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**Porsche Club GB South Wales Region**

**Presents**

**An Evening with Stuart Turner**

**Friday 23rd March 2018**

**In a sound bite made during the mid 1960’s, Stuart Turner, popularly acknowledged as BMC’s most successful competitions manager was quoted as saying, *“Porsche were absolutely right in their motor sport policy – for which, relief and much thanks are due because if they’d been as serious about rallying as they were about sports car racing, the history of the sport would have been very different and I’d have had even more grey hairs than I have now!”***

**Despite coming from a non-motoring family, Stuart Turner began his lifelong interest in motor sport during the 1950s following a chance outing in the rear seat of a car competing on a short club rally and that ignited his enthusiasm, leading to him competing in 60 events in his first year; sometimes three in a weekend! He was champion navigator for the first two years of the British Rally Championship 1958/59 first with Ron Gouldbourn in a Triumph TR3A and then John Sprinzel in an Austin Healey Sprite.**

**Stuart quickly progressed to co-driving factory cars for Austin Healey, Auto Union, Alfa Romeo, MG, Mercedes, Saab and Triumph on major events like the Mille Miglia, Monte Carlo, Alpine, Liege and Tulip rallies. He won the grueling 1960 RAC Rally with the great Erik Carlsson in a two-stroke Saab 96, famously calling rally navigators and co-drivers "high speed office managers" and he should know, he became one of the best, becoming so consumed in rallying that he rejected a respectable career in accountancy to become Sports Editor of ‘Motoring News’, where he created the popular MN Rally Championship. He was then recruited by Marcus Chambers; then BMC Competition Manager, to replace him when he joined the Rootes team and Stuart went on to famously manage the quintessentially British rally team and helped develop the Mini Cooper ‘S’ into a regular international rally winner, including 3 Monte Carlo Rally wins; it should have been 4 but for the Machiavellian French Scrutineers tactics of 1966!**

**Part way through 1967 Stuart moved to Castrol as Publicity Manager where he began the motor club support programme of quizzes etc and was a prominent organising committee member and traveling marshal on the London to Sydney Marathon. He then became Competitions Manager at Ford of Britain when the Escort was supreme and he also ran the Advanced Vehicle Operations factory making Escort Mexicos and RS2000s. After a spell as Director of Public Affairs at Ford of Britain, he moved back into the sport as Director of Motorsport for Ford of Europe where he initiated the Sierra Cosworth, RS200 and Escort Cosworth before retiring.**

**Stuart was awarded an Autosport Award in 1990 and the Prince Michael Award of Merit in 2009, both for services to motor sport. He is the author of over 20 books on motor sport, business and public speaking, including a biography of Pat Moss-Carlsson entitled Harnessing Horsepower. He has also written a Haynes Manual, not on Minis or Escorts but on Retirement, although he shows little signs of doing so himself as he is heavily involved with the Motorsport Safety Fund, a charity producing films and publications to help keep the sport safe. He is the winner of the 1988 Benedictine After Dinner Speaker of the Year Award and does not charge a fee or expenses for his globally acclaimed talks, preferring any proceeds go to his chosen charity, currently Jackie Stewart's ‘Race Against Dementia charity’.**

**‘Autosport’ magazine’s roving rally correspondent was quoted as saying, *"Stuart Turner's addresses are unsurpassed, indeed I recall being at a dinner when a well-known international actor and celebrity, generally considered as a raconteur without peer, tried unsuccessfully to follow the wily Ford executive!”***

**This event is unmissable for anyone interested in motoring and motorsport …**

***Caption for attached image L-R: Barrie Williams, Mini Racer & Rally driver, Stuart Turner, Shaun Martin Chairman International Rally Drivers Club outside PCGB Cornbury House with an ex-works Mini Cooper S.***