

BLAKENEY LTD

motorsport

So the season has ended and for BMS it's been one of our busiest & most successful years. At every major historic meeting we have had huge numbers of cars, lots of wins and podiums and very few failures. This is entirely down to the superb crew I employ. In any industry, finding the right people to employ within ones business is difficult and an often transient situation but thankfully most of my guys seem to enjoy the cars, clients and race meetings particularly when good results abound. I find the diversity of my business fascinating. With cars ranging from Lola T70, ex works BMW CSL Batmobile, B8 Chevron through DB3S, 8C Alfas and Bugatti's to WO Bentley, 30/98 Vauxhall and even a 1904 White steam car! However one make you will always find at the heart of my business is Frazer Nash. It's not just me that gets them, my staff will always end up huddling around any newly arrived Frazer Nash derivative comparing it to what we've done before, clocking things done different ways. Even the odd employee who hitherto grimaced with the arrival of another worn out chain drive car can't help themselves but be curious. The doubtful few in my employ usually get converted pretty quickly when told to fire up and road test BAM!

Of course with the ups there will always be the odd down and Prescott for me this year was not festooned with joy other than my utter delight at Eddie Williams beating Dick Smiths 1500 sport car record in my Nash. There's always a moment of quiet reflection when a legendary heroes long standing record gets beaten but when one thinks it was set 24 years ago, that is in itself a testament to Dicks prowess as one of the all-time top Frazer Nash racers. Eddie was of course delighted and is one of a few drivers I would happily rely on and recommend if anyone needed a co-pilot or 'hot shoe' to pedal a car. Annoyingly I have now made my mission of holding all the VSCC 1500 sports car hill climb records a 10th of a second harder at Prescott so will be talking to my engine shop about a little more but possibly elusive BHP!

The VSCC race at the Castle Combe Classic in early October has become the feature event of this fabulous meeting. A wholly relaxed and superbly organised scene only add to the enjoyment of racing on this fabulous circuit. In its early days it had connections with the Frazer Nash Company and its one of the meetings you should consider for next year. It's mostly for std & mod sports cars but the odd special is also allowed in at the organisers

discretion. It was one of our most successful meetings with 4 outright wins on race day – 2 wins for the DB3S Aston Martin with Steve Brooks at the helm, FN stalwart Martin Hunt in his E Type Jag and me in the Nash in the VSCC race. Martin & I also came 2nd in his Lemans Rep in the Fiscar race – this all came after 2 outright wins in the 2 driver Pre63GT and Woodcote Trophy races with Martin Hunt in the Cobra and Fred Wakeman in the T38 Cooper Jaguar at the Spa 6hr meeting the weekend before. On a personal note I will miss Philip Selwyn-Smith enormously. He was one of the stalwart scrutineers at Castle Combe and copious VSCC events for many years and his passing is a loss to all of us. He was a brilliant and methodical engineer with a dour but hilarious sense of humour. Over the years he has been of great personal help to me and is someone I will always remember very fondly. And finally, after a few months' deliberation I have bought AMT414, the 'barn find' displayed at the Nash party last year. It's almost the impossible car to own. It's terribly difficult to work out whether to at least make it work, after all it's only a car, or to leave it alone but to do so means it's merely a piece of automotive art, not exactly the ethos of all that stands for Frazer Nash. It is however a really, really lovely problem to have!



This one of my favourite pictures showing Frazer Nash legend, Freddie Giles at the end of a rally, presumably having won it as he starts to open a bottle of what looks like Champagne. Plus 4's, tweed and the Anzani's 'economic avoidance identity' all add to the fabulous scene.

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