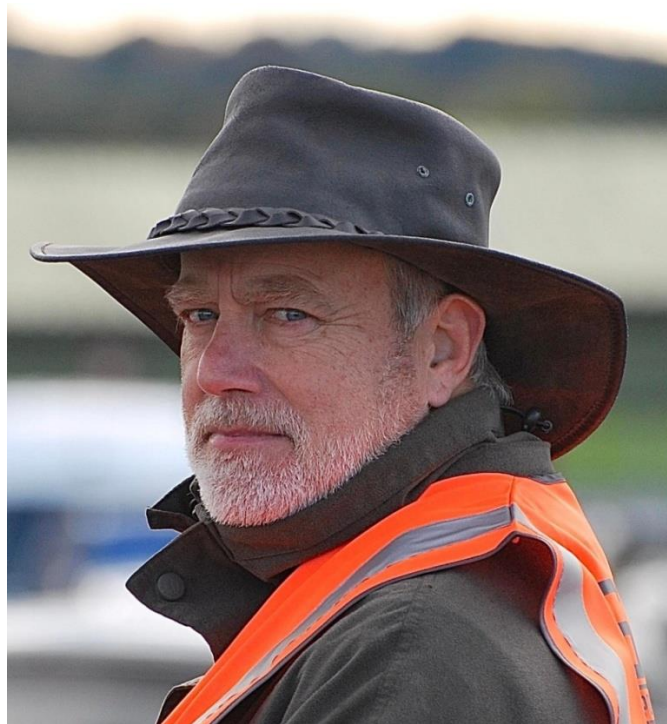


SPORTING CAR CLUB OF NORFOLK

DECEMBER 2023



David Leckie

1959 - 2023

David Leckie's Unwavering Support to Motor Sport via SCCON

David Leckie, who was one of the Sporting Car Club of Norfolk's longest-serving and most dependable committee members, sadly lost his bravely-fought battle against cancer on 23rd October.

David joined SCCON in the 1990s and soon joined the committee, becoming a director and Company Secretary of the Sporting Car Club of Norfolk Limited in 1998. In this role he ran SCCON's Annual General Meetings for twenty five years.

David got progressively more and more involved in running SCCON events and, despite being a keen competitor himself, he would always give higher priority to the need for officials to run events, rather than his desire to compete.

When SCCON was running special stage rallies at Oakington Airfield and at the former USAF-base at Sculthorpe, David planned the budgets and was variously Secretary of the Meeting, Deputy Clerk of the Course and Safety Officer.

In 2011 SCCON held a huge spectator event at Kimberley Hall to celebrate the club's 60th Anniversary. Its many attractions included a display of sixty cars, one made in each year of SCCON's existence, and air displays by two Chinese Nanchang fighters deploying smoke trails. David drew up the comprehensive safety plan for the whole event that had to pass muster with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Police. He then took on the (unsung hero) role of SCCON's Health and Safety Officer, a position he held until 2023.

Keen to promote SCCON and encourage new members, David took part in a Radio Norfolk broadcast in May 2011 during which he emphasised that you don't need a sports car to be a member of SCCON and he described the fun members have, competing in everyday cars at modest cost.

The Radio Norfolk studio that David had broadcast from was in Norwich Forum, and David had the idea for a display on the plaza outside the Forum to bring SCCON to a wider audience.



The SCCON display outside the Forum in Norwich on Saturday 18th June 2011
Photo from SCCON archives

His display was a great success and he put on a similar event four years later. From 2004, David ran many SCCON events, initially Go-Karting and Autotests, then Autosolos with longer tests and no reversing. SCCON wanted new venues so David persevered to gain permission for Autotests at the former RAF Coltishall site in 2015/16. The last one in 2016 gained 45 entries. But after the installation of solar panels, the site was no longer available, so it was over to Snetterton and, from 2017 onwards, the Stanta Military Training Area. David was a familiar face at those Stanta events, competing, marshalling or acting as one of the event officials. SCCON's hill-climb trial at Cadders Hill, Lyng had been held spasmodically over the years until David started running it annually from 2009 onwards. Some years David's trial was voted the best event of the Anglia Motor Sport Club's popular Trials Challenge. David also ran the P & H 12-car navigational rally from 2010 to 2022. As the opening event of SCCON's 12-car season, it is aimed primarily at novices and newcomers. And in 2017, David took on the job of Club Treasurer for SCCON, carried out with his usual capability and calmness.

When motorsport resumed part way through the Coronavirus pandemic, every club had to appoint a Covid-19 Officer. And who volunteered for a job that was necessary but rather unglamorous? - David Leckie.

David had wide interests in club-level motor sport, from 12-cars (winning ten of them), autotests/autosolos (winning his class on several occasions including every SCCON autotest held at Coltishall) and all-night road rallies. He entered the very tough Preston Rally fourteen times, never quite making it into the top ten, however he and Dave Bell were the outright winners of SCCON's 164-mile-long Poxihen

Rally in 2004. That event was quite a challenge because a blizzard hit Norfolk just before the event started.



David Leckie making a splash in his Nova on the 2004 Poxihen Rally
Photo by Andy Manston of M & H Photography

Classic Trials run by the Motor Cycling Club also held a fascination for David and he owned 'Shorty', a famous short-wheelbase VW Beetle trials car. Trialling brought David another success when he gained a 'tin award' for cleaning every hill on the MCC's 2009 Edinburgh Trial in his Vauxhall Nova. He was also fastest in Class 'O' on the speed tests, effectively winning the class, though no trophy is presented in Class 'O' because that class has a slightly easier route more suitable for front-wheel-drive cars.



David Leckie climbing a hill on the Edinburgh Trial in his Nova SR 1.4

Over nearly thirty years, David did so much for SCCON, not seeking personal acclaim but for the satisfaction of carrying out his club responsibilities to a high standard and seeing the enjoyment of so many participants in SCCON events. Motor sport in the UK relies hugely on the selfless dedication of people like David Leckie.