

## **Minis to Ireland Final Newsletter**

With less than three weeks to go, final preparations are going on in readiness for what will, we are sure, be a great event. We will be running 31 cars owing to a few last minute withdrawals but this is quite enough to provide a superb event with a wide selection of cars and entrants to share your experiences with.

The final recce was completed last week when Hugh and Robert checked the entire route. The roadbook is now at the printers and will be dispatched by first class post at least a week before we start at Fishguard.

Most of you will be starting from Fishguard but one Irish and two Scottish entrants will be joining us in Ireland. At Fishguard we will issue you with your rally plates, ferry tickets, two fleeces and some stickers. The crossing to Rosslare takes 3½ hours, enough for you to have lunch, meet other entrants, enjoy the facilities on-board or even take a rest in a cabin. On arrival in Rosslare at 6 p.m. it is a 53 mile run to our hotel in Arklow so we will need to get a move on to be in time for a 9 p.m. dinner, but some of it is motorway.

This year the roadbook is hand written, so as not to risk errors of transcription putting it into a computer programme, but we think you will find this is more than acceptable. The roadbook will also include a copy of an OS map for each day with the route marked including any Circuit of Ireland stages highlighted. Additionally, each day will have a page of narrative giving the start time of the first car, the time that we are expected at the coffee and lunch stops and the time expected at the finish.

Please try to support the coffee and lunch establishments we have provided for you along the route, as they will be expecting us. We would also ask that cars start at 1 minute intervals each day, as set out in the starting order. This will reduce the impact of 30 plus cars all heading off at once and will also help other road users. Of course we understand that some may wish to travel together in small groups and this we are happy to accommodate but please respect the time schedule laid down and would ask that no car leaves the start or any stops until car 0 has departed.

At each hotel we have also arranged dedicated parking, so that we should put on a good show for all to see. We have also arranged to all sit together in a separate area in the hotel's restaurant or function room so that we do not disturb other guests.

We do have one long day on the event, which is needed to get down from the north to the superb south west corner of Ireland. We have tried to keep this to a minimum but it is a necessity. All other days are easier and we have provided two circular route days where those wanting a break from driving can have a day off for sightseeing or making use of the hotel's leisure facilities. Whatever you choose, you won't be disappointed.

Robert Young

Hugh Wyllie

Peter Moss