

# OBITUARY



## Chris Towers 1950-2017

Chris started his rallying interests early whilst at university and as Chairman of the University of Bradford Motor Club was behind the organisation of the Berwick Trophy Rally in the heydays of road rallying in the seventies. It was also where he

met his future wife, Linda, who soon became his co-driver and they enjoyed some success on club events.

On moving to Essex for a job with Ford Motor Company he joined West Essex Car Club and now found himself more in the left hand seat tackling events such as the Scottish with Tim Morris in a RS2000. His work at Ford had led him into the emerging world of microcomputers and in 1979 he formed his own company, Selven Systems Ltd. His business demands and the arrival of two daughters meant a temporary retirement from motor sport, although he kept in touch and started one of his many classic car restorations which emerged on the 1996 Norwich Union Run. This gentle style of motorsport led to tackling the Classic Malts Rally in 1999 which he convinced me was an extended jaunt around Scotland for 10 days and would I like to drive his Mk2 Jaguar for him? The jaunt proved to be challenging with both a car and crew not fully prepared and the entire car being rebuilt in a car park on the Isle of Skye half way through the event but a finish was achieved.

He now had been bitten by the bug and an Alfa Romeo Giulia Coupe was acquired. He self-prepared the car and it became a familiar entry on many of the HERO longer distance events including London to Lisbon, Winter Challenge and Classic Marathons. His preference for co-driving meant he generously allowed me and others to be the 'chauffeur'.

In 2003 we entered the Emerald Isle, based in Dublin, which we finished fourth and then won in 2004. He loved the country and soon joined in 'the craic' with the Irish competitors, returning to co-drive for them and also in the UK. Chris and Tom Callanan regularly took part in the Rally of the Tests, achieving notable success in Tom's TR4 as well as his 30/98 in more vintage events.

Sadly Chris was diagnosed with MND late last year but he still returned to take part in the Gordon Bennett event. He maintained his dignity and always managed a smile even if he could not talk. His mind was active to the end and he made sure his written instructions were carried out, especially where maintenance work was needed on his cars!

We have lost a generous and well loved person but judging by the rally plates on his last transport and the large numbers of friends and family at his funeral he will not be forgotten.

*Robin Morgan - Brother-in-law and part time chauffeur*