



2 to 12 October 2021

CARRERA ITALIA THE DAILY DISPATCH



Rally ^{the} Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Day 6 Cortina d'Ampezzo to Verona (362 km)

8 October 2021



Photos: gerardbrown.co.uk

If the 1969 film the Italian Job had been made three years later: The 1972 Ferrari Daytona of Brian and Catherine Scowcroft ahead of the Jaguar E-type of Sholto and Karen Gilbertson-Hart

A slightly earlier start was scheduled for today as we had some serious miles to cover and coincidentally, some serious changes in elevation and temperature to boot.

By the day's end we'd have enjoyed breakfast at 1,224m (and a chilly 6°C) and finished with dinner at 59m (and a balmy 17°C), having climbed several impressive mountains, including the 2,236m Passo di Giau and the short but vertiginous Valstagna hairpins, which top out at 1,093m. What these hairpins lack in altitude, they more than make up for in ferocity. A classic case of small mountain syndrome perhaps?

So, bright and early, the first Regularity of the day appeared through the windscreen, the Passo di Giau. And it came a mere 8km from the hotel, barely giving the cars or the crews a chance to warm up and, once over the top, there was a disciplined run with several timing points to the next Time Control in the Rifugio Capanna for some very welcome mid morning refreshment.

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Alan and Tina Beardshaw's 1965 Aston Martin DB5



Mark and Sally Bramall's 1968 Volvo Amazon 123GT



Michel Velasco and Maria Garcia's 1962 Porsche 356 Cabriolet

Whilst the rest of the rally enjoyed some fine coffee and cakes Mike and Lorna Harrison were busy. Their trusty Triumph needed attention under the bonnet, one of the cooling hoses had ruptured thanks to the effort the little contender from Coventry had put in over this first section. Jack Amies and Russ Smith lent a pair of useful hands and a full tool kit and between them soon got the problem sorted.

Things eased off a bit after this though and there was even time to admire the views over the Passo Rolle and the roads through San Martino di Castrozzo towards another fine lunch provided at the Time Control in the Ristorante Cornale. Then, just after the coffee cups were cleared away, the second Regularity - the Valstagna hairpins arrived. This section was a real brute of a climb, rising from 154m on the Adige valley floor to 1,093m at the top. It is one of the classic Dolomitic climbs and was a fitting way to say arrivederci to these magnificent mountains. But we fully intend to be back for the *Vintage Dolomites* rally next year.

Some of the big Bentleys lost time here, as did the Ferrari of Brian and Catherine Scowcroft, executing a series of

three point turns to get around the corners slowed progress somewhat. But, once the final tornanti had been negotiated and Jim Smith had recorded their times, the crews embarked on a scenic drive along a series of fast, flowing roads, lined by trees beginning to show their autumn colours. The destination was the Time Control at Serrada, in the Ristorante Cogola for coffee and yet more strudel.

Things went downhill from here though and the rally dropped back into the warmer wine-lands on the way to the last Regularity around Fosse where, a few more hairpins were set to round off the day, before we headed to the night halt in Verona.

John Fraser and Peter Jenkins's Porsche suffered its second puncture of the rally today so, on the way into town, Enrico Paggi and Federica Mascetti sportingly stopped to help them at a local tyre dealer to address any linguistic issues which may have arisen.

Verona is famous as the setting for William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, this beautiful medieval city is also a UNESCO world heritage site. Our hotel, the Due Torri, pulled out all of the stops for us this evening with a spectacular dinner, served in the lavishly decorated banquet hall, leaving enough time for a quick cultural tour of the old city.

Sadly we don't think we've got any star crossed young lovers (or even an Alfa Romeo any more) on the entry list but, with seven all male crews, we can supply plenty of gentlemen if any of the local theatres need an understudy at short notice.

Gerardus Mercator

Gerardus Mercator, *Dispatch* reporter