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- ESCORT GTi BUYING GUIDE ● X-FLOW BLOCK BUSTER ● SI SAYS...



COLIN MCRAE MBE - 1968-2007

On the 15th of September 2007, rally legend Colin McRae tragically died in a helicopter crash near his home in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The former WRC World Champion, who was piloting the helicopter, was travelling with his son Johnny, Johnny's school friend Ben Porcelli and family friend Graeme Duncan, when it encountered difficulties, believed to be caused by a mechanical failure. The aircraft crashed into woodland close the McRae family estate, killing everyone on board.

Colin was perhaps one of the most famous faces in modern rallying, thanks to his spectacular driving style, incredible speed and confidence and above all, his sheer determination to win at all costs.

He is a man that could be described as a true legend, which isn't a term that's used very much nowadays. It's generally used to describe figures from the past, people who led epic lives around extraordinary events and circumstances, not modern day people who would class heavy rain as 'extraordinary'. But the position of 'legend' hasn't gone unfilled... There had to be someone, somewhere who could be classed as a legend for all the right reasons and one person who ticked all the right boxes was Colin McRae.

Rally driving, at the best of times, is a

clear indication of what would happen if you could capture lunacy and strap it to 300bhp. These guys are utterly bonkers, but in the best possible way.

While we might class driving through the woods in the rain, at night, at 120mph as a bit mad, the guys and girls of the rallying fraternity relish it - it's what it's all about. It's blindingly competitive too, more so than F1 or touring cars because it's not just about speed and clipping the apex, it's about bravery, skill, confidence and passion.

It wasn't just the driving that made Colin special though, he was always happy to explain how the rally was going and express his thoughts. He took a huge amount of pride in representing the sport, which was clear to see whenever he was interviewed. He was, and always will be, one of the finest ambassadors of the sport, and he made the whole thing somehow personal. We always found ourselves keen to see him win, not in the way that you'd want a football team to win, but in the way that you would want a friend to win. He was a sportsman that people could be genuinely proud of, for nothing but the right reasons. Sadly though, it's these circumstances that have made his untimely death so much harder to take.

Our thoughts are with the McRae, Porcelli and Duncan families through this difficult time.

Colin McRae MBE - you may be gone, but you certainly won't ever be forgotten.
Rest in peace.



GRONHOLM TO RETIRE...

BP-Ford World Rally Team driver Marcus Grönholm and co-driver Timo Rautiainen have announced that they will both retire at the end of the 2007 season. The Finns are one of the sport's most successful pairings ever, and stand second in the list of number of all time rally wins with a total of 30! They have twice won the drivers' world title and are currently leading the 2007 championship.

Thirty-nine-year-old Grönholm said the decision was difficult, but he believed the time was

right as he wanted to retire while still at the top level of the sport.

Ford of Europe President and CEO John Fleming acknowledged Grönholm's contribution to Ford's recent WRC successes. "Marcus has done a superb job for the team and it is no coincidence that his arrival in 2006, coupled with the introduction of the new Focus RS World Rally car, signalled the start of one of our most successful periods in the WRC. We will miss the inspiration he brings to the team."

