Jul 29, 2016 00:01 BST

RAC Rally of the Tests to use oldest motor sport venue in the world

The return of one of the most iconic and famous rallies in the world, The RAC Rally of the Tests, in November 2016 will fittingly include a visit to the oldest active motor sport venue in the world – the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb.

Rally organisers HERO Events have confirmed the historic Midland Automobile Club venue in Worcestershire, which first staged the Shelsley Walsh Speed Hill Climb in 1905, will be one of the rally's 30 driving test locations.

Rally competitors will take on the notoriously steep and narrow hill climb on Saturday 5 November – day two of the rally which starts in Bournemouth the day before and finishes in Chester on Sunday 6 November. All 100 historic vehicles will tackle Shelsley Walsh's 328-feet elevation which has an average 1 in 9 gradient, and is a testing 1 in 6 at its steepest and just 12 feet wide at its narrowest.

The venue provides a fantastic setting for spectators to get a close look at some truly outstanding classic vehicles including several 'works' vehicles such as 6 EMO, a works replica used by Paddy Hopkirk to win the Pirelli Classic Marathon in 1990, and BRX 852B, the Austin-Healey 3000 that was used also by Hopkirk as well as Rauno Aaltonen in the 1960s.

HERO Events chairman Tomas de Vargas Machuca said: "For classic car fans and those interested in motor sport, this will be a rare opportunity to see these period vehicles competing on what is widely regarded as one of the most iconic venues in the world. First used in 1905, Shelsley Walsh still uses the exact same hill and route today, and is spoken about in reverant tones by those who know its history."

Midland Automobile Club commercial manager Mark Constanduros added: “We are delighted to continue our strong relationship with HERO Events and look forward to welcoming the RAC Rally of the Tests to Shelsley Walsh. The hill climb is the oldest motor sport venue in the world on its original course and also where most car manufacturers either tested or competed their cars, or were some way involved with the early days of the MAC. So to be involved with this event, the RAC and the Royal Automobile Club, is a great fit for us and we look forward to welcoming everyone here later in the year.”

Notes to Editors

About the RAC

With more than eight million members, the RAC is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist’s champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level, including advancing levels of road safety, supporting the needs of young drivers and voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring. The RAC’s annual Report on Motoring – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today’s motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check RAC Fuel Watch or follow #racfuelwatch on Twitter. This is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on

average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts

RAC Press Office

Press office team
Press Contact
For journalist enquiries only
Emails monitored during normal office hours
press.office@rac.co.uk
ISDN number on request