

RACING GREEN NEWS

Images by Ted7/Caminja



Welcome to Racing Green News

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2015 and as we head into the spring, we look forward to sharing the adventures enjoyed by some of our owners as well as keeping you updated on new developments at Racing Green.

This issue sees a report on the Road to Mandalay Rally, which featured two of our cars as well as a preview for a forthcoming

rally that is still taking entrants. There is also exciting news on a stunning new vehicle that we will be unveiling at Techno Classica. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you as always for your continued support.

Peris, Nigel and the Racing Green team

Heading to Techno Classica Essen



Once again we will be heading for Messe Essen, Germany, for Europe's biggest classic motoring show – Techno Classica. We'll be displaying five of our Bentley cars – the Speed 8, the Bentley Fastback, the S1 Convertible, the 3/8 Racer and the iconic Blue Train - each showcasing precision engineering, fine craftsmanship and the beauty of motoring.

Techno Classica welcomes over 190,000 classic motoring enthusiasts from all over the world. For us, as the only show we personally attend as an exhibitor, it is the ideal place to meet and catch up with customers and friends old and new.

We have already arranged to meet clients from South Africa, Dubai and the USA who will make the epic journey to what has become the must-attend event in the classic motoring calendar. Visit us at Techno Classica Essen from 15th-19th April, on stand 107 in Hall 4.

Our Tribute to Daimler

At Racing Green, we are following the company's tradition of looking at some of the world's most iconic cars. We are adding another stunning marque to our range and turning our attention to Daimler and in particular, the Corsica Double Six drop-head coupé.

Being the most complex and exotic machine available at the time, the Double Six appealed to local and foreign Royals. Britain's King George owned two seven-person limousines and King Hussain of Jordan was driven around in an open example. Daimler's top model did not only form the basis for lavish luxury vehicles, but also for a number of 'sporty' fixed head and drop top models.

Our offering is built on 1930s original Daimler chassis incorporating all the period running gear and pre-selector transmission of the era but replacing the sleeve valve engine with a period 7.5litre V12 engine, consistent with the age of the chassis. We believe this car with its elegant drop-head bodywork will be a perfect partner to the our stylish Blue Train Coupé.

See this stunning vehicle up close as it is unveiled on our stand at Techno Classica.



The Road to Mandalay



On 1st February, Racing Green Bentley owners Anton Gonnissen and his wife Inge, and Peter Pollet and fellow Belgians Els Verhaegen and Alexander De Groot, departed the iconic Raffles Hotel in Singapore, with a 21-day, 10,000kms adventure ahead of them on the inaugural Road to Mandalay Rally.

Their rally-prepared Speed 8s would travel from Singapore, through Malaysia and Thailand to the border of Burma. Endurance Rally Association director Philip Young had campaigned for permission for the 70 competing cars, with teams from all over the world, to make the country's first land border crossing, which would allow the vehicles to make it to the finishing line.

Palm plantations, banana groves, paddy fields, mountain passes and miles of Buddhist monks were the background throughout this colourful and challenging event.

The drivers enjoyed day after day of closed road hill climbs

and gravel tests secured by scores of local marshals along with police roadblocks at main road intersections.

There were eleven time trials and the same number of regularities which combined to give the more powerful cars something to get their teeth into and the more 'powerful' navigators something to get their head around.

Anton and Inge started the Rally in fine form, holding second place position in their class and winning the third stage in the opening days, while Peter Pollet and his navigators held third place in their class. The journey took in breathtaking scenery including visits to the location of the Bridge over the River





RIP Philip Young

Kwai, and the Hellfire Pass Museum as they made their way to the border.

Sadly Anton and Inge had to withdraw from the Rally just two days after crossing the Burma border when Inge was hit by a flying stone whilst they were driving. This was a freak accident and we send our love and best wishes to Anton and Inge for a speedy recovery.

Although called the Road to Mandalay, the finish of the rally was actually in beautiful Bagan one day later with local dancers, a ceremonial elephant and a welcome glass of something cold and wet. Set among 2,200 centuries old temples along the Irrawaddy a River this was a magical place to finish a very special event and the dawn balloon rides the morning after the prize giving dinner blew away any post celebration cobwebs.

Just after completing the border crossing in Burma on the Road to Mandalay on 20th February, Rally Director Philip Young was involved in a motorcycle accident and was taken to hospital. Sadly he died following complications on 11th March. He was 66 years old.

A prolific ambassador of the historic rally movement, Philip was a larger-than-life character who pushed motorsport boundaries, organising marathon and endurance rallies all over the globe. A founder of the Historic Rally Car Register, Philip set a world record for driving from Cape Town to London in ten-and-a-half days, and is best known for one of his greatest achievements – the revival of the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge, one of the world's most epic motoring adventures. His final milestone was gaining permission for the land border crossing from Thailand into Burma.

We at Racing Green send our condolences to Philip's family and loved ones. He was a tremendous ambassador for historic rallying and we are sure that his legacy will live on in the Endurance Rally Association.

Images by Gerard Brown



Brian's a Bentley Diamond

There are plenty of characters in the classic and vintage car movement but maybe none as committed as Brian Fenn. After serving as Director of the Bentley Drivers Club for 35 years, we raise a glass to Brian, and his supportive wife Sandy, as he retires from the club.

Enthusiast Brian's involvement with Bentley has spanned 60 years, having first acquired a 3-litre model in 1955. He joined the Vintage Sports Car Club in 1956 and then the Bentley Drivers Club in 1968.

"In 1972, I became involved with the nascent Vintage Bentley Spares Scheme," explains Brian. "At the time, a number of vehicles were off the road because of an acute shortage of drive shafts. We managed to amass some cash and had a few of the 8-litre half-shafts manufactured. They cost £30 each; they now go for £600!"

Brian was Chairman of the Spares Scheme and Director of the Bentley Drivers Club from 1979 until 2014, as well as being the club's technical advisor in that period.

"We started the valuation scheme around 1988," Brian adds. The Derby and Crew car schemes followed some time later. The valuation of the 'specials' became under the aegis of the vintage scheme.

"My association with Racing Green began when I was asked to value his design of Bentley Special Cars. These cars were designed and manufactured to a very high standard, the body

work being varied and the cars propelled in the main by Rolls Royce B.80 and B.81 engines."

As well as vintage cars, Brian is also interested in motorcycles and used to be a regular visitor to the Isle of Man for the TT or Manx GP. He was also involved in the renovation of wind and water mills, model engineering, locomotives and beam engines.

"My fully equipped workshop has a carpet and gin supply," quips Brian. "The latter for visitors, of course!"



photo credit to WO Bentley Memorial Foundation

A Grecian Adventure



Images by Fred Bayet

Following the success of its inaugural rally, entries are now invited for Tour Amical's adventure in Greece, touring Peloponnesos and Athens, from the 17th to 24th September.

After it's 'men only' outing last year, the 2015 event is open to all comers with two groups of 65 teams enjoying scenic routes through magnificent landscapes and near sites of the Greek Antiquity while staying in stunning five star hotels.

The journey starts in Brussels where the teams meet before flying to Patras where they pick-up the cars. The entry fee includes the flights and car transportation along with seven nights of luxury hotel accommodation, with breakfast and dinner, is 2870 € per person (based on two people sharing a room and a car). Also included is the rally's service personnel, routebooks, etc.

More information can be found on www.touramical.be/ Tour Amic'Ellas, available in English, French and Dutch, or for more information, contact info@touramical.be

California Mille

Doug Weitman from Malibu is prepping his 3/8 Racer for the 25th California Mille, held 26-30 April. Starting on Nob Hill in downtown San Francisco, the rally travels 1,000 miles over four days through Northern California's most beautiful back roads.

He said: "I have been driving the car for about 1,200 miles now and enjoy it more every time I drive it. It draws a crowd wherever I go, as it is a rolling piece of art. I have been driving it with my group on Tuesday on some of the best roads in Southern California. I've been using the Bentley at least once a month on this drive.

"I was quite happy that the California Mille accepted my car for this very this very prestigious rally in Northern California. I am driving it with my wife Ellen as my navigator."

All cars entered into the California Mille must be in the spirit of the Mille Miglia and of 1957 vintage or older. The event is open to any and all cars that did, or could have participated in the original Mille Miglia during the years of 1927-57, and can be of either foreign or domestic manufacture. The organisers select the 60-75 most interesting cars, seeking a variety of make and type.

Entry forms are usual released in November with a deadline of early January for its next event. For more information, visit http://californiamille.com/events/california_mille/



Images by Ted7/Carninja

Keep in touch



We'll be sharing our news throughout the year via more issues of this newsletter and our website but we would like to hear from you too. Share your motoring adventures with us. Tell us where in the world you are going in your car or where you are planning. Get in touch with us by emailing info@vintageracinggreen.com

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