



CLASSIC RALLY ASSOCIATION
RALLY OF THE TESTS
SCARBOROUGH
2007
BLACKPOOL

REVIVING THE SPIRIT & STYLE OF THE RAC RALLY OF THE 1950s

RALLY OF THE TESTS

2005 Road Rally of the Year

1st to 4th November



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What kind of cars compete?

The cut off date for the overall awards will remain at 1962, with a separate classification for cars up to 1968. The *Classic Rally Association* favours older cars and the distance, navigation and route places demands on stamina, endurance and of course reliability, meaning that older cars aren't disadvantaged. The scoring on the test sections is class based, so you will be scoring against other similar cars.

Can a first-timer join in?

Yes, lots do. On most of our rallies about 20% of the entry are new to the event and are soon mixing in with, and learning from, the more experienced crews. Should there be sufficient interest we will also run a day long training course prior to the event. This would be predominantly classroom based, but with a short exercise that can be undertaken in a standard road car. If you are interested please give us a call and we will arrange a date and venue. We'd generally plan for the day to be held about four weeks before to the event.



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Over the past six years in our efforts to remain true the events of the fifties we have followed in the wheel tracks of our forebearers travelling to the furthest corners of the Country. In 2002 we started our rally from the east coast resort of Scarborough where fifty years earlier, the second RAC International Rally of Great Britain (*The Rally of the Tests*) started and finished. On the occasion of our last visit we found that, despite the towns claim to have been the first holiday resort in Britain, it was still being built! Well perhaps that is a little exaggeration. The sea defence work in progress at the time restricted our plans for the

test on Marine Drive the headland at the south shore. However it is the excuse of "unfinished business" that takes us back to the town where we experienced such a warm welcome.

The finish this year will be in England's prime seaside resort, the uncompromisingly brash Blackpool. Previous "Testers" will know that the town, that boasts Europe's second metal tower and the biggest roller coaster in the world. The events of the fifties used Blackpool on numerous occasions and invariably performed a test on a section of the seven mile stretch of Promenade. We will of course be following tradition and competitors this November will face the same challenge as the final test along Middle Walk.

In between Blackpool and Scarborough we will be in the north of the Country and two overnight halts at the same hotel in Penrith will enable us to make good use of the excellent rallying area that surrounds this Cumbrian market town. On day two of the event we will breach "Hadrian's Wall" to enjoy the delights of Scotland's less congested roads, re-crossing later the same day to the sanctuary of the North Lakes Hotel.

Our journey through the rallying heartland of Britain should enable us once more to enjoy the spirit of the fifties that has been so evident on the previous offerings of "The Rally of the Tests". Competitors will, as usual, face over thirty special tests of as wide a variety as possible, around ten regularity sections and two evening time control sections. The tests and the route will be based upon elements of those used on rallies of the original period. There will however be a few innovations as we strive to ensure that the rally continues to appeal to both the driver and the navigator.

RALLY OF THE 1950s TESTS



How do I get an entry?

Simply complete the enclosed entry form and return to the Rally Office with as many details completed as possible. If you are not sure about your car or co-driver this can be amended later. If you are looking for a co-driver (or driver) please let us know at the Rally Office as we are often able to pair you up with somebody. Once accepted you will receive regular mailings from the Rally Office, keeping you up to date with the event. The website, www.ClassicRally.org.uk, has a section for *Rally of the Tests* and this will have all the latest information, but you can always call the team at the Rally Office for a chat.



How do I prepare my car?

Reliability is the most important consideration – and bits and pieces already tired, or that have enjoyed a long life on previous events, will be weak spots. If the car is new to you speak to owners of similar cars and find out about any known weak points and remedies that are allowed within the event regulations.

Electrics are often a problem and good waterproofing is a must. We do have a book on car preparation available that collects up the data from fact sheets issued on our previous events. Some of the text is more relevant to long distance events, but there is still plenty of content relevant to all events. We also have a video available of last year's event which gives a good guide as to the conditions that may be encountered.

Who organises all this?

Jeremy Dickson initiated the *Coronation Rally* as Britain's first regular club rally for classic cars – a big success which helped to found the scene, he then became involved in the *Classic Marathon* and *Winter Challenge* as well as other well known International events. The Rally Office handles entries and administration for all CRA events. The "brains" behind the *Rally of the Tests* is Fred Bent, Fred was Clerk of the Course on the *Morecambe Car Club's Illuminations Rally* for many years and is a very experienced organiser and regular competitor. This will be the sixth running of the *Rally of the Tests* and they get better each year. Fred is assisted by Anthony Preston. Anthony, like Fred, is a current competitor so they are very able to bring you the type of event that you enjoy. Chief Marshal is Bob Redhead – last year he recruited over 500 marshals to ensure all control points were manned. If you are not able to compete, why not volunteer your services as a marshal – it's good fun and you get to see the cars and chat to the competitors. Chris Bruce will as usual provide his regular website updates during the event.

What does the entry fee include?

The entry fee includes: all route information; rally plates for the front and rear of the car in traditional pressed metal format; the assistance of at least two service crews on the event; four nights hotel accommodation in 3/4 star hotels from Thursday through to Sunday night (based on two people sharing a twin room); evening meals on all four nights; the gala prize giving and commemorative awards for all crew members.

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Photographs: Tony Large



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