

MONTE CARLO CHALLENGE REUNION

TOUR OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Although I never competed on the Monte Challenge I was lucky enough to be in the original organising team, driving the course car on the first event in 1990 which started from Glasgow and on the very snowy second event in 91 from Oslo.

When I heard that there was to be a 30th anniversary re union at Bowcliffe Hall, which is very close to where I live, on Friday the 24th January 2020, I couldn't miss the opportunity to be re acquainted with the event.

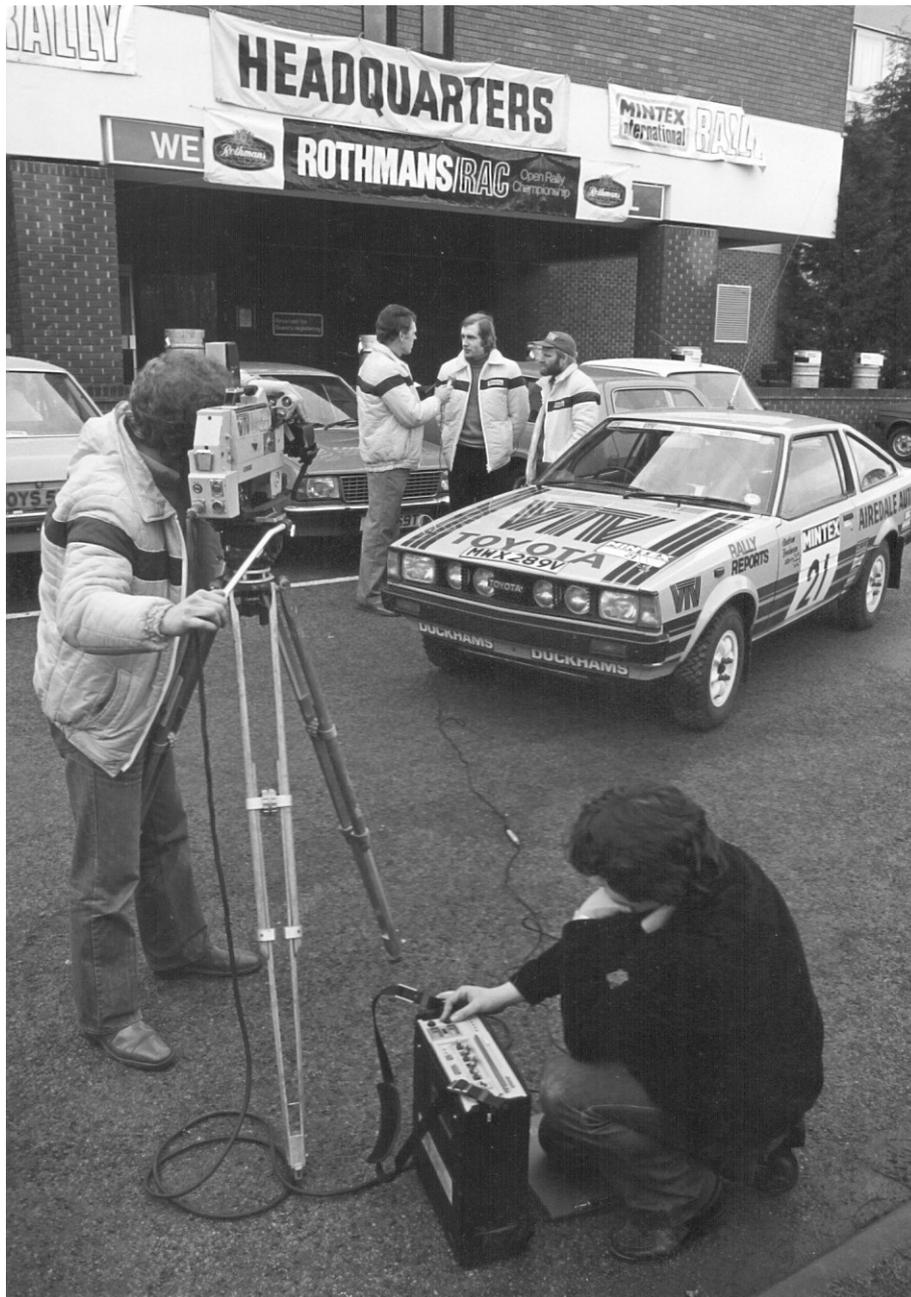
The thought struck me that if people are going to make the trip from far flung parts of the UK they would probably want to make a full weekend of it and do a winter tour in the area. In other words a bit like a mini Monte Carlo Challenge. It will be open to all types of cars so as not to exclude would be participants who may no longer have the old treasures salted away some place. Some are too valuable to bring out in the salt now any way. This is how the idea of a tour was born in my head, so I contacted Angela and David who are organizing the gathering on the Friday night and like me they thought it was a goer.

I have been involved in rallying since I was 18 years old and am now 70, still competing having just done the Silver Fern in New Zealand and driven at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in July.

My very humble beginnings started by doing twelve car events on some of the roads we are going to use on the Dales Tour. Some of these became icons of the heady days of road rally series like the Motoring News Championship and the BTRDA etc. That was before the joy police put a stop to it in the late 80s. It was getting a bit out of hand with 250 BHP screaming rally cars chasing round on illegal racing tyres in the middle of the night. (Oh the joy of it!!) For those of you who were involved, the tour will give you a chance to remind yourselves of those crazy times and for those of you who missed out on them it will give you a taste of what it was like.

In some ways doing this event will bring me full circle, because after struggling for a number of years competing on a very limited budget, in 1981 I was given some sponsorship from one Paul Hargreaves who had a company called VTV Rally Reports (Vintage TV) which helped me move more into the limelight where I got noticed and taken on as a semi works

driver for Toyota GB. Paul is now the author of this web site autoclassique.tv. I hope to have my original VTV car on display at the event.



John Midgley & Andrew Bodman interviewed before the start of the 1982 Mintex Rally.

Watch the VTV video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0DVh-pLh84>

Apart from this being a nostalgic taste of road rallying of the old days, you will have many wonderful local sights to see while you are in Yorkshire, such as The James Herriot Centre in Thirsk, the birthplace of *All Creatures Great and Small*. You will be covering most of the area in which the famous vet lived and worked, see scenes from some of the TV programmes

filmed in the Dales. Plus places like Fountains Abbey and York with it's minster and the National Railway Museum is only 30 minutes away.