

## **ITEM 16 (CITATION)**

Mervyn Whyte MBE is a resident of Limavady and is Race Director of the International Northwest 200 motorcycle road race. Mervyn has been involved at a high level in the organising of the race for the last 17 years and in that time he has seen it become perhaps the best known road race in the world.

The NW200 is certainly an internationally renowned event which attracts all the big name racers from across the globe. Thousands of racing fans visit Northern Ireland and the North Coast each year to see their heroes in action. It is estimated that some 80,000 fans packed around the 8.9 mile race circuit with many millions more tuning in and logging on worldwide to watch and to listen into this year's race, which was quite possibly the most successful in Mervyn's 17 year reign as Race Director.

Mervyn signed up as a volunteer marshal for the NW200 in 1973 and succeeded Billy Nutt as Clerk of the Course in 2000. He then stepped into his new role as Race Director and has been the public face of the race for many years.

His steady hand in guiding the North West 200 through good times and bad has made him one of the best known and admired figures in Northern Ireland sporting circles. He is the steady head on race day, the one making all the big decisions and the one who always has the racers safety and best interests at heart.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough owes a great debt of gratitude to Mervyn, his family and to the members of Coleraine and District Motor Club Ltd. It is hard to imagine the Triangle area without the NW200 and after 44 years, it is hard to imagine the NW200 without Mervyn Whyte MBE.