

# London-Athens 2012

## Bulletin 3, October 2011, 45 weeks to the start

The London-Athens 2012 is going to take you back to a time of motoring adventure, before motorways and sat nav. Guild of Motor Endurance events have always been serious tests of sportscar design, the challenge for man and machine in 2012 really will be to reach the Finish.

### Latest News:

- The date of the London-Athens will be 2-12 September 2012.
- The legendary Ace Café in London have kindly agreed to host the Start, 8am Sunday 2nd September.
- Scrutineering will take place at the Ace Café from 4pm on Saturday 1st September. There will be food and entertainment available until late evening.
- The recce for the 2012 endurance tour has been completed.
- The recce has taken over a month and 17,000kms to complete.
- The total distance for the 11 day endurance tour will be 6500kms.
- The number of countries will be 21. That's 21 border crossings.
- The route will not include any motorways.
- If you succumb to using sat nav then you shouldn't be on the event.
- You will need a distance measuring tripmeter to navigate with the Road Book.
- The itinerary originally included two through the night legs, these have been removed and there will be no through the night driving.
- All eleven hotels have now been booked ranging from a Ramada, to a family run Albergo, to an ethnic village of period wooden houses.
- There will now be no off road or un-made road sections included in the route.
- Being an endurance tour rather than a timed rally, reaching Main and Route Controls 'while they are open' will be the objective. Sounds easy. And yes, there will be other objectives.
- For those who prefer the pressure of reaching controls on time their achievement will be rewarded.
- There will be no average speed changes as used on previous rally type events. Being an endurance tour the average speed for the whole event will be 30mph/50kph. Easy in some places, difficult in others.
- There is no shortage of fuel stations along the route, with only a few exceptions.
- No delays were encountered at any of the border crossings on the recces.
- You will need an actual Green Card. Entering a country not included on the Green Card won't be a problem, a few days cover will be available at borders.
- The many different currencies may catch you out, but there are always ATMs to fall back on.
- Most fuel stations accept credit or debit cards.
- Rather than going over the channel on the ferry, cars will now be going under using the tunnel.
- There are a lot of mountains and challenging roads included in the route.
- Reaching Berlin will be the easy part, from there each day becomes more difficult and involved.
- If you're expecting the Transfagarasan Highway to be the most spectacular high altitude road on the route then you'll be in for a few surprises.
- The route will no longer be going to the black sea. The roads to and from it were far too flat and boring. Instead the finalised route will continue to follow the mountains.
- Temperatures on the recce in September 2011 were hot, between 30 - 34 much of the time.
- While most roads are good there will be sections where supple suspension and cautious driving will see you reach the end of each day.
- The route from the beach on the Aegean coast will lead you to the heights of Mount Olympus.
- The route steers clear of chaotic Athens and it's surrounding motorways.
- The spectacular Meteora and Kranjska Gora are included in the events itinerary.
- It's going to be much more of a challenge than we, or maybe you, ever imagined, and a culture shock.
- Having a reliable well prepared car will be more important than it's performance and top speed.
- October 2011, there are 31 sportscars entered. If you haven't already entered get your entry in now.