



7 to 17 October 2019

# CARRERA IBERIA THE DAILY DISPATCH



Rally the Globe  
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Pre Start **Santander, Spain**

7 October 2019

Welcome to the first ever *Rally the Globe (RtG)* event, new company, but one steeped in the old ways and traditions of endurance rallying. It was born out of a desire to, quite literally, go the extra mile and *RtG* therefore, has an ambitious programme to break new ground, crack open some borders and to press on where others may fear to tread.



This first event will follow the Carrera format - in that the route is all tarmac - and will lead the crews North to South, through the Iberian Peninsula to Portugal and the Algarve. For ten days and 3445km, we've been promised plenty of great competition, fine driving, fine wines and fine dining.

There's a great mix of people and cars here with us in Santander, the capital of Cantabria, and they're all keen to enjoy what looks to be a fantastic route crafted by former WRC rally ace Fred Gallagher with the one time Rothmans Porsche supremo, John Spiller, acting as the Clerk of the Course.

Despite its debutant status though, no one is a stranger on this rally and Gallagher, the Rally Director, was very pleased to see so many of his friends in all manner of old cars. And, taking a stroll around the carpark, he noted that it was WO Bentley who provided the biggest "factory team" turnout for the Carrera, with no less than five pre-war Cricklewood cruisers lined up under the palms of the palatial Eurostars Real Hotel overlooking the Bay of Biscay.

Jim Gately meanwhile ploughed a very lonely furrow indeed by bringing possibly the only Kurtis Comet in the world, never mind on this rally.

The hotel and its grounds are indeed beautiful, but despite this there was a sense of mounting anticipation and enthusiasm to get on down the road. Today however was given over to the all important signing on and scrutineering. And, the unflappable events manager, Loren Price led the assault on the mountain of paperwork, handing to each crew their rally bag and paperwork along with a tube of *RtG* branded sweets, whilst the legendary sweep crews comprising Andy Inskip, Bob Harrod, Jamie Turner and Jack Amies were set up in the car park and tasked with checking the cars for safety and compliance. Gill Cotton and Alan Smith also ran a couple of refresher tutorials for anyone needing help with their navigation.

A drivers briefing late in the afternoon was led by John Spiller who welcomed one and all, officially to the event



and he outlined the format and the technicalities of the event. Professor Mansoor Khan then stepped up to the mic' to reassure us all that, as far as medical matters were concerned we were in his very capable hands.

As the sun dipped over the Atlantic, a drinks party on the terrace led us into dinner and a heartfelt speech from Fred Gallagher thanking the seven founder members and all of the crews present for their support and confidence. He also singled out Clair Clarke, back at base for all of her hard work and incredible organisational skills over the last year.

Dick Appleton and Paul Heal however saw none of this. As the advance car, they'd pulled out of town early this morning to begin their lonely odyssey sending back reports on the state of things up country.

Tomorrow the flag drops and the fun begins.

*Geradus Mercator*

Geradus Mercator, *Dispatch* reporter

