

Indy British Motor Days 2007

By Ron Parks

The McCann's Dave Sr. and Dave Jr. have gone to Indy British Motor Days every fall for the last 10 years or more. Dave Sr. always has spoken highly of the event, which includes a Friday night Hospitality suite, Saturday morning rally, A lap around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, an awards (for the rally) banquet Saturday night and a car show on Sunday. The awards banquet always includes an interesting guest speaker. Pete Hylton, professor of motor sport at Indiana University and owner of the Old MG Bed and Breakfast, was the repeat guest speaker this year. He gave an interesting talk about vintage racing and the race car designed and built by his students.

Dave Sr. had told me that they always participate in the rally and won it in 2006. He had been encouraging me to attend in 2007 and so I persuaded Ryan Looft to partner up with me to give the McCann's a run for their money in the rally. More on those results later. I had been to the Indy British Motor Days Sunday car show twice before; once at the Military museum and once at Indianapolis Raceway Park, but only for the Sunday car show. This car show has been held at different locations around Indianapolis almost every year.

On Friday afternoon September 21, 2007, I caravanned to Indy with Dave McCann Sr. who was to pickup Dave Jr. at the airport later in the evening. We pulled into the parking lot at the Brickyard Crossing Inn to find Ryan Looft still sitting in his MGB, having just arrived himself. After checking in at the hotel and getting our registration goodie bags, we enjoyed the hospitality suite and just visited with folks the rest of the evening and retired fairly early. Sometime in the evening we witnessed a parade of fancy tow trucks, all shined up with lights flashing, go by the hotel. We learned later that they were there to lobby the Indiana State legislature to pass a pull over law like we have in Ohio, whereby drivers must pull over into the left lane when passing a police car or other emergency vehicle whose lights are flashing.

Saturday morning brought the rally drivers' and navigators' meeting at 8:45am. The first car in the rally left the parking lot at 9:00am with the rest of the cars released every few minutes.

The rally questions were not listed in order, so in the beginning we were looking for everything. Then it got a little easier as items were checked off. Some were obvious and some were not. For example, one question asked, "What cemetery has a North and South gate?" Ryan and I found a cemetery early-on that had only one gate at the Northwest corner. We even got out of the car and walked the perimeter of the cemetery looking for another gate. Then, we got to looking at the gate, which was a double gate that swung to the West to open. That meant that these gates were hung, one on a North post and one on the South post. Here is a North gate and a South gate. We've got this nailed! We thought? Boy, they thought they were going to trick us into missing this one. I think there was another team there who fell for it too, when they saw what we were doing? Then, later on, we saw another cemetery with a large sign that said "North Gate." You might say we were over-thinking this a little?

At the end of the rally, we had several unanswered questions. So, after completing our lap around the track at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, we went back over some of the course and picked up a few more answers before rushing back to turn in our rally sheets before the 4:00pm deadline. We felt pretty good about our effort. We thought we had answered some questions that others probably didn't get. We felt this way until the answers to all the questions were given at the awards banquet. Ryan and I missed several that we thought we had answered correctly, so we weren't expecting any award. We were just relaxing as the awards winners were announced starting with 10th place. We nearly fell off our chairs when they announced Ryan and me as 3rd place winners. We were very pleased even though we finished behind the McCann's who came away with 2nd place. Congratulations to them! We'll probably try again next year, so look out Dave and Dave!

The car show on Sunday was at the American Legion 500 located adjacent to the speedway. The weather was hot and sunny. There were probably 150 or so cars on the show field.

Our club was well represented at the car show on Sunday. Mike Maloney had his V8 MGB there, as you can see in the photo of his little mechanic. Dar Planeaux and I won Best in Class for our respective classes, Larry Youngblood won Excellence in Class, Jeff Zorn won and Excellence in Class award with his BSA motor cycle and then McCann's and Ryan and I won our awards for the rally. Steve Miller of MG Automotive was wandering around there too. Steve may have made some purchases in the swap meet area?

Indy was a fun weekend! Perhaps we'll have a few more folks from our club attend next year?