



27 August to
26 September 2023

ALASKA TO MEXICO MARATHON THE DAILY DISPATCH



Rally & Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Day 29 Loreto to La Paz (382km)

25 September 2023



Early seaside starts, broken roads and re-routes were the headline story this morning



Photos: Gerard Brown - gerardbrown.co.uk

The fishing fleet of Loreto start their day well before dawn. As we sat down to the best Mexican breakfast so far, they'd already cast off from the dockside and were busy with their nets.

We too soon set sail and, in one of our ports of call, were reunited with Dick Appleton and Paul Heal who'd also been casting their nets wide. Our 48-hour car dynamic duo had been busy fishing us out of a hole - or rather stopping us falling into them. A number of roads along our route had been washed away or were blocked by the recent Hurricane Jova. As today was the last day of competition and everyone was keen to make the most of it, the pair had got their maps out and put together a re-route complete with two Regularities through the hills above Loreto.

Ahead of this was a very picturesque Time Control in the abandoned, but still impressive, Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó, a former religious house of the Jesuit order. This was rugged terrain without an inch of either straight or flat road in either direction. Both sections featured that rarest of Mexican obstacles, a water crossing, bringing some cool relief to another very hot day on the road.

The final timing point of the Rally was where we encountered Dick and Paul, who had retraced their steps to man the lunch Time Control in Ciudad Constitución. Lunch was laid out for us at the family-run Hotel Maria de Nadie, which served up some superb home-cooked food. There was plenty of time to digest it on the easy run to the night halt, although a handful encountered hiccups along the way.

Clint Smith and Martin Jones, perhaps had the toughest day. Their Bentley had developed a fuelling issue which the capable crew traced to the carburettor and a blocked jet. They had spare needles and tools on board and by the time Andy Inskip and Charlie Neale arrived on the scene, there was little else to do than to put it back together. Michael Kershaw and Christopher Mallet's Range Rover had a different sort of fuelling issue, almost running out of petrol late in the afternoon. A gas station with no gas is no use to a thirsty rally car, but thankfully John and Nicole Whitelock's Mercedes had a spare can and the big 4x4 was able to make it to the next fuel stop, around 95km along the road.

Tonight, we berthed our cars next to the super yachts in the Marina Costa Baja and dined by the pool at the Hyatt Place in La Paz where the realisation that tomorrow really is the last day began to sink in.



Spashing around: Ean and Alison Lewin, 1973 Ford Escort RS1600



Manuel and Irene Dubs, 1940 Ford Coupe



Richard Turner and Nigel Lee, 1938 Ford Model 62 V8



Stephen John Partridge and Corgi La Grouw, 1961 Ford Galaxie



Otakar Chládek and Jindřiška Žemličková,
1971 Mercedes 350 SL



Tony Rowe and Mark Delling,
1939 Ford DeLuxe V8 91A Coupe



Andreas Honegger and Peter Kruse,
1973 Mercedes 280 CE