

Tony Marcantonio 1936 - 2023



Tony Marcantonio, a former Chairman of the Sporting Car Club of Norfolk died on 12th April at 86 years old after a short illness. Tony and his sister Nina were SCCON committee members in the 1960s and Tony was our Chairman from 1965 to 1967 and again from 1970 to 1972. He also edited 'Spotlight' in 1963, 1964 and 1967.

Some of Tony's earliest motor sporting events were rallies, competing in his Austin A35 van with his wife Julia navigating. Tony and Julia were mainstays of the SCCON motor sport and social scene over many years with Tony competing mainly in Driving Tests (known as Autotests since 1969) in cars that included his Mini and Ford Cortina Mark 1. He greatly enjoyed the Felixstowe Driving Tests organised by Eastern Counties Motor Club and he travelled to Belfast to compete as a member of the RAC British Driving Test Team. During the 1960s, Tony was one of the leading organisers of SCCON's premier Driving Test held at Norwich Cattle Market and Julia remembers pushing a certain Martin Brundle up and down in his pram outside the market while Tony was running the tests and fellow SCCON member John Brundle (Martin's Dad) was competing. This event developed into SCCON's two-cars-at-a-time 'Tandem Driving Tests' that became part of the RAC and BRTDA (British Trials and Rally Drivers Association) Championships in the late 1960s.

In the 1960s and 70s, Tony marshalled on many rallies while Julia, along with Chris Willott and Trevor Applegate provided a rally results service for organising clubs across East Anglia. This was in the days before computers and the SCCON team would be busy with their calculations while the competitors waited avidly for the results to be announced.

Tony was a person who could be relied on to 'get things done' and in the 1980s Tony and Ivan Ringwood were part of SCCON's forty-strong rally marshalling team that travelled north every February over a five-year period to run entire stages on the Mintex Rally and then on the National Breakdown Rally. The stages that SCCON ran were: Wass, Oliver's Mount and Staindale.

When his son Alex got involved with North Walsham Rugby Football Club, Tony supported him with enthusiasm and was club Chairman in 2000 and 2001. He was also the club's Press Officer for many years, writing match reports for the Eastern Daily Press and covering Rugby Union on Radio Norfolk. Tony was still pacing a rugby touchline in his distinctive style as recently as 11th March.

In his later years, Tony's main interest in SCCON has been our Midsummer Classic Run on which he and Julia often marshalled and they took part a few times in his bright red Maserati Biturbo Spyder.

Tony was a kind person and a true gentleman whose great contribution to the success of our club must not be forgotten. The Sporting Car Club of Norfolk offers our sincerest condolences to Julia, his daughter Celia, son Alex and to his wider family.

Peter Riddle, April 2023