



....and another year flys by

Last year, like many we have noticed quite a shift in the industry. Whereas a few years ago the market had become predominantly kit-based, now the industry has become busily refocused, servicing the requirement for fully factory built models and also track cars.

Although the vogue for fully built hand crafted sportscars was very strong over a decade ago, the track car side of the industry is a fairly new phenomenon, which has grown from strength to strength over the last few years. Marlin having now been in the specialist sportscar building business for over 27 years, are fortunate to be in an advantageous and ideal position to support and take care of this current trend, - with our highly skilled workforce, racing heritage and the brand new premises which will be coming on stream very shortly.

Responding quickly to customers needs has always been a pre-requisite of our valued factory support programme and often this means making changes. Something we at Marlin are indeed no stranger to.

As a small specialist company we can react to markets – your demands, – in an unprecedented way. A tradition we intend to continue, as we provide support to all our customers throughout the coming New Year.

Amongst many other changes we have made in the last few years are

Open Day/Track day. Taking our open day event out of the premises to a more central position with a race track – a little more work for us perhaps - but enabling us to provide customers with a tremendous experience.

Full factory racing programme – to constantly improve and speed up development of our cars by pushing them to the limit and beyond.

Trackside support for those who would like to race - we now provide a range of packages from basic trackside assistance, to race car stabling, trackside delivery and full factory mechanic support on race days.

New 'build options' – we have introduced a variety of factory build options and self build packages to cover all aspects of potential Marlin sportscar ownership and help fulfil customers dreams.

Marlin Racing



As many will already know, last year two of our cars were entered in the prestigious Castle Combe GT Championship series. Drivers - Dylan Popovic and Mark Matthews both competed in factory prepared 5EXI's throughout the season.

Initially - as was to be expected, we were placed at the back of the grid. But as the season progressed and the demons gradually got sorted, some impressive results were shortly to be forthcoming.

Racing at this level against cars of a very high calibre – many of which cost over 6 times as much as a 5EXI - it quickly became apparent we were into a new and exciting market place.

Racing is racing and initially various incidents occurred preventing speedy progress, but by the end of the season both cars had moved right up the grid and were lapping over 10 seconds quicker than at the first two rounds. - Now that is progress!

The highlight was towards the end of the season, when Dylan managed to grab a 3rd place podium finish, just behind two rather impressive Ferrari Challenge cars. Even better was the fact that a lot more expensive Ferrari's and other exotica were left quite away behind!

Mark's season unfortunately didn't run quite as smoothly. Due once more to the pressure of work he was unable to race at every meeting. A few 'offs' when avoiding other's who had spun out in the wet curtailed early results and latterly when it all started to come together well, a quirky intermittent fuel problem hindered what should have been a top place finish.

Marlin Racing



Thrilled at the, as yet unleashed potential - of the even further developed 5EXI's for 2008 (its Mark's very nature to keep improving things!), we are very excited regarding the prospects of taking more cars to this years Castle Combe GT Championship series.

Last year we were 'newbies', but this year - yes we mean business!!

Moving to race at Castle Combe and in this race series, was definitely the right decision for Marlin, everyone there are all very friendly and couldn't be more helpful. Of course we are especially pleased now that we are running with the 'front runners'.

RACE PACKAGES - New for 2008

Full factory specification race cars will be available and you can choose the level of support you require according to your circumstances. The advantages of racing in this way are: -

- A series competitive car
- Minimal ownership costs
- Manufacturer support at every race
- Hassle free racing
- Car built to suit your size and different engine power options available
- Continual car development throughout the season

Packages range from Bronze, through Silver to Gold and start at £2,000 + VAT

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE:

To read Dylan's full race report – and watch his onboard video coverage - of his 3rd place podium finish race (plus a number of other races this season), please visit this webpage on the Marlin website.

OWNER BUILDERS

You Can Join Us...

As long as any 5EXI is built and finished as per a Marlin factory car spec, they will be permitted to race as a production car in the Castle Combe GT Championship series.

Developments

Racing our cars last year allowed us to develop 'retro-fit' suspension upgrades for both the 5EXi and the Sportster models, which are now available from the factory.

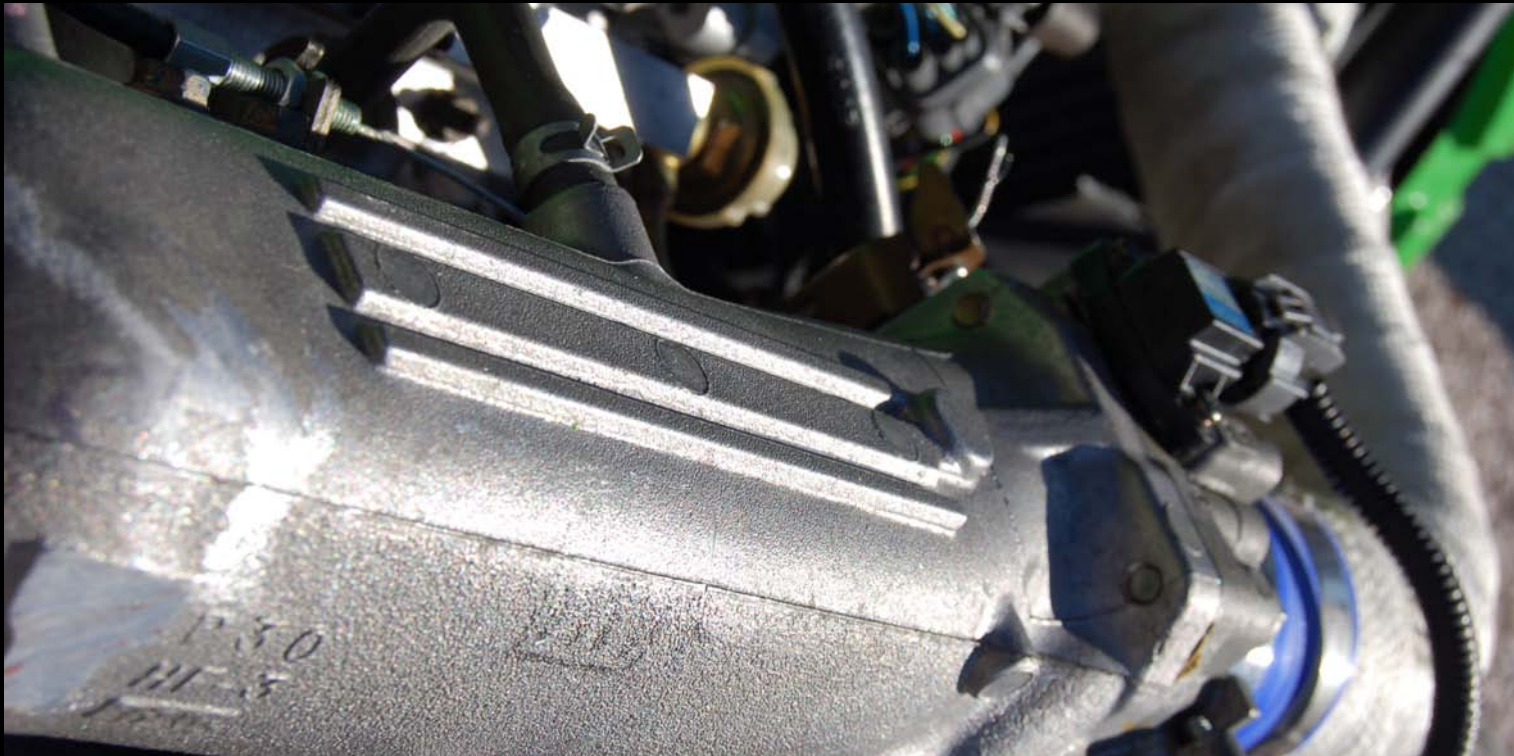
New retro-fit modifications for the 5EXi include:

A front anti-roll bar kit - Add a little under steer for a little more fun.

Also two Rear Suspension Upgrade options - Improved cornering stability under full power.

For the full list of all our race packages and development options we recommend you visit the Marlin website, or contact us for prices and more details.

Max Power



GOING TURBO...

Marlin are now offering complete bespoke Turbo Kits – as used on the race car. These can provide up to 300bhp of reliable everyday usable power, from a standard 1600cc Honda V-Tec engine. The kit includes Turbo, waste gates, blow off valve, stainless steel pipework, hoses and fittings.

The complete kit starts at £1,995, are taylor made and only suitable for certain 5EXi's models. Please phone for more details.

MORE POWER STILL... and at budget prices too!

Squeezing even more oomph out of the Honda 1600cc V-Tec powered 5EXi, - we are now supplying Mapable ECU's for under £200.

New Build Package Options

At the end of last year we introduced a series of 'Build Packages' to provide customers with a variety of purchasing options. These packages included boxed kits, partially built and fully finished cars.

We Build - You Choose

As an example typical packages start from:

- A partially built factory 5EXi Honda/Rover from £ 12,150 (you supply and fit powerplant)
- A partially built factory Sportster from £ 10,995 (you supply and fit powerplant)

For further information on our build options, please see the information on our website:

- 5EXi factory build option page [HERE](#).
- Sportster factory build option page [HERE](#).

SELF BUILD:

Marlin produce some of the finest self assembly vehicles available today. Our sportscar range is now refined to the point where quality components and ease of assembly makes such a project an enjoyable and pleasurable experience.

Initial purchase is far less expensive - and costs are conveniently spread over the period of the build. Plus it's so easy to personalise your vehicle at each and every stage.

Marlin provide self builders with friendly helpful technical backup and know how via: Network 'M' – where we put you in touch with an owner in your area, who will if you wish become your mentor. The factory support hotline which is on hand 5 days a week. The Marlin Owners club who are a very friendly enthusiastic and helpful group, plus of course the power of the internet, which has now spawned a superb collection of build help forums.

NOTE: Both the Sportster and the 5EXi are available as a single donor build.

SELF BUILD OPTIONS

Home Build - When you order this self build option you'll have just about everything you need to complete the build. To make things even easier, delivery and payment can be made in stages to suit.

Donor Sourcing - Donor Sourcing is a popular service which Marlin have always offered, - but often missed by those pricing / planning to build a kit!

Other Options - We also offer other self build options - such as our 'Body Fitting' service. If you reach the stage of your build where body fitting is necessary and are troubled regarding skills or time available, just phone and make a booking.

SVA

If you do at any stage feel you require some help to complete your project, Marlin offer a range of 'Finishing' services which also includes help with the SVA process.

News and Events



OPEN DAY/TRACK DAY:

Taking our Open Day to the Llandow race circuit - with the full Marlin support crew on hand throughout the day - has provided the opportunity for customers to really get to grips with their sportscars and allowed them to set their cars up with expert advice and assistance.

We are pleased to say that many people have written to compliment us and say thank you for this great experience. Take for example this recent email:

"Just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful organisation for the open/track day at Llandow. Both myself and my friend Simon had a fantastic time and it was great to meet all the other Marlin enthusiasts. I will be in touch again soon as there are a couple of things on the car that I want to sort out and improve. I've been inspired to work on it again since I've spoken to a couple of 5EXi builders and got some ideas. Thanks again for a great day in Wales."

– Andrew Cripps.

The following is a summary from the open day report:

"The forecast was for heavy rain the week before and lots of rain the day after. But for Marlin's open day on the Llandow race circuit on September 22nd, it seemed as if the clouds had parted just above and all were greeted with sunshine and a rapidly drying track to enjoy.

There were 3 instructors on hand to provide suitable instruction to those who had not driven on a circuit before - of which there were quite a few - and the format of the day was sessions all morning according to ability divided into 3 groups; Beginners, Intermediates and Experienced.

There was a good collection of 5EXi's and Sportsters, plus a few other cars – some very sporty, but also others that you would not normally associate with a track day driving experience, which all added to the fun.

Tuition was provided in 15 minute sessions for the less experienced first - essential skills such as; the correct racing line, braking points, gear changing, clipping the apex and carrying speed smoothly through the corner, - and everyone made good progress.

News and Events



Our chief welder, 'hot stuff' Kevin naturally became Head Chef for the BBQ. Whilst excited participants swapped stories of their experiences during the morning sessions.

The lap times really started to tumble in the afternoon's open pit lane format and unsurprisingly the fastest time of the day – 45secs - finally being recorded by Dylan Popovic in his factory prepped 5EXi. Quite a number of 5EXi's were only 2-3 seconds of the pace, which demonstrated just how good the road going version really is. By comparison a very powerful Integra with a whopping 280BHP on tap, only managed a best lap time of 49secs! A number of potential customers for the "2008 Race Package" had turned up to see what the race 5EXi had to offer and were duly impressed.

The smiles got wider as drivers enjoyed their cars for what they were designed to do – true sportscars easily capable of some serious track action. However all good things come to an end - and all too soon - the finish time of 4.30pm arrived and the chequered flag was waved to signify the end of the day."

To read the full Open Day report, please visit this webpage on our website.

SPORTSTER – What a Winner!

Peter Crowther in his 2.8ltr Sportster V6 won his class in the 2007 International Guild of Motor Endurance Sportscar Challenge.

Starting from Angouleme in France we traversed Aquitaine, the Atlantic Pyrenees, Sierra de Demanda, Picos de Europa, Sierra de Ranadoiro, Ourense, then Peneda-Guerres to the finish in Santiago Spain. In all some 1560 miles in five days over mainly mountain roads with five timed stages per day - and pure track events thrown in.

Sounds tough? - Believe it!

Peter says "The memories are still flashing back, the scenery, the camaraderie, the waving people as we passed through villages, the pace and a set of tyres destroyed in a week!"

Would he do it again? - Read Peter's full report [HERE](#).

"...as if the route was not tough enough day 3 saw two real challenges. The first was a navigational error that required us to recover no less than 11 minutes over a thirty mile stretch of mainly single track mountain road..."

"...winning our class outright by a 5 point margin. Elation overcame exhaustion as we reflected on our achievements at the dinner/awards ceremony that night. A glass of wine or two may just have enhanced the "glow"!"

News and Events



OTHER SPORSTER NEWS...

Orders have steadily come in for our 30's retro, GP styled Sportster sportscar throughout 2007 – most of which have been for full factory builds.

Just a reminder that the updated Sportster wishbone system developed through racing, is now available for early cars as a retro-fit item.



5EXi – the Best Car!

Richard Barr won the Complete Kit Car 'Best Car' award with his superb 5EXi at the annual Cheshire Kit-Car show.

Richard, both builder and owner of the fabulous orange Marlin 5EXi that took the honours was delighted with the result. "I'm really pleased that a national magazine such as Complete Kit Car has recognised that this car is something special...it has made the whole build experience worthwhile"

Having put some 450 hours into the build over a 9 month period, Richard's 5EXi looked superb in it's Orange Gel coat finish, and is pictured outside of the Jacobean Hall.

For more photos and details of Richard's car, click [HERE](#).

New Premises



The move into our new premises has taken a little longer than first expected. As with any growing company circumstances dictate that things change in order to progress both commercially and financially. This has necessitated our move to a purpose built premises in order to continue developing our products and support our customers which is of paramount importance to us, especially with the demand for orders that have been placed to produce cars before the end of this year. Kits, racing and building cars will remain a vitally important part of Marlin's expanding business activities.

When any building work is involved there are inevitable delays which are caused by the planning process, legal issues, weather conditions and other suppliers, from which none of us are immune. However we remain very excited about the new building and the work is now continuing after the Xmas break.

Note: During this process our new address is –

PO Box 88, Crediton, Devon. EX17 3WZ.

Our phone number however remains the same – 01363 773772.

Articles

There were many good articles written during 2007, a few of which we have been able to make available online...



Telegraph: 'The Marlin 5EXi with a fire breathing engine that lives up to its 'sexy' name!'
 "...this Marlin has that rarest and most desirable of qualities in a car: it comes alive in your hands and makes you feel more alive for making a physical connection with it. Moreover, you could inspire life into the Marlin with your own hands because it can be bought as a kit for self-assembly."
 "...Many different engines can be specified for the mid-engined Marlin but the £23,000+ factory-finished demonstration car I drove was fitted with Honda's 220bhp Type R engine... and thus delivers a power-to-weight ratio that cannot be equalled by any Ferrari..."



Kit Car: 'Gimme 5'
 "Aside from the front anti-roll bar and Honda engine, this car has doors which are a major asset to a car that's perfectly useable as a practical everyday driver. There's not a lot of luggage space but the cockpit is comfortable, well equipped and well finished."
 "...a car that Marlin confidently estimate can be built using standard Rover components and a K-series Rover engine for around £8,000."



"Getting in is easy. The doors swing wide on their hinges and, with Marlin's own seats having a cutout at the side right where your foot wants to go, ..."
 "I loved this car and absolutely revelled in the ability of its engine and the resultant performance. It's such a zestful engine that hits licence losing territory way before it hits top gear. Make no mistake, with this engine in the back, it's a very fast car but it also has the necessary equipment in terms of chassis, brakes and suspension, to make it all manageable and supremely driveable."



Total Kit Car: 'I'm too 5EXi for my shirt, so 5EXi it hurts...'
 "Marlin can confidently list 'Power of Attraction' among the stats for their 5exi - it draws the crowds so easily, it would make ideal transport for the Pied Piper."
 "...the Marlin 5exi looks the part and it's got more neat tricks than an evening at home with Derren Brown, but sometime you've got to wrench yourself away from that crowd of gushy admirers..."
 "...a range of engines, from the economical Rover 1.1-litre, that should insure you are 'quoted happy', up to the Honda Tyre R, that will probably give your insurance agent a panic attack, but will ensure you a smile wider than the joker..."



"...in practical terms it seems to have struck a near-perfect balance between driver response and daily usability – with enough adjustment in the system to allow every owner to find their ideal drive."
 To read the above articles in full and many others, you can visit the Marlin website News & Events area and select 'Press Reports'.

The Future

'Circuit Driver' and 'Track & Race Car' magazines.

In February we will be going to Bruntingthorpe Test track with these two magazines to test and compare our 5EXi alongside other cars they have featured.

JAP FEST '08:

Last year we dipped our toe's in the water by popping along to 'JapFest'07' which was on the 19th May at Castle Combe Circuit. It was quite a show and also included drifting demos, track action and thousands of club cars.

It was such a good show this year we are going to be at the event once more with our 5EXi's and will be sharing a stand with 'Rare Rims' who supply a fantastic selection of high performance alloy wheels for race, street, style and performance. <http://www.rarerims.co.uk/>

Japfest, the UK's longest running circuit-based event for Japanese engined performance cars and will be held at Castle Combe Circuit on Sat. 17th May 2008. <http://www.japfest.co.uk/>

SHOWS

Last year we attended all the shows that we planned – Stoneleigh, Donnington and Westpoint – which in our opinion are the most prestigious of the kit-car events. Plus we attended both Jap Fest and Total KitCar Live, fitting them all in around the various other charity and open days - as best we could – along with the Castle Combe GT race series.

The kit-car shows we plan to attend in 2008 are:

- Stoneleigh - National Kit Car Motor Show, Sunday 4th - Monday 5th May 2008 At: NAC, Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, Warwickshire.
- Donnington - Donnington Kit & Performance car Show, 13th - 14th Sept. 2008** (** Date To Be Confirmed).
- Westpoint - Exeter Kit and Car Builder Show, 15th - 16th November 2008

Also look out for our Castle Combe GT Championship race dates, which - as soon as we have details confirmed - will be published on our website.

SPA VISIT:

MSCC co-ordinator Ken Robson along will be visiting the internationally famous Spa Franchorchamps race circuit in Belgium on the 4th & 5th August to raise money for charity.

INSURANCE DISCOUNTS FOR MSCC

Footman and James are offering generous insurance discounts to all Marlin Sports Car Club members:

- 10% on Kit Car insurance.
- 5% on Classic, car and Motorbike insurance.
- 5% on Modern, car and Motorbike insurance.
- 5% on Buildings and contents.

<http://www.footmanjames.co.uk>



Family News



HEAD OF SECURITY – ALL CHANGE
Sadly 'CJ' passed away last year and is sorely missed. Needing a new Head of Security & Debt Collection, we approached our local charity centre 'Blue X' in November and were lucky enough to re-home a 6 month Acita x Alsatian puppy which we named 'Georgie'. She is currently in the process of being trained!

Left: Georgie
Right: CJ



GOODBYE 2007 - WELCOME 2008

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS & PHONE LINES

During the office move last year we experienced a lot of problems with our phone lines and broadband because BT had to apply for planning permission to dig up the road and put the new lines in, all of this took far longer than anticipated. We did everything we could to speed up the process but at the end of the day we were in the hands of other organisations. As a direct result of this, it understandably caused some customers considerable frustration due to the lack of response from us. We can only apologise for any inconvenience caused but this only happened for the reasons explained above and is not representative of the normal service we provide. We are pleased to report that all of these issues have now been resolved. In order to prevent anything like this happening in future we have set-up a separate dedicated email address support@marlinsportscars.co.uk - any emails sent to this address will be dealt with within 24 hours and a receipt confirmation will be sent to you immediately. Please note that this address is to only be used when you need specific technical advice or have a query or comment that can not be dealt with by either the dedicated technical help line number 07748 235630, the office no. 01363 773772 or by emailing Terry on terry@marlinsportscars.co.uk.

If we get asked questions via this email address we will be happy to answer them in a way that could then be published on line to help others and may well also use on our FAQ pages on web site.

This will then be superseded by a dedicated forum (for both the 5EXi & Sportster), which is currently being worked on and we plan to have this live by Spring 2008. We welcome any comments about this and suggestions of categories you would like to see up there. If any of you budding builders would like to be in at the beginning of this do please let me know.

Well that just about wraps up another year with Marlin with 2008 promising to be quite a busy year for us. Please remember to checkout the Marlin website frequently, as it is regularly updated with all the latest news, race reports and product information, plus of course details of forthcoming shows and other events.

Happy New Year.

from Mark, Terry and the Marlin Team

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