

Mike Dixon 1940-2023



Relatively few current members of SCCON will remember Mike Dixon who died at 83 years of age on 16th July after a long battle with cancer. But Mike was a big part of the motorsport scene in East Anglia for most of his life. After joining SCCON in 1965 he soon became a committee member and by 1968 he was our club's Secretary and Press Secretary. For a period in the early 1970s, he edited SCCON's newsletter under its current name of 'Spotlight' (it was previously called 'Odds and So On').

Mike had already started his interest in motor sport photography by covering events at Snetterton and when John Player and Sons, the cigarette company, sponsored the national Players No. 6 Autocross series from 1966, Mike travelled around the country following that series and he was able to sell some of his photos to the motoring press.

He had a motor sport career in SCCON events for a few years, initially driving his 1956 Ford Popular, then an 850cc Mini that he found to be very troublesome, and finally in a Sunbeam Imp. This too was rather unreliable but, as he'd bought it new, the repairs were covered by its Rootes Group warranty, and its use for motor sport was never mentioned!

By 1968 he was navigating on some stage rallies and in 1969 he organised SCCON's 250 mile long Pancake Rally that included thirty miles of white roads and three special stages.

In late 1975 Mike was one of the main proponents along with Keith Pettitt of West Suffolk Motor Club in getting the WSMC/SCCON Winter Rallycross Series going at Snetterton. He already had a foot in the door at Snetterton because from 1966 to 1988 he was Autosport Magazine's photographer for all races at his home circuit and he wrote many articles for that publication covering a wide variety of events across East Anglia. He was described as "Autosport's eyes and ears at Snetterton".

I am particularly appreciative of Mike's photographic archive and good memory because he gave me so much help when I wrote the seventy-year history of SCCON two years ago.

Since the 1990's, Mike served as a British Racing and Sports Car Club steward and a Motorsport UK steward. His common sense was well respected and he always helped to mentor the next generation of race officials. A minute's silence was held in memory of Mike during the BRSCC's Snetterton race meeting over the weekend of 22nd/23rd July.

In later life, Mike took an interest in stained glass and he created a massive photographic archive of the glass in Norwich's two cathedrals, plus some 36 churches in Norwich and another 140 churches across Norfolk. See <https://www.norfolkstainedglass.org/>

SCCON wishes to convey our condolences to Mike's wife Stella, his daughter and two sons and to his wider family.

Peter Riddle August 2023