

## World Blindfolded Land Speed Record Attempt

I will not only be making an attempt on the Solo/Un-accompanied World Blindfolded Land Speed Record, which currently stands at 144.7mph, using an F1 Car, but I am also making an attempt on the Accompanied record which currently stands at 142mph, using a GT Car. Both cars are capable of speeds over 200mph.

The current Unaccompanied World Blindfolded Land Speed Record is held by Mike Newman from Cheshire, who is blind. Mike achieved an average speed of 144.7mph, driving a Supercharged 4.4 ltr Jaguar XJR 350.

There will be 12 People making an attempt on the record over three days April 28th - 30th. The attempt will be made at Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire.

### Personal Details/Profile

Alan O'Neill, Aged 39 years old, nicknamed Rhino-neill (see profile). Live in Shropshire, but worked and studied in the Birmingham area for about 10 years – an ex student of the Technology Innovation Centre at the University of Central England – studying for an Masters Degree in Automotive Engineering!

### Getting Involved

Spotted an advert in a national newspaper asking readers if they wanted to drive an F1 Car – a long time ambition of mine – since I was about nine years old. My attention was immediately drawn to the article, but then the thing about having to wear a blindfold jumped out at me! Originally I thought it was a bit crazy, but I spoke to the organisers to see what was involved, and was convinced that it was going to be very exciting and good fun and agreed to do the challenge.

My wife thought it was absolutely mad but she has just resigned herself to it now. My children think it's absolutely brilliant.

I was inspired to get involved with the challenge as I use Fitness First Gym in Mere Green, Nr Sutton Coldfield and one of the other guys there, Gordon Nixon, is blind. It is always an inspiration to watch him, especially when you don't really feel like having a workout – it spurs you on to make an effort. By getting involved in the challenge I thought that I might be able to make a valuable contribution to British Blind Sports who help blind people to get involved in sport.

One of my main backers is a local roofing company called Lane Roofing. Directors Gary and Kurt Lane are also members of Fitness First and when they heard of how I was trying to raise money for British Blind Sport in recognition of Gordon's efforts they donated over half of the money required for me to undertake the challenge.

Local website design company Linxdesign, have also made a significant contribution as well as developing a website to support my challenge.

### Rhino-neill Profile

The nickname Rhino-neill is a play upon the name of actor Ryan O'Neal, and using this as a unique selling point to make my attempt a complete one off. I have created a profile based on rhino-neill,

use it for my web address – [www.rhino-neill.co.uk](http://www.rhino-neill.co.uk), I have arranged with the organisers to have a rhino's head on the front of the car a la Jordan Grand Prix team and the snakes head. Linxdesign have also purchased a Professional F1 Style Helmet for me, which has been professionally painted with rhino-neill on the side.

I am totally focussed on setting a new world record and getting in the Guinness Book of Records.

### Training

Travelled over to France in June 2004 to undertake familiarisation training in an F1 Car. Also have undertaken Blindfolded practice runs in a 7 Litre V12 AMG Mercedes – hitting speeds of over 170mph – although these were not officially recognised by the Guinness Book of Records.

### Making the Challenge Happen

To undertake the challenge I have to raise around £4,000, to date I have raised around £3,400. Companies supporting the challenge will be able to benefit from a unique and comprehensive package – details available from the website – [www.rhino-neill.co.uk](http://www.rhino-neill.co.uk) or from [info@rhino-neill.co.uk](mailto:info@rhino-neill.co.uk).

The organisers have secured a TV production package with a company called KVS Productions who produce programmes for Granada and it is planned that the Record Attempt will form part of a new series called 'speed Freaks' and possibly the 'Men and Motors series'. The BBC are also making a programme that is covering the exploits of Mike Newman, current holder of the Record, who will also be present at the Challenge and the BBC have agreed to include our attempts on the record as part of their programme.

The record will be monitored using extremely accurate state of the art satellite tracking and measuring system as used by the military, which is being provided and supported by the company that manufactures and supplies the equipment.

### **Background**

After the disappointment of not getting through to the next round of the 2004 Be a Grand Prix Driver Challenge an opportunity arose to get involved in another challenge that involved driving an F1 Car – albeit blindfolded.

I had the opportunity to make an attempt on the World Blindfolded Land Speed Record and in the process raise money for the Charity 'British Blind sport' (Charity Registration Number:271500).

I saw the details of the challenge in the Telegraph Motoring Supplement and it just struck me that this was a challenge that I had to do, and two days later I was registered with the organisers - Record Breakers ([www.recordbreakers.co.uk](http://www.recordbreakers.co.uk)). Contact details: 0870 005 3484 Anita Knight/Gary Knight.

### From Linxdesign Website

Linxdesign are a main sponsor to Rhino Racing who are taking part in the World Blindfolded Land Speed World Record due to take place at Bruntingthorpe proving ground between 28 and 30 April 2005.

The current Unaccompanied World Blindfolded Land Speed Record is held by Mike Newman from Cheshire, who is blind. Mike achieved an average speed of 144.7mph, driving a Supercharged 4.4 ltr Jaguar XJ350.

The new attempt will challenge the World record in a Formula 1 racing car, capable of speeds in excess of 200mph

There will also be an attempt on the accompanied record, which currently stands at 142mph, using a GT Racing car.

Both record attempts will be measured by the average top speeds achieved over two runs.

These record breaking challenges are being attempted by Alan (Rhino) O'Neill, the 39 year old Team Principal of Rhino Racing. He is raising money and awareness for the Charity, British Blind Sport who are the co-coordinating body of sport for the blind and partially sighted in the UK. The event is receiving extensive national and local press as well as TV coverage.

### **World Blindfolded Land Speed Record Attempt - Background**

I am making an attempt on the World Blindfolded Land Speed Record and in the process raising money for the Charity 'British Blind Sport' (Charity Registration Number: 271500).

- I need to raise a minimum of £3,700 in contributions to make the challenge
  - **To Date I have raised £3,300**
- To achieve this I need to attract interest from a number of backers to support my attempt.
- Organisations supporting my attempt on the record would be making a valuable contribution to a worthwhile charity
- Would gain extensive coverage of your support through a variety of media forums.
- The record currently stands at 144.7mph and was set in a supercharged Jaguar 4.2 Litre XJR 350 at Elvington airfield in Yorkshire. I will be making my record attempt at Bruntingtorpe using a Formula 1 Grand Prix Car
  - Potentially capable of going above 200mph
- I am focussed on setting a new world record and getting in the Guinness Book of Records
- Record attempt will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

I am still looking to raise further funds!!

### **What's on Offer to Contributor's**

#### **Promotion Opportunities**

- Have 95% of the cars bodywork to display organisations that have contributed to the charity
  - Not sponsorship - a way of saying thank you and giving recognition to the kind organisations who have donated to the charity.
  - Amount of thank-you space available is proportionate to donation:
    - £3,700 – all of the space
    - £1,850 – ½ of the space
    - £925 – ¼ of the space

- etc, etc.
- Looking for 4 or 5 more backers to donate £200 – £250.

Further details on the website – [www.rhino-neill.co.uk](http://www.rhino-neill.co.uk) or e-mail: [info@rhino-neill.co.uk](mailto:info@rhino-neill.co.uk)

## **Media Coverage**

- TV, Satellite and Radio News
- BBC
- ITV
- Channel 5
- Sky News
- Sky Sports
- Daily Telegraph
- Motorsport News
- Auto Express

## **Website Links**

- Mention on Record Breakers Website
- My own Website
- Links to Contributors Website

*Copy of the certificate to demonstrate your support in achieving this record and supporting the charity.*

## **Further Details**

Further details of the challenge contact:

Alan O'Neill

Organisers - Record Breakers ([www.recordbreakers.co.uk](http://www.recordbreakers.co.uk)) 0870 224 2245 - Gary Knight/Anita Knight.

Opportunity for contributors to attend and observe the World Record Attempt being undertaken as guests of Record-Breakers and the challenger.