

THE PHOENIX PARK



PHOENIX PARK MOTOR RACES 2010

*This year's Phoenix Park Motor Races takes place on 14/15th. August 2010 – a unique event world wide and a **FREE** show for spectators*

A little history of racing in the Park.....!

As part of an event organised in 1903, the Phoenix Park hosted the Motor Speed Trials on 4th. July, with 300 vehicles competing, the majority of which were actually motorcycles!

This was part of a very ambitious event which started on 2nd. July in Athy with the Gordon Bennett Race, moved to races at Ashtown Racecourse on 3rd. July, into the Park on 4th. July (with a Garden Party in the Vice-Regal Lodge afterwards), next came a tour from Dublin to Newcastle on 5th. & 6th. July, and then onto a Hillclimb in Castlewelan, Co. Down on 7th. July, a tour from Dublin to Cork on 8th. & 9th. July, more Speed Trials in Cork on 10th. July, an International Motor Boat Race in Cobh, Co. Cork on 11th. July, tour from Cork to Killarney on 13th. July and ending with a Hillclimb in Killorglin, Co. Kerry. Wow – some organisation!

*In 1929, 1930 and 1931, the Irish International Grand Prix races were run, and as the Phoenix Monument was in the way of the fastest part of the track, it was dismantled and re-erected outside of the gates of Aras an Uachtarain so that racing could take place. **A real case of a moving statue!** More recently it was moved back to its current position on Chesterfield Avenue, and this area of the Park no longer is used as part of the racing circuit.*

Since 1931, over 20 International Race meetings have been held in the Park, with the remaining years running National Race Meetings and the occasional sprint.



The Phoenix Park is managed by the Office of Public Works and we are indebted to them for allowing us to use this wonderful venue for motor racing. The Park is one of the largest parks within any European capital city – 1752 acres of recreational space within minutes from Dublin city centre – open every day all year round. It was established on behalf of King Charles II by the Duke of Ormond in 1662. Aras an Uachtarain, the residence of the President of Ireland dates from 1750 and nearby, the US Ambassador's resident was built in 1774. A herd of Fallow Deer was introduced into the Park in the 1660's and have become a 'feature' of many motor racing events over the years when they wander back onto the racing track, despite our best efforts to keep them away!!! Obviously, racing stops at this point until they are herded back to safer pastures.

There is lots to see in the Park – Dublin Zoo, the Victorian People's Flower Gardens (22 acres), Ashtown Demesne (Ashtown Castle), the Victorian Kitchen Walled Garden, Phoenix Park Visitor Centre where there is the **Phoenix Cafe** nearby, to mention but a few. There are over 2000 recreational and sporting events held in the Park annually both National & International, including cycling, community sports days, cricket, polo, running and of course, motor racing once a year! With the recent introduction of cycle tracks, and a bike hire centre, there's no excuse for racing competitors and officials not to get up nice and early and get some exercise before going racing!!

See www.phoenixpark.ie for further information on the Phoenix Park.



THE PADDOCK

Over the years, the paddock location has moved many many times – big field along the main straight (when we had to build two bridges across the ditch to get the cars in/out of the field, visitors' centre (don't mention the bridge), field over near Ashtown Gate and so forth. In 2009, we were delighted to obtain permission from the OPW to use the large car park in Farmleigh. This solved many problems – no bridges across ditches, no tracking needed in a field to get low racing cars out of the paddock.

This year, we have been very kindly given permission to not only use the Car Park but also the field behind the car park as an overflow area.

Word of warning!!! There is one part of the overflow area which tends to be wet and very soft – we will tape this off but beware – anyone who goes in there can get themselves out!!!

There were over 15,000 people who came to visit the paddock in 2009 and an estimated 30,000 spectators at the event over the 2 days.

This event offers extensive opportunities for sponsors and trade stands in the Paddock. Contact us through our website www.phoenixparkmotorraces.ie for full details – get booking NOW.



THE RACING

Dublin Grand Prix

The Dublin Grand Prix in 2009 was a great success, with Dan Daly taking the David Byers Perpetual Trophy.

Several classes of racing cars have given their commitment to race in 2010. Once the programme of racing is finalised, the class chosen to race for the 2010 Dublin Grand Prix will be decided.

We are encouraging Pre '55 and Pre War cars to compete in the event. These cars just look wonderful in the Park! In addition, we will have parades of Classic Bikes, our new Ginetta Junior Ireland series for 14-17 year old competitors, Kit Cars and lots more.

MOUNTJOY CORNER

As many people know, a permanent roundabout has been built since last year's races at Mountjoy Corner. This came as no surprise to the Organisers as discussions were taking place with the OPW as early as 2006. Rest assured that a solution to preserve the racing line is in place and later in the year work will commence on same (so you can all stop ringing us about it!!).

FERRY DEAL

Details on Ferry Deals will be published on www.phoenixparkmotorraces.ie in due course. Whilst we have rates now from 2 companies, we are very hopeful of securing an even better deal for overseas competitors.

HOTEL DEAL

We are negotiating a Hotel deal currently and details will be available on our website www.phoenixparkmotorraces.ie in due course.



EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT

Dublin became the European Capital of Sport on 4th February 2010, taking over from Milan. We are delighted to announce that the Phoenix Park Motor Races has been chosen by Dublin City Council as one of the events to promote in 2010. For further details, see www.phoenixparkmotorraces.ie or direct to www.dublinsport.ie



FARMLEIGH

Farmleigh estate is situated at the North West of the Phoenix Park and the 78 acres and the house are well worth exploring. There is a beautiful walled in garden for those of you who are interested in the flora, the **Boathouse Cafe** offers great food in an idyllic setting alongside the ornamental lake where you can sit on the decking set over the lake and watch the wildlife! Other things to see are the Clock Tower, the conservatory, the Dutch-style sunken garden, the Fountain lawn, and lots lots more. Go to www.farmleigh.ie for the full story and history of this great estate.



Historic Parks & Gardens

www.phoenixpark.ie

The Phoenix Park Motor Races – by kind permission of the Office of Public Works