

Testing Times

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www.ClassicRally.org.uk

mail@ClassicRally.org.uk

Tel +44 1633 263366

Are you going to Scarborough for partly stage roads mainly and time!!

If it was Paul Simon writing this then, in his inimitable style, the above could be the question he might pose! Our event this year will start from the east coast resort of Scarborough where fifty years ago, the second RAC International Rally of Great Britain (*The Rally of the Tests*) started and finished. You may recall that in 2003 we "did Scarborough" well we did but not quite as we propose to do it this time! We commence proceedings on the Thursday evening with our prologue which this year will include both tests and regularity sections. The famous RAC rally stage, Oliver's Mount, will be included as will Marine Drive, the private road around the headland and so my adaptation of Paul's famous lyrics may be appropriate but perhaps "*The Sound of Silence*" less so on November 1st!

Our evening of sport will be followed by the traditional pre rally dinner at Rally HQ, on this occasion the Crown Hotel. The sartorial elegance we have come to expect on the "Tests" will I am sure be of the usual high standard and during our festivities we will take the opportunity to view

some of the contenders for "The Whistle and Flute" cup and "The Top Hat" trophy. So start hunting out that period gear – buy it early enough and you could also wear it for Goodwood!

It's an early start next morning so the best preparation may not be a late session in the bar!

A Plus for the Vintageants

We have had a good deal of interest from competitors with vintage cars who would like to be eligible for overall awards.



In order to give them a fair crack we'll be introducing a system on this year's event that will give them a positive handicap on the road sections. The tests will all be scored on a class basis where the vintage cars will compete against other.

After an early breakfast in Scarborough we head south to the impressive Sledmere Hall for the restart. Refreshments will be available in the opulence of the Hall before you begin the day's activities with a test and what we hope you will feel an interesting regularity!

An increased number of entrants are expected from across the water – both Irish Sea and North Sea this year and threaten to be even more determined to rest the "Nations Cup" from the current holders, the English. As the style of the first test should suit the Irish contingent, Irish eyes could be smiling as we travel through the Yorkshire Wolds a charming and largely forgotten part of England's largest county. Flying enthusiasts will be interested in the wonderful exhibits at the Aircraft Museum where we pay a fleeting visit before turning north to a great test site and lunch at the Lightwater Valley leisure park. The 'Tests has been to Lightwater before but I feel we didn't do this excellent venue justice. Perhaps this time we will. The afternoon entertainment will include Croft Racing Circuit. This splendid track on the outskirts of Darlington hosts a round of the British Rallycross Championship on the following day so there should be plenty of activity at the site.



Hopefully you will not be tempted to stay for when the rally turns west we head for a new test venue, the superb Bolton Hall, before entering classic rally country in eastern Lakeland. A rest halt at Tan Hill in England's highest public house is followed by the final regularity of the day and TC section for the Masters whilst the Clubmen head for the bar at the North Lakes Hotel. We are in the wrong part of the country for Swynnerton but you should still enjoy what we have planned!

The North Lakes Hotel in Penrith is ideally located for our cross border raid into Scotland on Saturday. Again the restart is not from rally HQ but a little further north. The early morning test should blow off any cobwebs lingering from your evening celebrations or commiserations before we take in the delights of "Dumfriesshire and The Borders". Most people's idea of Scotland, rolling heather clad hills with rivers like the Dee and the Tweed running through wooded valleys to the sea, centuries of history, castles, abbeys, and watchtowers, are fulfilled by this delightful region. Our lunch halt today will be at Drumlanrig Castle the home of the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry where you can enjoy the 'Tests atmosphere in wonderful surroundings.

During the afternoon competitors face tests and a couple of regularities as we travel east and then south to exit Scotland and enter Northumberland for our next halt and short Saturday evening TC

section. Again the Clubmen head off for our second overnight halt back at the North Lakes Hotel.

FIA round for the UK

Many of you will be aware that for the last three years we have been running events that have been rounds of the FIA Regularity Rally Championship. The Classic Rally Association is the only organiser to have been running two events in the Championship. We are pleased to announce that this, the 7th Rally of the Tests will be the final round of the 2007 Championship.



Malcolm Pickering - 2006 FIA Regularity Rally Champion

For those contesting the Championship it will be the first ever opportunity to score points on home soil. Those who are not Championship Contenders need worry as the standard regulations as run in previous years will still apply.

Sunday is a home run for me as you rally through south Cumbria and the Lancashire / Yorkshire border region, the part of the world where I began rallying in nineteen nought freezing to death!

Today we begin with a test at a country estate, go on to tests on farms, military establishments, an agricultural college, a sewage works, another stately pile and finally the promenade at our finish in Blackpool. It occurred to me that the venues on the day parallel the ups and downs of rallying. You start with such grand ideas - are brought down to earth - fight back - learn a little more - before we are in the smelly stuff once more - have a taste of the good life again and finally end up all at sea!

Ah well back to the composing....

"I am sitting in the po-leece station

Got a ticket for a speed violation

Prison bound"

(Sorry Mr Simon!!)

Fred Bent

Clerk of the Course and Route Designer

The Classic Rally Association are delighted to welcome CES UK as sponsors of the 7th Rally of the Tests. Well known for their support of


cesuk historic rallying events we look forward to working with them on the event and are sure you will all be sampling their hospitality during the event

