



Editorial



In this first edition of our magazine for the New Year, you can find further contributions about last year's Ten Countries Run, another of Andrew Pearce's hair-raising experiences on the Continent, this time whilst taking part in the Champagne Rally, also Andrew's advice on preparing your car for competition, a "Valve Bounce" feature on the front wheel drive cars, a Steve Waddingham Spitfire tour, some more McGrath Acclaim activities and advice and our usual items and show reports. Talking about shows, we have again been allocated a stand at the *Classic Cars Live* show at the Alexandra Palace on 20/21 March and you can make a big saving by ordering your tickets in advance. The NEC show in November is to be held over three days this time which would stretch the expenses for van hire and hotel accommodation, so the Committee will have to take a decision on whether to attend.



Entries are coming in steadily for our Nineteenth 48 Hour 2000 Mile Round Britain Reliability Run from London to John O'Groats to Land's End to London and we can publish the Entry List as it stood on deadline day, 15 December. Organiser Tim Bancroft has slightly revised the entry form to request a bit more information and the map has been altered to show some route changes. In addition there was an error in the table of model representation in previous runs and this has been corrected. Because of all this the relevant four pages are repeated this month to include these changes. Once again, if you don't want to cut up your magazine either Tim or myself can send you copies of the relevant four pages on request.



On the Local Groups front, as reported in December's newsletter, Jeff Cox has felt it necessary to discontinue the meetings of the West Lancs Group due to lack of support from members in the north west. What happened to all those who were so enthusiastic in the earlier years? There is a new Middlesex Group based on the Ace Cafe on the North Circular Road and Kev Todd has moved the Essex meetings to Thundersley. Incidentally Kev is recovering from two crashes sustained during banger racing and we wish him well for a quick return to full activity – not necessarily including such racing! Also congratulations to Southern Group members who raised £77 for our 2004 charity Children with Leukaemia during their Tinsel Run in November. See the Area Reports for details of the activities of our other groups – at least those who managed to meet the deadline!



Elsewhere in the magazine you will find a message from the Chairman explaining the change in status of the Club to a Limited Company – limited by guarantee and having no share capital. This is a development motivated mainly by a desire to protect the membership in these litigious days and should make no difference to the running of the Club which will still be undertaken by the same band of unpaid volunteers.



Cover Photograph: This month our cover photograph shows the award-winning Dolomite Sprint owned by Len Hughes (01441) from Horndean in Hampshire. (Photo by Tony Baker/*Classic & Sports Car*)