



**MIKE GARTON**  
**1936 - 2020**



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Past Chairman Mike Garton after a bravely fought short illness. Mike was a dedicated supporter of the Fellowship, serving as Chairman between 2013 - 2015. He will be hugely missed by his many friends in the Fellowship and especially those who had the privilege to serve with him on the Fellowship committee where his sound advice and guidance was invaluable.

Mike was a proud BRDC member starting his racing career competing on two wheels in the late 1950's in motor cycle scrambles. His circuit racing career began at Mallory Park in 1961 with a 'Frogeye' Austin-Healey Sprite whilst he was employed as a motor-cycle salesman by Burrows Bros of Peterborough. BMC vehicles remained the focus of his racing activities for the rest of the decade, principally with Sprites but also MGBs, an Austin-Healey

3000 and a BMC A series-engined Mini Marcos GT.

The Nürburgring Nordschleife became one of Mike's favourite race tracks and he became quite a Nürburgring specialist where he had class success in the 500km race.

The highlight of 1965 was undoubtedly finishing second in the Brands Hatch Double 500 with Paul Hughes behind the winning MGB of John Rhodes/Warwick Banks but ahead of all manner of potent machinery including the Jaguar E-type of Jackie Oliver/Chris Craft and the Austin-Healey 3000 of Paddy Hopkirk/Roger Mac.

On a rare venture into touring car racing, Mike and Paul shared a Mini 850 in the Snetterton 500 Ks round of the European Touring Car Championship. In among the Lotus Cortinas, Alfa Romeo 1600 GTAs and BMW 1800 Tis, it may not have been the fastest car out there but at least it finished the four-hour race with fourth place in the 850 cc class.



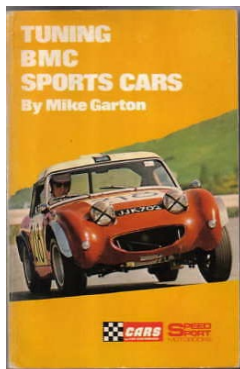


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For the last three years of his racing career, Mike teamed up with Roger Heavens in Chevrons - a B8 in 1970, a B16 in 1971 and a B21 in 1972.

After retiring from active competition Mike remained very much part of the international sports car racing scene. He became Chief Scrutineer for the BRDC and in particular he oversaw the various Rover saloon car series. This led to his appointment as a MSA Technical Commissioner and FIA Technical Delegate with a principal involvement in Group C racing for many years.



Mike was enrolled recently as President of the Healey Drivers Club following the departure of Peter Healey from the post. The Healey Drivers Club is the oldest club for the Healey cars being built by Donald Healey at Warwick. Founded in 1955 the club has always had a member of the Healey family as its President until Mike's recent appointment.

Mike also found time during his busy life to write a book, Tuning BMC Sports Cars, published in 1969 and still much sought after.

Mike played an important role developing the Fellowship of the Motor Industry during his many years on the committee and in particular during his time as Chairman for which we will always be eternally grateful.

Beyond his technical genius, Mike loved getting involved in the community. For several years, Mike created Buckingham Community Racing, which was an after school club for local teenagers, introducing them to karting. Furthermore, he was a member of the local Rotary Club, and PROBUS.

The Fellowship extends our deepest condolences to Lyn, their children Janet & Ian and their Grandchildren Emily, Lucy and Simone at this sad time.

Donations for Florence Nightingale Hospice, and BRDC Motor Sport charity can be made online via [michaelgarton.muchloved.com](http://michaelgarton.muchloved.com)

