

**Personal Details:**

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**Profile:**

I am a highly motivated automotive writer and keen blogger with a background in engineering. Although currently working on a part time freelance basis, I have gained key knowledge of sourcing, pitching and writing features from news to technical guides. Until I am able to make the leap into full time journalism, I continue to maintain other automotive business activities, ranging from selling Lotus engine conversion parts to small scale car trading.

**Recent Published Work:****Practical Performance Car Magazine**

Features: 'Fun at 50mph' Group Test (Jun 2010), 'Mad Estates' Group Test (Jul 2010), 'Austin A40 V6' (Aug 2010), 'BMW 2002' (Sep 2010), 'Radial-Engined Goggomobil' (Sep 2010), Supercharged Hillman Imp (Oct 2010), Supercharged Commer Mini (Nov 2010), Volvo 245 Turbo (Dec 2010), BMW V8 Capri (Dec 2010), 24 Hour Karting (Dec 2010), Twin-Engined Mini (Jan 2011), Mercedes W123 Diesel (Feb 2011).

Engine Workshops: Honda K20 (May 2010), Toyota 4AGE (Jun 2010), Vauxhall XE (Jul 2010), Nissan CA18DET (Aug 2010), Lexus 1UZ-FE (Sep 2010), Honda F20C (Oct 2010), Rover T16 (Nov 2010), Vauxhall X30XE (Dec 2010), BMW M60/62 (Jan 2011), Suzuki Hayabusa (Feb 2011).

Technical Features: 'Hybrid Head Swaps' (Jun 2010), 'Double Trouble' Home Made V8s (Jul 2010), Bike Engine Conversions (Aug 2010), Suspension Tech 1 Understanding DIY Geometry (Oct 2010), Tech 2 DIY coilovers (Nov 2010), Tech 3 Steering Solutions (Dec 2010), Machine Polishing (Feb 2011).

Buying Guides: Renault Clio 172 (May 2010), Mk2 Subaru Impreza (Jul 2010), BMW 8 Series (Aug 2010), Skoda Octavia VRS (Oct 2010), VW Lupo (Nov 2010), BMW MINI (Dec 2010), Jaguar XJS (Jan 2011), Alfa 147 GTA (Feb 2011), Fault Code Readers (Nov 2010), Dataloggers (Dec 2010), Standalone ECUs (Jan 2011).

Top Tens: 'Out of Hours Cars' (Jan 2010), 'Things to do before they are banned' (Sep 2010), Reasons to wish your hobby was knitting instead (Jan 2011).

News: (Nov 2010, Dec 2010, Jan 2011).

Top Gear: Product reviews (Nov 2010, Dec 2010, Jan 2011).

Monthly Staff Cars: Project updates (Jun 2010 onwards).

**Total BMW Magazine**

Northern BMW E30 club meeting report (March 2010).

**www.torqueastra.com (via GM Social Media Marketing)**

Reporting, video interviews, blogging and news from Frankfurt Motor Show (September 2009).

**www.motormorph.com**

Feature writing and road testing - published articles including:

'Motorway madness' <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=3752>

'Steering wheels; a car's business card?' <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=2993>

Lotus Evora <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=3405>

Subaru Impreza <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=3255>  
Jaguar XKR <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=3125>  
Mercedes E63 AMG <http://www.motormorph.com/?p=3085>

### **EVO Magazine**

Online news coverage (Sept 2010) with links including:  
<http://tinyurl.com/5t4yxlc> , <http://tinyurl.com/66kdzpg> , <http://tinyurl.com/5vkc7r2>  
<http://tinyurl.com/5tq2zt5> , <http://tinyurl.com/6abszs3> , <http://tinyurl.com/643syty>

### **www.thecardisco.com**

Personal light-hearted blogging and news to an ever-increasing audience (December 2008 on), which also retails a range of satirical automotive T shirts (as worn on 5<sup>th</sup> Gear and publications such as Auto Express).

## **Skills Summary:**

### **Journalism**

- Feature writing, researching, liaising with specialists and readers, working to tight deadlines, social media, interviewing, organising and directing photoshoots, technical writing, road testing, subjective writing and analysis.
- In house work experience including writing copy, design work, sub editing & captioning (Practical Performance Car Magazine, February 2010, EVO Magazine September 2010).

### **Relevant IT**

- Previous use of the following software to various levels:  
Adobe: InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Premiere Acrobat.  
MS: Office.

### **Automotive**

- Hands on experience and previous work including car trade, parts retail, engine conversions, bodywork and paint renovation, race preparation, minor servicing and restoration.
- Component production from design conception & CAD through to hand fabrication.

### **Other**

- Experience and management of a VAT registered limited company, knowledge of basic accounting and book keeping, website design, sales and marketing, customer support.
- Full, clean EU driving license.
- Conversation level French speaking.
- Attendee of Headlineauto's 'Young Journalist Masterclass' day course (June 2010).

## **Career History:**

### **June 2007 – Present**

### **Stark UK Limited**

Employment through personal limited company, covering freelance writing to sale of parts. Initially in trade as [www.stark-automotive.co.uk](http://www.stark-automotive.co.uk) and retailing our own refinished Honda-powered Lotus sportscars; the company demo car received top-rated reviews from the motoring press.

Also trading under Stark UK Limited is [www.thecardisco.com](http://www.thecardisco.com), with advertising and an online T shirt shop.

### **April 2006 – April 2008:**

### **Pipe Coil Technology Ltd,**

Design & project engineer.

### **October 2005 – April 2006**

### **Contract Design (Northern) Ltd**

Contracted design engineer & draughtsman.

### **April 2005 – September 2005**

### **Evomotive Engineering Solutions**

Subcontract draughting for Farboud Sportscars, Rage Motorsport.

## **Education:**

**September 2001 - June 2005**

**University of Newcastle upon Tyne**

BEng – Mechanical Engineering (Automotive Stream) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours.

Final Year Technical Report: 'The Application of Anti-roll bars to Formula Student Car Suspension Design.'

**September 1996 – June 2001**

**Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield**

A Levels: Design Technology, Physics, General Studies.

AS Levels: Maths, French.

GCSEs: 9 including English, English Literature, Design Technology.

## **Personal Interests & Hobbies:**

### **Cars & Motorsport**

I possess an overwhelming interest in all areas of the automotive industry, from classic restoration, car culture and motorsport, through to advances in new car technology. I aim to take my ARDS test within the next year and hope to eventually race my track-built BMW E30. I have recently started a new project build of a Lotus XI replica.

### **Karting**

I am a keen participant whenever possible, planning to compete in a team endurance race series in 2011 to follow on from my first 24 hour endurance event in August 2010.

## **References:**

**Available on request.**