

IAN CONNELL (R68-73)

He was born on 28 August 1955 and after attending the College, he went into Retail Management starting at Sainsbury's. He has also been a Retail Director at Welcome Break, the motorway Service area Group.

Since early 2000, he has been Managing Director of Appleby Westward Group based in Cornwall, which owns the SPAR UK franchise (wholesale) for the South West and South of England. In conjunction with SPAR Ireland, he and six colleagues did an MBO in 2002 and sold the business in 2007. He stayed on for the new owners and stepped down as Managing Director on 7 May 2009.



His love of motor racing started many years ago and he was a British Racing & Sports Car Club (BRSCC) marshall. However, in 1988 he started racing and was a winner in his first season of the O'Connell memorial award for 'Best Novice'.

He has won 67 races and five Championships and won his first title in 1989 (AROC) and his last in the 2000 Le Mans Auto-italia (class C). In 1992 he was awarded the BRSCC Barn Reuche Trophy for the Years Best Saloon Driver (17 wins and two Championships).

His father used to fly light aircraft for Ken Gregory in the late 1960s and his passengers included Graham Hill, Jim Clark and Jack Brabham. He learnt to drive on Will Hoys father's farm at Royston in the ex Touring Car champions Morris Minor Pickup and was one of the Founder Members of the Framingham College Motor Club.

He says his ambition has always been to race at Le Mans but now admits age is against him!

In 2009 he was racing a VW Beetle in long distance endurance racing. It has a fibre-glass body, Audi 1.8 engine, Audi gearbox, Uniroyal Tyres and mid seater.



The Connell Racing team also comprised his two sons, Richard and Marc. They stopped racing in 2010 but finished on a high getting 2nd place in UK class and 9th overall in the Spa Francorchamps 25 hour race in Belgium out of 160 competitors. They also finished 2nd overall in the Pau 12 hours that year, but that was the only 2 races we did.

Racing is clearly in the blood, as elder son Richard has worked with various F1 teams since University and has been with Mercedes F1 (on the engine division) for a few years. He is currently Head of Test and Validation, while also being Chief Engineer for Formula E, the worldwide electric race series.

Ian and his wife Karen now live in Looe, Cornwall.

You can also see a previous new story on Ian here

<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20041231173301242>

The following is a Press Release from April 2009, when they won the first race of the season at Rockingham.



Newsletter 3 / 2009

Rockingham six hours, April 4th 2009

Looe based race driver, Ian Connell led the Cuisine de France / SPAR team to a dominant victory in the first ever diesel engined race of the Fun Cup UK series at the Rockingham Motor Speedway six hour race on Saturday in their new TDI diesel Fun Cup car run by Solutions Racing

The team qualified fourth, but drew a lowly 25th on the 27-car grid!

Ian, who is managing Director of Saltash based SPAR wholesaler, Appleby Westward, started the race and had a great start coming by on lap one in a 11th place. Marc took over for hour two and moved the car into 3rd, while Richard running hour three, took the lead in his stint, when JPR spun off briefly.

Thereafter it was just a case of keep up a quick but steady pace to hold the gap to Team RAM in second place. However, the car felt so smooth to drive that by the end of the six hours the Connell racing team had actually extended the lead to over a lap, when Richard took the chequered flag.



This was our first race victory since Croft in 2007 and the first ever-Fun Cup victory for Solutions Racing and the first ever race win for a Fun Cup diesel TDI car.

TEAM INFORMATION

Team

The car is prepared by Solutions racing based near Oxford.

Team Cuisine de France / SPAR

Drivers:

Ian Connell, Age 53. MD of Appleby Westward Group Ltd. Lives Looe, Cornwall

Richard Connell. Age 30. Test Engineer to Fernando Alonso, ING Renault F1 team. Lives Witney

Marc Connell, Age 26. Designer Appetite Group. Lives London.

2009 Fun Cup

TV Coverage

The Fun Cup is the first motor racing series in the UK and Europe to be promoting the use of the environmentally friendly TDI engine in its racecars. They are a 1900cc TDI, 160 bhp, VW diesel engine, produce approximately 30 % less pollution, 40 % less noise, and emit no visible smoke from the exhausts.

There are six UK races from 4 to 7 hours long and the main race for the team is the SPA 25 hour race in July on the famous Belgian Grand Prix Circuit, which has over 160 starters, from all over the world.

The Fun Cup TDI diesel engines are a step forward in motorsport technology. They are powerful, clean and "green". This means that they have low amounts of sulphur in the diesel fuel and burn the cleaner fuel, which discharges less nitrogen oxide. They also have a lower emission of carbon dioxide and are less damaging to the environment.

<http://www.connell-racing.co.uk/>

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