



CLASSIC RALLY ASSOCIATION
RALLY OF THE TESTS
BOURNEMOUTH
2008 
LLANDUDNO

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

RALLY OF THE TESTS

20th to 23rd November



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www.ClassicRally.org.uk • tel: +44 (0)1633 263366

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REVIVING THE SPIRIT RALLY

What kind of cars compete?

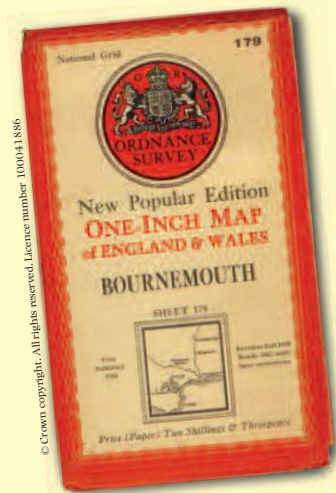
The cut off date for the overall awards will be 31/12/62. As usual there will be a separate classification for later cars. The Classic Rally Association has always favoured older cars and the distance, the navigation and a route that places some demands on stamina and endurance plus of course reliability means that older cars are not so 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 events about 20% of the entrants are new to the event and are soon mixing in with, and learning from, the more experienced crews. There is a great camaraderie amongst the 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 location. We'd generally plan for the day to be held about 4 weeks before the event.

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,

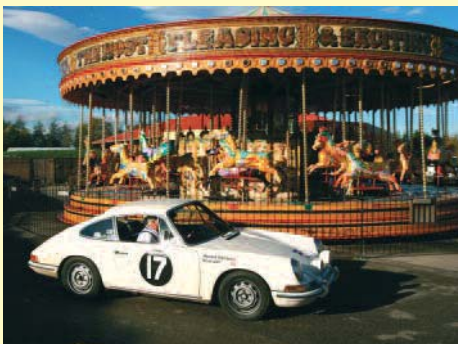


The RAC British International Rallies of the fifties, known as "The Rally of the Tests" are fondly remembered by those who competed in them. Over the past seven years the Classic Rally Association has attempted to recapture the spirit, style and sounds of these early events with its highly authentic recreation. Following in the wheel tracks of our illustrious forbearers we have travelled around Britain seeking out some of the finest rally-roads and challenging tests.

Two years ago we ventured into Wales, the spiritual home of rallying, when the event

started in Llandudno to finish on that occasion in Bournemouth. Both locations proved popular with competitors and so this year we will return to both the south coast resort and the pretty holiday town on the north coast of the Principality. This time we will assemble amongst the elegant building of Bournemouth for our Thursday "Prologue" to head off to the west the following morning, then north the next day and into Wales for the finale on Sunday.

Along the way we will take the opportunity to revisit some of the test sites we have used before such as the legendary Porlock Hill in Somerset and the fabulous Swynnerton Army Camp in Staffordshire, and of course the Great Orme at Llandudno. We will of course also utilise some new and different venues as we endeavour to revive once more the special atmosphere of "The Rally of the Tests".



& STYLE OF THE RAC RALLY OF THE 1950s

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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 spots and what remedies are available and 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 and helped to found the scene, he then went on to become involved in the Classic Marathon and Winter Challenge as well as other well known International events. He took over the Directorship of the Classic Rally Association in December 2002. 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 eighth 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 – every year he recruits over 500 marshals to ensure all control points are 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.



The serious motor sport competition starts on Thursday evening with some regularity sections and tests before returning to the HQ for the traditional pre event dinner. It is an early start on Friday morning and so perhaps a very late night in the bar is not the best preparation!

Some of you will no doubt recall the wonderful welcome we received when we visited this part of the world two years ago. We have asked the ladies of the "Porlock W. I." to again provide us with their very special catering before our evening TC section. We have also invited them to take on the task of judging the "Top Hat Trophy" and "The Whistle and Flute Cup". The standard of dress on "The Tests" has always been high but last year was exceptional. The effort that so many competitors make helps to create the special atmosphere of the rally. It is truly wonderful and we hope that this will continue.

As the Rally of the Tests attracts such an excellent entry from overseas we felt it appropriate to recognise this with an award – "The Nations Cup". The results of the best three drivers and three navigators from each Country will determine the outcome.

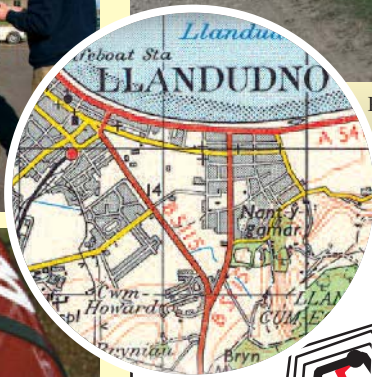
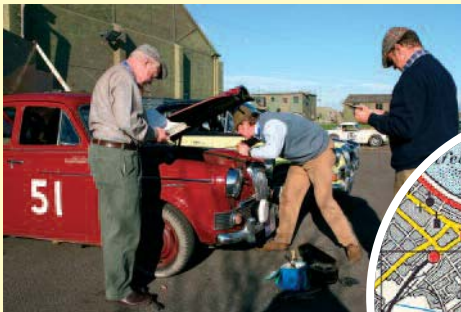
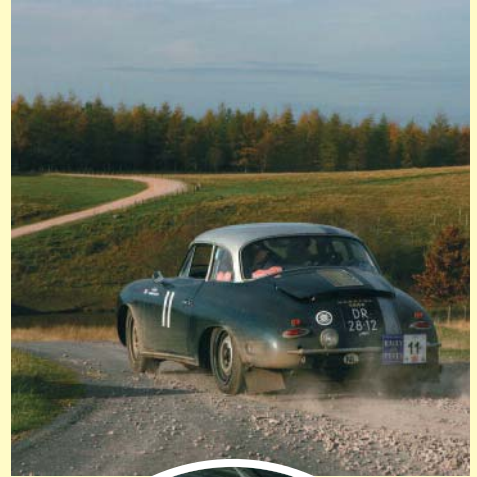
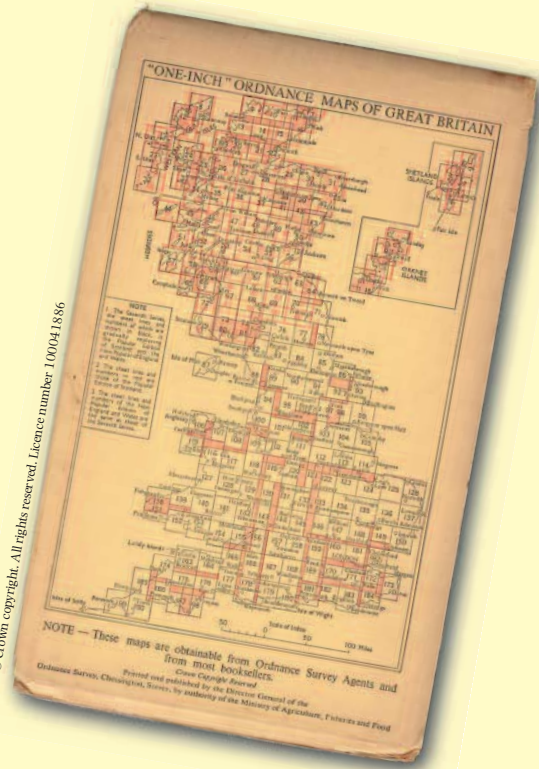
During the 1950's the entry on the RAC International Rally of Great Britain was restricted to 200 cars. For the eighth running of the Classic Rally Association's Rally of the Tests the entry will be limited to a more modest 90 vehicles. We look forward to seeing you in Bournemouth amongst the nifty ninety.

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Photographs: Tony Large and Chris Bruce



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