



# MICRO MARATHON AND LIEGE-BRESCIA-LIEGE

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



July 17-20, 1958 ★ July 11-20, 2008 ★ July 10-19, 2009 ★ September 4-12, 2009

## MM & LBL NEWS: SEPTEMBER 2008

First, thanks to all the competitors and journalists who have written glowing reports of **Liège-Brescia-Liège 2008**: we really appreciate all the tributes and, as intimated last month, have taken the plunge and launched LBL 2009 for slightly bigger cars (600-1000cc and three-wheelers) as well as a new and equally exciting event for the microcar crews. We are taking full note of all the comments – both positive and critical – and hope to run two events in 2009 that come even closer to ticking all the boxes and pleasing all of the people *almost* all of the time!

Interest in **LBL 2009** is strong and vehicles mentioned so far as potential entrants include Austin Seven, Austin-Healey Sprite, Austin A30, Austin A35, Austin A40, BMW 700, Citroen 2CV, Fiat 600, Fiat-Abarth 695, Fiat 850 Spider, MG J2 supercharged, MG Midget, Morgan F4 three-wheeler, Morris Minor, Mini 850 & 1000, Mini-Cooper 997, NSU Prinz, Renault 4CV, Renault 4, Rochdale Olympic, Suzuki Alto RS-R, Reliant Robin, Triking and Turner 950.

Regulations and Entry Forms have been published: please note that we don't make them downloadable on the internet as we prefer to have personal contact with everyone who is interested, so just send us an email if you'd like them and we will send them out by return. At £2950, the entry fee includes 11 nights' accommodation for TWO people in superb hotels, ALL meals including lunches from the evening of Thursday, July 9 (you will arrive for scrutineering in the afternoon) until breakfast on Monday, July 20, a full set of maps to plot the route, mechanical back-up and assistance, luggage transport between hotels, entry to museums and private collections specified in the road book, the road book itself, rally plates and door number panels, finishers awards and, potentially, some very fine trophies if you win! BUT, please note, that entry fee will only be held until 30 November, after which it starts to go up (full details in the Regulations), so get your entries in soon...

As well as working to improve LBL for 2009, we've been developing our new **Micro Marathon** event for all the cars that did LBL in 2008... And what a rally it's going to be! Malcolm, Mariel and family piled into the trusty Fiat 500 for the first recce (our 2007 1.2 Lounge model now has over 16,000 miles on the clock including two full rally recces and the rally itself, it still hasn't missed a beat, looks brand new and isn't even due for its first service yet – how cars have changed...) and headed down to catch Rail Europe's excellent Motorail service from Calais to Toulouse on September 6.

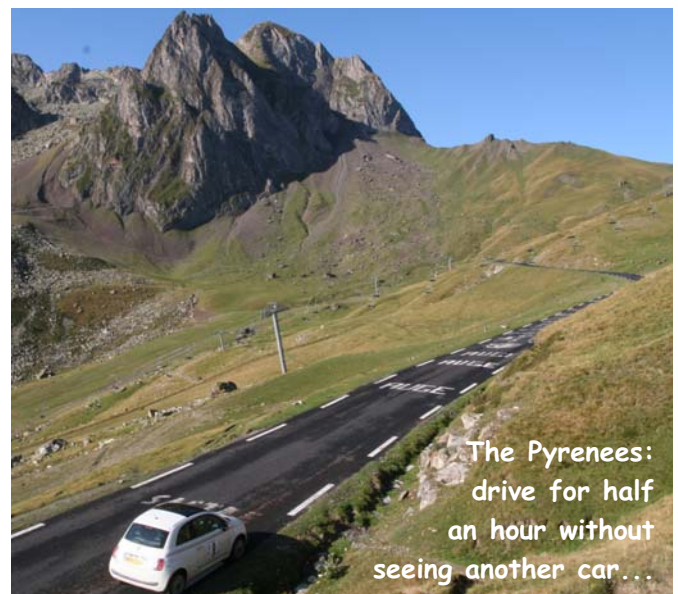
There's no point being coy about this: some critical reports have been written about the French Motorail service. Well, we can't speak for the Calais-Nice service, which is the one usually reviewed. But we can say that the Calais-Toulouse service exceeded our expectations and the benefits of being able to get on the train at Calais on a Friday evening and wake up in Toulouse on Saturday morning, then a week later load up your car at Toulouse on Saturday evening and arrive at Calais on Sunday morning, far outweigh the limited comfort inevitable in a railway sleeping compartment. The

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LIEGE -  
BRESCIA-LIEGE

POUR VOITURES JUSQUE 700cm<sup>3</sup>

1958 \_ ROYAL MOTOR UNION \_ 2008



The Pyrenees:  
drive for half  
an hour without  
seeing another car...



Stunning hairpin roads and hilltop mediaeval castles: what more could you ask for on a rally?

staff, both French and English, are friendly and helpful, there is a bar on the train and it's a great deal quieter in the sleeping compartments than I recall from the London-Leuchars sleeper when I went up to university in the 1980s...

And as for the roads... We can confidently say that we have a real treat lined up for you micro rallyists in 2009. We're not just doing the Pyrenees - a full week in the mountains would become gruelling even for you hardy types. We aim to give you a taste of South West France and North East Spain, a big dollop of the Pyrenees and a sip of both the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas. We stay in superb hotels in fascinating cities, we've found some even bigger and better kart circuits for tests than on LBL and we visit places that will have you marvelling at the panoply of history around you...

At Tarragona, we stay in a hotel overlooking the Mediterranean - the only thing between us and the sea is an incredibly well-preserved Roman amphitheatre. At Morella, we visit an ancient town still surrounded by its original mediaeval walls, complete with a Roman aqueduct stretching across the valley. At Belchite, we get a dose of more recent history, for it was the scene of one of the most bloody battles of the Spanish Civil War in August/September 1937. The entire town, held by 7000 of Franco's Nationalist troops, was destroyed by a much larger Republican force including American troops and Russian-supplied aircraft. Franco later declared the ruined town - where contemporary reports claimed half a million people died - to be left untouched as a monument of war. Now, half overgrown, it is a sobering place to visit and the energy of war has allegedly still left its traces,



These roads were made for microcars...



Sheep's cheese is the only product for sale on the mountain tops...



Belchite: a tragic and moving place

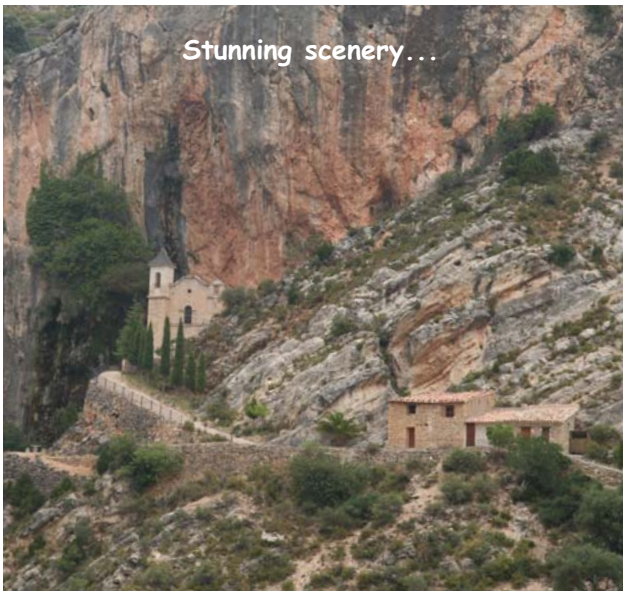
psychic researches recording distant sounds of gunfire, bombs exploding and aircraft flying over in the dead of night...

And the roads... Just unbelievable. I have never seen such deserted roads, anywhere. Even in the wilds of South America, there was more traffic than on most of the roads we found on this recce. You can drive for half an hour without seeing another car. And forget sat nav - we take you on roads that aren't even on the map, let alone the sat nav! To give the proper flavour of rallying as it was in 1958 (for we are still celebrating that pioneering LBL), we've found some dirt roads too - nothing that will damage your car, these are incredibly smooth, just making for a new experience and stunning photographs. The Pyrenees have passes that are a match for anything you saw in the Dolomites (splendid though those were), the biggest difference being that where at the top you might have expected a gift shop, here you will find a hand-written sign " Q u e s o , F r o m a g e " beside a dirt track leading to a small hut. Follow it and



Photo controls will include a dip in the Atlantic...

you can buy for a few euros a huge chunk of delicious sheep's cheese the like of which you've never tasted before. A perfect supplement to those packed lunches, eaten in rustic peace on the mountain top where wild horses roam and vultures fly...



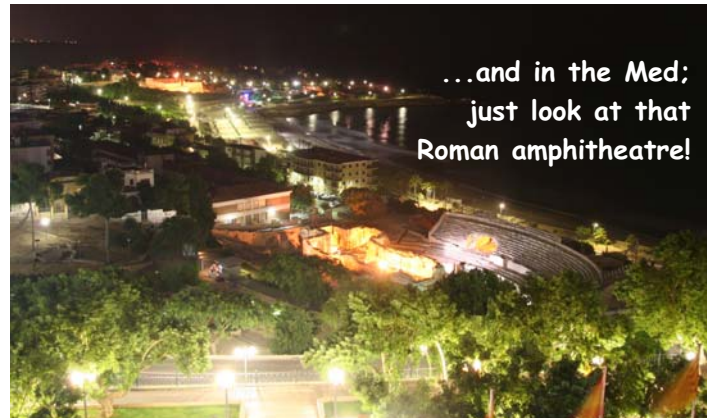
Stunning scenery...

For the climax of the rally, we have something really special. Carcassonne is a World Heritage Site, an incredibly unspoilt mediaeval hilltop fortress town in France. All the walls are intact, as are most of the buildings inside and it is the most incredible place to visit. Normally you cannot drive into the city - but we will, and better still, we will stay at the only two hotels inside the ancient city walls. A truly unforgettable experience!



Roads a match for any in the Dolomites...

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...and in the Med; just look at that Roman amphitheatre!

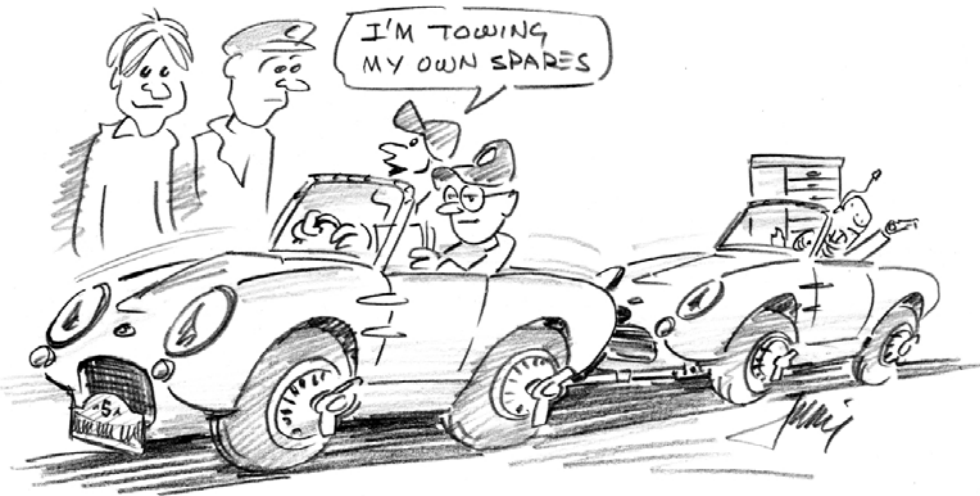
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This rally is not intended to leave you as utterly exhausted as LBL did in 2008, even for drivers of the smallest microcars. The days are shorter, the routes more varied and the photo controls more imaginative: yes, we do expect to see you dipping your toes in the Atlantic AND the Mediterranean. And there will be a free day at the end, to enjoy the spectacular finish location...



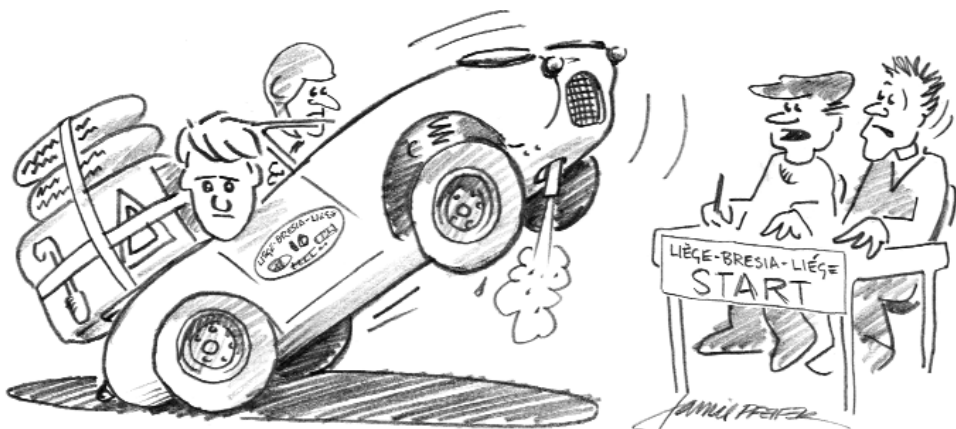
...and an incredible finish location!

All that we need to do now is to finish costing the event so that you can all be sure it'll fit in your budgets for 2009 - and get the Regs and Entry Forms out to you so you can get your entries in. Unfortunately, at the time of writing we still have too many unknowns on cost to confirm the entry fee for sure, but we are reasonably confident we can deliver the whole rally including Motorail for approx £2750, maybe £2250 without the Motorail: watch this space!



We can confirm that we definitely WILL be running the rally, so book those dates in your diary now: Friday September 4, arrive at Calais in the afternoon for signing on, scrutineering and loading onto the train (we will arrange parking for tow vehicles); Saturday September 5, rally starts in Toulouse (we will have extra sign-on/scrutineering at Toulouse for anyone joining us there); Friday September 11, rally ends at Carcassonne; Saturday September 12, free day to enjoy Carcassonne, meet at Toulouse Motorail station in the evening; Sunday September 13, train arrives back at Calais early morning - breakfast and depart.

The format of the rally will be exactly as LBL in terms of scoring, navigational challenge, endurance and the provision of top hotels and all meals including lunches. As before, there will be a luggage van and mechanical back-up, maps will be provided as well as rally plates, side stickers and full route instructions.



**LBL cartoons**

A big Thank You to graphic artist Jamie Pfeifer, from USA, driver of one of the Berkeley B95s on LBL 2008, who sent in these superb cartoons before and after the event. Jamie's great sense of humour shines through and the content is of course inspired by real life, the first two by the

lengthy discussions among Berkeley crews about just what spares they should take as a group, the last by bitter experience, confirmed by anyone who saw the Berkeley owners at work on their cars during the event!

**Rally plates, Plaques and Door Stickers**

Many people have asked about availability of the Rally plates, Door Stickers and Finishers' Plaques (see page 1) from Liège-Brescia-Liège 2008. The answer is that we do still have a few, but have very limited stocks and when all have gone, there will be no more: so, if you want one, move fast! Some have asked for maps: sorry, we have none.

Prices are £20 for each item, plus postage (£2 UK, £5 elsewhere, for 1 or more items). To order, email, write or phone with your credit card details (card number, expiry date and security code), or send a cheque drawn on a UK bank.

Apologies for the slow response of late to photo and plate/plaque/sticker orders: the recce was too closely followed by Goodwood Revival and then illness, but we're fighting fit now!



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