

## LIEGE-BRESCIA-LIEGE AND MICRO MARATHON

The World's only International Rallies for small-engined cars



\* July 16-25, 2010 \* September 5-11, 2010

LBL/MM NEWS: NOVEMBER 2009

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ome and join us next Sunday, November 29, at the Plough Inn, Marsh Gibbon, just off the A41 east of Bicester, for a pre-Christmas get-together. The pub serves outstanding local Oxfordshire Ales, brewed in the village, and our host makes a demon steak and kidney pie as part of a wide-ranging menu. Map reference 648231 or, if you insist on using satnav, post-



Join us at The Plough, Marsh Gibbon, Bucks, Nov 29

code OX27 OHQ! We've booked a table for 12 people at 12.30 for 1pm, but warned our host that there might be more of us, so feel free to turn up on the day even if you've not been able to tell us you're coming: just be prepared to wait a little for lunch. Quick directions: off M40 j9, take A41 around Bicester and on towards Aylesbury. Immediately under railway bridge, turn left. Through Marsh Gibbon village until you see The Plough on the right: car park behind. See you there!

Time is running out fast to get those entries in for **Liège-Brescia-Liège 2010** at the bargain early booking

rate, including the special rate of £2999 for club members: 30 November is the deadline, please, and we also need the second instalments from those of you who kindly entered by 31 July. The poor old pound continues to take a battering against the euro, so it really is a rock bottom price that we cannot realistically offer beyond the end of November. The next deadline is 31 January, for an entry fee of £3200: still extremely reasonable compared to other rallies that offer much less for far more money... The reason for asking for money so far in advance, incidentally, is not just to help us know how many to expect, but because some of the hotels require payment more than six months before our arrival and their prices go up for later booking.

We are really looking forward to running LBL 2010 and working on lots of tweaks to make it even more enjoyable than in 2008, when 54 microcars came with us to recreate the pioneering rally of 1958. Turning an event that was originally a flat-out roundthe-clock marathon with only one stop in Brescia, into a manageable 200-miles-a-day fun drive with elements of competition, visits to places of interest and sight-seeing thrown in, was quite a challenge. While everyone enjoyed it, there were some very hard days, including the one from Cortina to Ljubljana and especially from Ljubljana to Bolzano. We've made these days much more manageable by finding a stunning hotel actually on the route to replace the Cortina stop, thereby shortening the next day by c30km; and



the run from Ljubljana will stop in the mountains around 30km earlier too. On the return route into Germany, we won't battle all the way into Munich again on a Friday night: instead we will stop at Starnberg (which was a control point on the 1958 event) in a lovely hotel by the lake, prior to a taking a brand new route through the Black Forest back to Karlsruhe. This is the stretch that was autobahn in 1958, when autobahns were new and the organisers wanted to test the cars on them; the situation today is very different and we don't feel it's either safe or enjoyable to run a rally up the autobahns...

Some exciting entries have been coming in from around the world and this is promising to be our most international event yet. We're looking forward to welcoming Jean and Jenny Sirdey from South Africa in their 1969 Fiat 500, right, Thomas Groot and Bjørn Engene from Norway in a

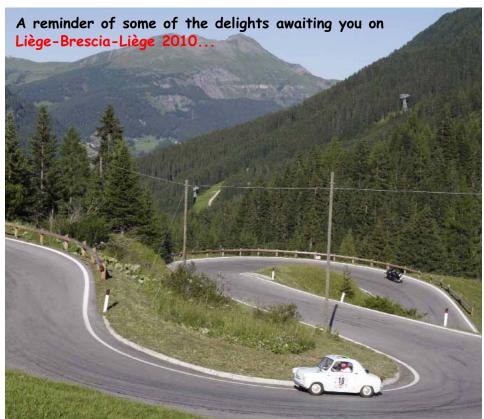




1954 Morris Minor Series II (left, upgraded to 948cc) and Yoshito Onoda from Japan, who hopes to bring his delightful little Toyota Sports 800, below; in fact, if Toyota agree to help, we could well see two or even three Toyota Sports 800s on the rally – these cars must be even more rare in Europe than the wonderful Zundapp Janus team that did so well last year!



The major three-week event that we mentioned in the last newsletter is still under preparation and is very much 'on': we had a meeting in London last week with the Minister for Tourism of the country in question and are just waiting for his department to approve our plans so that we can launch the event for Spring 2011: watch this space!

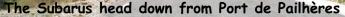






Photos from Micro Marathon 2009







Mark and Jane enter Spain in the Tiger

## Micro Marathon 2010 is GO!! September 5-11 in WALES...

After lots of encouraging feedback, we've decided to forge ahead with plans for Micro Marathon 2010 in Wales, and an exciting outline is already coming together. It's all provisional of course, but this is our plan: Where better to start, than at the 2010 National Microcar Rally, to be held at Malvern? You can enjoy the



National, then, just as it is ending, the rally begins with an evening run to Brecon Castle for the Welcome Dinner. Next day we head north, through the Black Mountains, Powys and border country, to a night at the luxurious Lake Vyrnwy Hotel, in a glorious lakeside location surrounded by unspoilt mountains. More stunning mountain roads follow as we make our way to the top of Wales, the north coast and the mediaeval walled city of Conwy with the Victorian Spa resort of Llandudno alongside.

Wednesday sees us head out to the island of Anglesey, then over the Cambrian mountains, staying close to Wales's highest mountain, Snowdon. Next day we head south, on tiny coastal roads with glorious views and through the Snowdonia National Park, for a night by the sea at Aberystwyth. On Friday we reach the southern coastline and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, staying in Carmarthen. And on Saturday, we head back into the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons before a spectacular finish in Cardiff, hopefully at Cardiff Castle. Forget 'Three Castles': we'll take you to at least half a dozen...

The event will be run to our popular navigation/competition/circuit tests/sightseeing/local visits formula, the first time it has been used in the UK, and we expect to be over-subscribed for the 30 places available: get your name on the list now!



Perfect place to drink Rioja: underground at Bodegas Heredad Ugarte







LBL/MICRO MARATHON TRABI FOR SALE Kevin and Loree have decided to go 4-stroke for LBL, so their trusty Trabi that ran so well round the Pyrenees and Spain is for sale! Must be the finest Trabi Combi in the UK, 1977 model with the much prettier curvy bumpers, mechanically sorted, £2000. Located Bucks/Oxon borders. To view, contact the office :-

**The organising team** for Micro Marathon & Liège-Brescia-Liège is led by Malcolm McKay ClassicRallyPress Ltd, 9 Sycamore Leys, Steeple Claydon, MK18 2RH, England www.classicrallypress.co.uk Tel 0044 (0)7711 901811 Email LBLrally@aol.com