



## Christmas '06 Newsletter

### FANTASTIC NEWS - a Brand New Premises

Yes we are going to be building a brand new bespoke premises from scratch - and only a few miles from where we are currently located. The opportunity has arisen for Marlin to build a new factory complex to include an engineering and assembly workshop, a showroom and separate specialist design and development area.

This will enable us to streamline production and as you can imagine we are obviously very excited. But there is a slight drawback - normal business will have disruptions during this transition period.

As we want to ensure everything is designed and built in such a way to optimise our business performance in the future, we intend to be heavily involved at every stage.

This no doubt, will mean that our existing base in Mill Street, will be closed for short periods early next year, during construction. However we will still be running our technical helpline and parts service, but with restricted hours, which will also apply to our office. So rest assured emails will be answered and parts will be supplied - but advance notice will be required (not 24hrs!).



### 2 Reasons to Get Your Orders in Quick...

- To guarantee normal delivery times, orders need to be in by January 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 as building work will disrupt business for a couple of months, until the new premises are complete, when our usual service will be resumed.
- Prices will be going up 10% across the board from 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!**

Besides our planned 'Trackday Open Day' event next year, there will also be a 'New Premises Launch BBQ', which will be held later in the year, probably around September (date to be confirmed - watch our website for details). The Launch BBQ will be invitation only, so please send in your requests to Terry via normal channels.

## 2006 - A Year Of Development For Marlin

Some of you will have noticed we have been very busy with development this year - especially on the racing front and it must have been well worth it, - as the specialist sportscar magazines have been pushing out glowing reviews!

### 5EXi

As a result of racing, many slight changes have now been incorporated into the latest 5EXi, which includes a new rear number plate holder with lights and under body rear diffuser. Other progress with this model - directly attributed to our on track experience, has meant that all early handling glitches have now been totally ironed out - as can be testified by the magazine test reports.

In fact the car is now so well developed that no more changes are planned for next season. ...And the great news is, due to our pragmatic approach to R&D, it is also possible to retrofit many of these changes to earlier 5EXi's, - so all can benefit who wish to do so.

### Sportster

The Sportster may have appeared to be neglected this last year, but because it is so successful and established, there really has not been a lot of major development news during '06 to inform the press about.

However changes are now on the cards...

...Mark has been busy planing an exciting new more refined hood/ sidescreen system, which we intend to reveal by the middle of next year, - so watch this space!

Please note, this will be a retro fitable part.



Mike Coombes and Sportster at Llandow race track.

### **A Shift in Focus -**

Because many have now realised that buying a bespoke fully built car is incredibly good value - 15k to 20k depending on spec, we have been exceedingly busy building turnkey sportscars again this year, as well as supplying various kit options.

Due to this demand we are now putting together a new price package - for complete builds, part builds, race builds, and kit-in-the-box's - once again (we were one of the first to offer a complete kit-in-the box solution and have been doing so for over 10 years!).

Please note - **when we re-open spring all these new prices will be in place.**

### **LOOKING BACK - EVENTS THROUGHOUT '06**

As can be read from our website news at [www.marlin sportscars.co.uk](http://www.marlin sportscars.co.uk), we were in attendance at quite a large and varied selection of exciting events during 2006, a few of which are briefly recapped:

#### **The Stoneleigh Show**

This was another good weekend for sports car lovers and one we always enjoy.

The highlight for us just had to be when Durmot Ryan, set eyes for the very first time on his new burgundy Sportster that we had built for him. As you can imagine he caused quite a stir when he actually started it on the show stand - and then later drove home. But who could blame him, he just couldn't wait to experience the pleasures of ownership of his new big boys toy.

Racing commitments after Stoneleigh meant we could not attend any further shows till Donnington .

#### **Marlin at Donnington**

This year when we set off for Donnington we had to take along four cars. This was because Mark and Adis were racing at the Donnington circuit on the Sunday.

Using our superb new race transporter truck, especially engineered by Marlin to carry two cars internally, we drove to Donnington with an additional car in the trailer, on the rear of the truck and a forth car towed behind our van. This was to ensure we could have a Sportster and a 5EXi for the show stand on both days.



As always at Donnington with so much happening, we had a brilliant weekend and it was a good opportunity to catch up with so many of our customers.

#### **Stroke Associaton Day at Castlecombe**

This event, now in its 12th year, was held on 28<sup>th</sup> October and proved a great opportunity for Motor Racing to put something back into society for the benefit of others.

Basically public pay between £20 and £40 for 5 laps at full racing speed of the famous Castle Combe Motor Racing Circuit and get to choose from a superb variety of sportscars in which to do it. At lunchtime, as well as many other activities, the public have a chance to drive their own cars on this famous circuit for a small donation to charity - while the drivers have a well earned break.

The event was promoted by The Stroke Association, who were thrilled to learn that this year around £5000 was raised for their charity on the day.



If you would like to hear what Mike Coombes and John Clements - both Marlin Sportster owners think about the Castle Combe Race Track. You can read about their experience [HERE](#)

### **Marlin Open Day Trackday '06**

This year we thought it would be fun to hold our 'Open Day' at Llandow race circuit, South Wales, which provided a fantastic opportunity to share the thrills of high speed driving and the superb handling of Marlin's sportscars with our customers - and so to rediscover motoring pleasures away from the ever watchful gaze of speed cameras.

So in glorious weather 19 Marlins, 10 owners of which had never attended a trackday before - and reported suffering from lack of sleep due to nerves and excitement - listened to their pre drive briefing and readied for the days experience.



Full support was on hand from the Marlin factory for the cars in attendance, which were a mixture of Marlin Cabrio's, Sportsters and 5EXi's - some looking so good they would not

have looked out of place in a Bentley showroom! Driving tuition was provided by Mark Matthews and Terry took out customers to demonstrate how well their cars handled.

Kevin from the factory was BBQ head chef for the day and Simon took potential customers around in the factory in a 5EXi-R - powered by the potent 2 litre Honda Type R engine.

All in all it was a resounding success, but do not fear if you missed out - See 2007!

### **Total KitCar Live at Brands Hatch**

This was another fabulous day organised by Steve Hole of Total-Kitcar. Designed to bring together specialist sports car manufacturers and customers - at a track where they can safely try out and compare models of their choice.

It is an event that we fully support, but sadly this year due to an unexpected family bereavement, Marlin had to cancel attendance at the very last moment. So we would like to take this opportunity extend our apologies to those expecting to see us and felt let down, but hope you will forgive us under the circumstances. - We intend to be there next year.

### **Marlin at the Exeter Show**

Exeter is our local show and as always we had a five car stand at this event. The Marlin Sports Car Club had two cars on display and Ken Robson the club coordinator, was on hand all day - both days, speaking to current and prospective new members.

There was an excellent turnout at this very popular show and it was good to take orders for new cars and kits.



Justifiably we had one dirty car on the show stand this was Andrew Curtis's Sportster which had just returned from winning second place at the Liege to Sardinia Motor Endurance Challenge for Sportscars.

Andrew actually did the navigating, while his wife Janet got on with the real work and produced a great result for the family. Interestingly they were only just beaten, due to a massive effort put on by Jeremy Clarkson's wife in a specially prepared car.

Janet and Andrew were in attendance to meet other members and to pick up the regs for next years great motoring challenge!



Marlin Sportster cresting a rugged hill in Sardinia.

You can read all about their Liege - Sardinia motoring exploits on our website [HERE](#)

**And of course there was lots of racing...**

Including our annual Christmas outing which this year included Kart racing at the Raceway Avonmouth Bristol, against many other teams... see Ken's MSCC report below.

**Yes we know - lots more happened than this during 2006**, and most of our time this year was spent with MSCC linked events (which you can read about below in the annual review). But if you want to know more about the shows and events not mentioned in this newsletter, or keep up to date with all the latest offers, news and info. Remember to check our website regularly [www.marlinsportscars.co.uk](http://www.marlinsportscars.co.uk)

## MARLIN SPORTS CAR CLUB - Annual Review 2006

Wow, What a Year! As I write this I can barely believe that 12 months have passed since I did my last annual review. This year was special in many ways as club membership increased over 400% from 2005. We had our own dedicated Marlin track day at Llandow for the first year ever and most importantly of all I became a Marlin 5EXi owner. The year was however tinged with sadness as Mark lost his mother suddenly and unexpectedly in October. I am sure that we all share our sympathy and condolences with Mark and Terry especially at this time of the year.

For those of you who did not make it to all of the events, here is the review to share with your fellow "Track Day Junkies" who wanted to drive and enjoy their Marlins to their full potential. If reading this you think "I should have been there" just keep watching your emails for details of the 2007 events and book up early.

**Mon 15th May - Keevil, Wiltshire**

This event was attended by Mike Coombes and John Clements in their Sportsters and both thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Keevil is a former RAF airfield coned off to provide an exciting and challenging track layout. An airfield day is recommended for someone new to track days as there are huge run off areas with nothing to hit, it is also recommended for those who wish to find the very limits of their cars and the abilities of the driver. Just ask Mike or John about it next time you see them and find out for yourself just how fast a couple of "old" men can really go.



### **Sat 3rd June – Llandow nr. Bridgend South Wales**

Marlin Sports Cars hired the circuit for the day for the exclusive use of Marlin Owners. Llandow is a great compact circuit which is fast and flowing and used by Mark Matthews for his racing test sessions. It was superb fun with perfect weather and Kevin as head chef cooking the BBQ lunch. The format was initially grouped according to driver experience followed by an open pit lane and plenty of track time for lots of action. Apart from a 5EXi (who shall rename nameless) blowing an oil hose and spreading oil all over the circuit, it was non stop high speed action all day.

### **Sat 12th August – Castle Combe Circuit**

The day was run by the Bristol Pegasus Motor Club (BPMC) of which many of us are also members. This was a fabulous day around this famous circuit where all of the motor racing legends have cut their teeth before progressing onto F1. A fast and demanding circuit especially Quarry Corner and also Camp Corner which leads onto the main straight. Track time was run in sessions of which you were guaranteed 4 but most drivers got 5 or 6 runs in. Once again Mike Coombes and John Clements were flying the flag for Marlin and having terrific fun in their Sportsters.

### **Sat 23rd Sept – Pembrey Circuit, South Wales**

This is one I did all by myself. Pembrey is a great circuit with plenty of run off and is used for testing by all of the F3 and BTCC teams. Mark Matthews has raced here many times as part of his assault on the 750MC Kit Car Championship. To read just how great a day I had please see the full report on the 5EXi website [www.5EXi.co.uk](http://www.5EXi.co.uk). I hardly slept that night as the adrenaline was still flowing strong, trust me its well worth a read.

### **Sat 28th Oct – Castle Combe Circuit – Stroke Association Day**

This promised to be a top class event and indeed over £5000 was raised for The Stroke Association on the day. Sadly the weather was not kind with constant drizzle plus a very slippery track which took the edge off the fun for all of the kit cars not just the Marlin's. On the positive side the event offered lots of entertainment with passenger track rides, an Autotest team in the paddock, STAR FM Radio Roadshow and Bob Dance, Chief Mechanic from Lotus F1 giving a talk at lunchtime. Bob was with Lotus from the days of Jim Clark and Graham Hill all the way through until the doors closed including the late great Ayrton Senna. A good day for the charity was rounded off nicely in the evening with a dinner in honour of our special guest Bob Dance.

### **Thursday Evening 23rd Nov – The Raceway, Avonmouth, Bristol**

What an evening! For the first time ever a Marlin team made the podium after 2 ½ hours of non-stop wheel to wheel racing. The format was very simple, 16 teams of 5 drivers, ½ hour of qualifying then 2½ hours of endurance racing with the team covering the most laps being the winners. Terry's Old Gold came 3<sup>rd</sup> and one of their drivers overtook me which I have heard about time and again ever since. Credit where it's due, they beat some good teams (including mine) to finish on the podium and collect their medallions. Ask Mark or Mike Griffin to show you their medallions next time you see them as I believe they are still wearing them. Just don't mention the two 30 second stop/go penalties without which they would have been 2<sup>nd</sup> – naughty boys!

Mark at Avonmouth Raceway.



### **THINKING FORWARD - MSCC 2007 Membership**

Due to having to wait for details of the 2007 track day events we are extending your membership **free of charge** for 2 months – well it is Christmas after all. The new list of events will be issued in February 2007 with the new membership year starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. As we all had such a great time in 2006 and I know you will want to do it all again next year your membership will automatically be renewed. What's more we are keeping the price at the bargain fee of just £10 for the whole year.

I will be in touch in the New Year with details of all of the exciting events planned for 2007. In the meantime if you have any questions feel free to get in touch on 07900 007747 or email me [kenrobson@btinternet.com](mailto:kenrobson@btinternet.com)

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and an exciting 2007 in your Marlin's.

Best Regards

Ken Robson  
MSCC Coordinator

### **AND SO TO NEXT YEAR**

#### **Marlin Open Day 2007 - Llandow July 7th**

Due to the overwhelming response we had last year from those that came and enjoyed the fun, once again our 'Trackday Open Day' will be held at the Llandow Race Track just over the border in South Wales on July 7<sup>th</sup> - which is the first Saturday in July. More details will be posted on the website early next year, but Book Early - You really don't want to miss out on this one !

#### **New Premises launch**

This will be a very big day for us - 'New Premises Launch BBQ', which we will hold later in the year, probably around September (date to be confirmed - so please watch our [website](#) for details). The Launch BBQ will be invitation only, so please send in your requests to Terry via normal channels.

#### **Marlin Racing - Changing Tracks !!**

For many good and valid reasons - which will benefit both us and our customers, we have decided to forgo the 750MC race series next year, and instead will be competing in the more advanced Castle Combe Special GT Championship series.



With the technology used in Marlin's nowadays, we need to belong to a race series that will support further development. This is needed to ensure we can integrate new developments from the track, into our road cars. Furthermore we want to race against established makes such as Lotus, TVR, and Mazda, etc.

A further bonus means that new drivers will get the opportunity to learn a track properly, giving them a more competitive edge and therefore a better start into racing. Please note - this will not prevent people from entering races at other venues.



A racing 5EXi pictured at Llandow

#### **A new Privateer racing team - Using Marlin's**

Jon Coombes and Nick Milnes had such a good time at various track and racing days with Marlin and various owners throughout the year, that they have launched JNRacing and hope to be alongside our teams on the grid next year!

In their own words, they chose a Marlin because, "Marlin offer a very competitive race package and also welcomes new ideas to help with development on the race and road versions. The build quality of the finished product is fantastic and at a very competitive price." Also they went on to say, "Marlin provides excellent factory support from day one. You get a lot more than just a car with Marlin, the support and advice during the build phase, and once the car is up and running is unrivalled."

Phew...Well what can we say to follow that!

.. and you will be able to follow Jon and Nick's progress from their website [HERE](#)

#### **As always remember our website - <http://www.marlinmotorsport.co.uk>**

...Where we endeavour to keep you posted on all the latest news - hopefully including progress and photos of the development of our new premises during its construction!

WELL THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR THIS YEAR, EXCEPT...

Lastly but not least - **We Wish you a Very Happy Christmas and New Year** - and look forward to speaking to you all again next year.

Terry & MarkMatthews

PS. Remember to get your orders in quick!