



Press Release nr. 6

10th October 2017



FANTASTIC PARADE OF WORLD CHAMPIONS FOR COLIN MC RAE TRIBUTE AND A HIGH QUALITY ENTRY LIST: THE SPARKLING PREMISES FOR RALLYLEGEND 2017

Republic of San Marino. We are now near the countdown for Rallylegend 15TH edition, which will take place in the Republic of San Marino from next 18th to 22nd October.

Everybody can't wait, several tens of thousands of spectators from around the world are ready for the approaching march, the staff is in looking forward to offering a high level event.

Two core events of 2017 edition: the "**Colin Mc Rae Tribute**", ten years since the death of the Scottish champion, and the **rally**, History on special stages with the most important cars and so many drivers. There are one hundred and forty participants, fifty-five coming from twenty Nations other than Italy and San Marino. The **Historic**, the pioneering era queens, the **Myth**, recent generation cars, the **WRC-KIT**, the fascinating progenitors of the current World Rally Car, categories crossed by the **Legend Stars**, a catwalk with no time counting, cars which made the history of rally, including the ever-enticing and powerful "Group B" of the 80s.

Luxury forerunner will be **Alister Mc Rae** and **Derek Ringer**, with Subaru Legacy Group A.

HERE THE LIST OF WORLD CHAMPIONS PRESENT AT "COLIN MC RAE TRIBUTE"

It's an appeal that gives the chills. Almost all the World Rally Champions answered "present" at Rallylegend's and Colin Mc Rae Tribute's call.

Sebastian Loeb (Citroen C4 WRC), **Sebastien Ogier** (VW Polo R WRC), **Stig Blomqvist** (Audi Quattro S1), **Miki Biasion** (Lancia Delta Integrale) were the first to confirm their enthusiastic participation to the memory of their great and unlucky colleague. To these fantastic four added up **Juha Kankkunen** (Lancia Delta Integrale), **Tommi Makinen** (Mitsubishi Lancer), **Marcus Gronholm** (Peugeot 206 WRC), **Ari Vatanen** (Ford Escort RS), **Timo Salonen** (Peugeot 205 T16), **Didier Auriol** (Lancia Celta), **Petter Solberg** (Subaru Impreza WRC). Among the World Champions, with their FIA titles in 1977 and 1978, there will also be **Sandro Munari** (Lancia Stratos), the co-drivers **Hans Thorszelius** for Bjorn Waldegaard and **Robert Reid** for Richard Burns, representing big drivers unfortunately disappeared. A platoon of champions that, to date, had never been seen together. With **Carlos Sainz** who will be present online, with Skype connection during the Conference, and **Luis Moya** representing him personally.

For two days, Saturday 21st and Sunday, October 22nd, all these rally giants will be at Rallylegend, for the "*Colin McRae Tribute*" conference, for the *Champions for a Champion Parade*, the parade with the car with which they won the world titles, and the "*Colin's Parade*", the parade of the most important cars driven by the late Scottish champion. For the latter event, the guest stars will be **Alister McRae**, driving the Subaru Legacy of the brother's world career beginning and daddy **Jimmy Mc Rae** at the wheel of a Ford Sierra Cosworth, along with Kris Meeke, honored to drive the Citroen Xsara WRC, driven in time by Colin Mc Rae. There will also be Colin's co-drivers **Derek Ringer**, at Rallylegend as forerunner with Alister Mc Rae, and **Nicky Grist**. Exceptional spectator, who strongly wanted to be present, **Alison**, wife of the unforgettable Colin Mc Rae.

Justified absents, even though initially they had given their firm will to participate to the initiative, **Hannu Mikkola** and **Walter Rohrl**, for not postponable later commitments, while **Markku Alen**, also among the consents of the first hour, then made different choices.

“We knew it would be a titanic enterprise gathering all these champions,” comments Vito Piarulli, *though with an important purpose as a tribute to Colin Mc Rae. Along with Luis Moya, our special correspondent among these champions, we are still pleased to having received so much enthusiasm from the myths of the rally. Having almost everyone in San Marino, together with Colin Mc Rae’s family, is a great achievement for us”.*

LEGEND STARS, SHOW IN THE SHOW, WITH BIASION, BLOMQVIST, MEEKE AND NAVARRA

Miki Biasion, at Lancia 037, and **Stig Blomqvist**, next to Wolf Dieter Ihle, with the Audi Quattro S1. Two big rally names will be the guest stars among the Legend Stars, the big show for Rallylegend enthusiasts. Joined by **Kris Meeke**, Citroen’s Rally 2017 official driver, four victories today in world championship races, opting for pure fun, using the Citroen C4 WRC, **Andrea Navarra**, formerly Italian champion, at the wheel of the Ford Fiesta R5 of the last generation. Show enriched by the presence of **Frank Kelly** (Ford Escort MK2), the driver-journalist **Michael Gerber**, along with **Peter Thul**, Skoda Communications Manager, **Carlo Falcone** (Lancia Delta Integrale), Italian Consul in Antigua, autocross champion **Manfred Pommer** (Audi Quattro), **Paolo Valli**, chairman of the Sammarinese Automotoristic Federation, on the road with Lancia Delta S4. From circuit races _ Italia GT Championship – arrives **Emanuele Zonzini**, here with a Subaru Impreza group N ex-Longhi.

HISTORIC, RALLYLEGEND QUEEN CATEGORY: TONY FASSINA (LANCIA STRATOS) AMONG THE STARS

The queen category of Rallylegend, **Historic**, sees a great group of great names and legendary cars, with the start opened by British **Louise Aitken-Walker**, winner of the World Dame title in 1990, holding excellent placements in the English Championship, who will be at the wheel of a Talbot Sunbeam group 2. Besides, the former many times European and Italian champion **Tony Fassina**, with Lancia Stratos, **Simone Campedelli**, one of the most prominent players of the Italian Rally Championship, with a Ford Escort Rs 1.6 Mk2, **Riccardo Errani** (Lancia Delta 16V), who will face a strenuous patrol of drivers from San Marino, led by **Marco Bianchini** (Lancia 037), **Giuliano Calzolari**, always fast with the Ford Escort Rs and **Davide Cesarini** (Ford Escort Rs 1600). **Marco De Marco** is back at the wheel of an Audi Four A2 while young **Alberto Battistolli** debuts at Rallylegend, the son of art (his father is “Lucky”) who has already showed good things with the Fiat 131 Abarth.

“LUCKY”, TRELLES, NOBERASCO AND RIOLO CHALLENGE AMONG THE “MYTH”

All to be followed the challenge among the “Myth” with Lucky Battistolli’s Lancia Delta Integrale, many times European and Italian champion with “historical” and of the Uruguayan **Gustavo Trelles**, formerly many times world champion in the Tourism Series. Shocking opponents will certainly be **“Totò” Riolo** (Subaru Legacy) and **Gabriele Noberasco**, who comes with the Bmw M3, the same car that Fabrizio Colombi will use, a well-known driver-car preparer. Valuable representative of San Marino, **Marcello Colombini** (Bmw M3) and **Loris Baldacci** (Renault Clio Williams). The former Italian champion **Chantal Galli** has now become an affectionate of Rallylegend with the Lancia Delta 16V.

PIERO LONGHI, ANDREA AGHINI AND MARTIN PROKOP PROTAGONISTS IN WRC-KIT

Piero Longhi, former Italian rally champion, with a Toyota Corolla WRC, **Andrea Aghini**, who was Italian champion too and came back for this rally, with Citroen Xsara WRC and **Martin Prokop**, a good Czech Rally World Championship driver, on the road with the Citroen C2 S1600 Kit, are the two prominent names among the twenty WRC-KIT, with the other Czech **Stepan Vojtech** (Peugeot 206 WRC) to keep an eye on. The South American champion **Ricardo Triviño**, however, from far Mexico, many times champion of the Nacam Rally Championship, under the auspices of FIA, at Rallylegend with a Peugeot 206 WRC

THE WEB SITE WWW.RALLYLEGEND.COM REFERENCE POINT

www.rallylegend.com is the official information point on everything about the San Marino event. The site is constantly updated with all communications, addresses and news regarding Rallylegend.
On Facebook: Rallylegend Official Facebook Page.

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