



Monte Carlo Challenge 30 year Reunion

We shall be meeting at Bowcliffe Hall on Friday 24 January 2020. If anybody can bring an old car, they will be assembled at the Hall for viewing from 4pm onwards.

Jonathan Turner, the owner who is a rallyman has offered us the use of his premises and the buffet at cost rates as he, like me, is looking forward to meeting old friends and rally participants for an evening of nostalgia for the wonderful Montes of the 1990s. We would like to show some original film footage and photos of the events, so if anyone has anything suitable, please let us know. Paul Hargreaves, a Monte man, should be able to incorporate what you send, using the resources of his company, Autoclassique TV. Many of you will know him from being contestants and/or crew in rallies he was filming or competing in.

There will be tea in the afternoon of 24th January from 4pm and the evening buffet at 7pm, before which there will be a welcome speech, and then a chance for anyone to tell us about any experiences they've had. I'm sure there will be lots of them, and quite amusing. Sorry, but I won't be telling any jokes that night. I've also been in touch with Lord David Steel. He's done at least four Montes, and says he's interested in coming once he knows if he can fit it in.

John Midgley, another rally man, is organising a navigation tour around the Dales on the Saturday. This will finish at the Mercure Hotel in Wetherby, where he has arranged for accommodation to be available on the nights of both the 24th and 25 January at concessional rates. To benefit from the prices he has negotiated at the Hotel you need to book your accommodation directly quoting reference MONT240120, by 10 December 2019.

Paperwork for the tour will be available on Friday night at Bowcliffe and Saturday morning at the Mercure.

I did most of my rallying with my wife Angela Riley, who is assisting with the administration of this event. I sent off a deposit in 1994, a few months before I had finished restoring our lovely old 1952 Hillman Minx convertible. It was news to my wife, both that I had booked to go on a Monte Carlo Challenge rally and that as my friend Jim had dropped out she had to be my navigator. We went for a navigation lesson to a very kind navigator called Robert Ellis who showed us the ropes and in February of 1995 we did our first rally and were hooked. I love driving in ice and snow and Angela loves the maps. On top of this there is the thrill of competition and most importantly the camaraderie and the lifelong friendships. For me the exhilaration of getting going again after a breakdown in a fragile old car and nursing it to the finish is incomparable.

We've done many events since with most success coming in our 1965 Rover 3 Litre P5. Our current rally car is a 1963 Austin A40. I'm still working on the Hillman and it would be brilliant if I can bring it to Bowcliffe in January 2020. It's a very rare car and rust issues may well be the reason you don't see them about any more.

Angela has set up a reunion email address which is mccreunion2020@gmail.com. If you use this for any of the organisers we all have access to it.

Further details and updates and photos are on Paul's website www.autoclassique.tv