



PAUL SWIFT PRECISION DRIVING

Swift stunts adds precision to East Lancashire Hospice fundraising drive

Gaskell Motorbodies of Great Harwood organised a Paul Swift Precision driving night to raise funds for East Lancashire Hospice on Friday 31st August 2012 at The Lorry Park at Blackburn with Darwen Services off Junction 4 of the M65. Nick Gaskell, owner of Gaskell Motorbodies, said that "this is the second Paul Swift Event he has organised to raise money for Charity, last year we raised money for the Help for Heroes Charity. The event was so well attended we needed to find a bigger venue for more people and so Paul can have more fun in a bigger space. With help of lots of other people, Cicely Commercial and Extra Services we have the perfect venue. Our chosen charity this year is The East Lancashire Hospice. The event is also being supported by Lancashire Fire & Rescue road safety awareness team". Thanks to everybody concerned. See www.gaskellmotorbodies.com/index.html for more details Paul Swift is a seven-time British Motorsport Champion (3 times MSA & 4 times BTRDA Autotest Champion) and a multiple Guinness World Record holder and follows in the footsteps of his legendary stunt driving father Russ Swift. Today, with over twenty-five years experience, Paul Swift Precision Driving is now the global leader in precision driving, providing the professionalism and experience of some of the best drivers available in the world. Also supporting the event were the Under 17s Motor Club Northwest, which has evolved over many years of motor sport activity with several partners working together for a common goal - to help educate young riders & drivers. Helping young drivers to be safe on the road and want to acquire safe driving skills. See <http://www.u17mc-northwest.org.uk/home.htm> for more information Paul Swift is a 'stunt driver' says it all really doesn't it? Well not really. As the son of Russ Swift car handling is in his blood and he has put it to good use. Firstly as the national Autotest champion and more recently appearing in programs such as Top Gear and many car adverts. To put it simply he really is good! And very entertaining to watch as he really puts his car through its paces on two wheels as well as four. Last year, one of the Lancashire Automobile Club's principle sponsors, Nick Gaskell of Gaskell Motor Bodies in Great Harwood, (plug plug) rang and asked if we would provide support for a charity event at his premises we really couldn't say no. It was quite an event but Paul couldn't give full reign to his talents being constrained by the size of the venue.



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This year Nick rang again only this time the event was to be somewhat bigger using a large car park adjacent to Blackburn services. He asked if we could help out again, a no brainer really, and perhaps get few classics there to add to the ambience.

This call was followed shortly after by a call from Steve Johnson who has used the venue previously and was going to be there (in spirit if not in body) with the Under 17 Motor Club. They would be providing demonstration runs between Paul's shows and he asked if we could work together on this one. No problem, Steve is an old friend and as they say that's what friends are for. Several regular entrants on LAC events were contacted and several volunteered to come along and put their cars in a display area so that was soon sorted. Not to many just enough was the plan.

Arriving on the night with a pile of equipment in the Mini I found Steve's people had already set things out and the event looked like being far bigger than I expected with the emergency services putting on displays and several food tents (including and excellent hog roast). We set out an area for the classics and awaited developments. The Under 17 lads put on a great display. This really is a terrific way for youngsters to get into mototsport and learn car control. With about a dozen cars doing a sort of mini autotest (without the reversing) things got off to a great start. Soon the classics arrived and were parked, many thanks to all who turned up on what was an unexpectedly damp evening. We seemed to attract a great deal of interest from the considerable crowd which had gathered. Much of the evening was spent in pleasant conversation with both spectators and Under 17 club members.

The main act was of course Paul Swift who spun, flicked and generally showed fantastic car control. Some of his 'parking manoeuvres had to be seen to be believed. Then he simply hurtled at a set of ramps and drove round the display area on two wheels with a delighted, paying, passenger whooping with delight. Every time he went out more money went into the charities coffers.

Then back to the Under 17s before Paul came out for the last time finishing as the light faded. Quite an evening.

Many thanks to Nick Gaskell for the invite lets hope a lot of money was made for the East Lancashire Hospice. **Chris Lee (Lancashire Automobile**

