a good time and to enjoy the craic".

He acquired a Sunbeam in the mid-90's and drove it in most local club events as well as a couple of years competing in the N.I Championship. He remembers co-driving in the car one year at Enniskillen Motor Club's May Day Rally and telling the driver "It's my car and I'm telling you to take it flat in fourth".

Nowadays he acts as a Club Steward on Cookstown and Enniskillen events and as a Safety Car Official on the Ulster and Down Rallies.

He is currently the club's Safeguarding Officer, a role that he has performed for the ANICC for the past 10 years and for the Motorsport Marshalling Partnership for the past 15 years. He is a committee member and Safeguarding Officer for Omagh Comhaltas and for Tyrone Comhaltas, and he also has Safeguarding roles within Camogie.

Outside of motorsport he was Event Parade Director, Health and Safety Officer and Logistics Manager for Fleadh Tyrone in 2019 and he is a GAA Umpire for Underage Girls Football with Drumragh. He is also a Camogie Umpire and a Coach with St.Enda's and Tyrone, the Tyrone Under 14 team achieving success under his coaching with an Ulster title win in 2019.

Reading the above it is obvious that Simon is not lacking in workload or commitment. When it comes to organising skills he quotes a saying that he learned from the late Bryce Sands "The best Plan B is to make sure that Plan A works".



*Aine, Simon and Roisin*



*Simon in action at a Quarry Sprint in his Sunbeam*