

# Woolbridge Motor Club



## SAINT TROPEZ OR BUST

Club members Rod Thorne and Chris Roberts embark upon charity event in 1500 mile drive through eight countries in seven days

Long-standing club members and navigational rally competitors Rod Thorne and Chris Roberts are embarking on a seven day charity drive starting at Charlestown Quay near St Austell and finishing in St Tropez six days later having visited eight countries along the way.

For most club members Rod is best known for his speed hillclimb exploits in both his Pilbeam MP43 sports racer and on three wheels aboard his Honda powered Derbyshire sidecar unit but the Frampton Garage proprietor also competes in navigational rallies, currently with a Triumph TR7 but prior to that at the wheel of another sportscar an MG TF and it is the MG which has been pressed into service for this latest driving challenge having completed a similar event, the Maidstone to Monaco, back in 2019.

Chris will occupy the lefthand seat and is no stranger to the navigator/co-driver role having competed in Woolbridge events as far back as the early 1970s with Graham Salter and then Bob Mace in the latter's Renault 8. The proprietor of Hogleaze Haylage and Hardyes Country Camping having successfully guided his driver through the 2019 event hopes "to repeat that performance and reach the world renowned mediterranean resort" which is now the playground of rap stars and international socialites.

The Dorset duo will make their way from the start on Saturday morning (September 23rd) and then take a cross-channel ferry onto the continent. The crews are unaware of the route apart from the fact that they will travel through eight countries and visit the daunting 4.3 mile Le Circuit De Spa Francorchamps race circuit which will have just hosted the European Le Mans Series sports car championship. Each day the organisers will issue a route and a meeting point to be achieved by the evening.



Rod and Chris make final preparations with the MG TF

To follow the fifty-three crews participating in the driving challenge visit the Saint Tropez or Bust 2023 Facebook page. The organiser have donated £1.7m over ten years to Cornish charities but Rod and Chris are raising funds for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and have accordingly set-up a Just Giving page to facilitate donations. If you would like to support their efforts then visit

[www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

and enter Christopher Roberts into the search panel at the top of the page and then click the 'Fundraisers;' button. Scroll down a page or two and you will see the pair with the MG TF.

Alternatively scan the QR code below.

Scan QR code to support the fundraising of Rod and Chris for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance



Regular mount for Rod Thorne is the 5.0 litre Rover V8 powered Pilbeam MP43 sports racer.

