

2CV France 2011: a huge success for the ACI Event of the Year



"5000 Cars? Are you kidding? We've got to raise the bar! And make the 2CV Mondiale in France the biggest gathering of 2CVs that ever was!

This conversation between the President of 2CV France 2011 and the President of the ACI took place in October 2010; neither one of them imagined that this figure of 5000 would be surpassed, and by a wide margin: 7034 2CVs and derivatives from all over the world were registered for the Mondiale which took place in Salbris from July 26 to 31 this year; Not to mention a few gate crashers.....

A great homage was paid to the 2CV in its native country by around 17,000 participants and close to 10,000 day visitors. On eighty hectares (nearly 200 acres) transformed by the Municipality of Salbris - which even built a bridge to link the two banks of the Sauldre river which crosses this former golf course - were gathered cars, campers, merchants, restaurants, clubs Special activities marked the five days for the very great pleasure of the 2CV fans: cache-culbuteur races (fancifully designed miniature cars with set specifications roll down an elevated track.- First to the bottom wins); dismantling and reassembling 2CVs in a record time; driving school in a 2CV. mechanical work shops; presentation of electric 2CVs and not to mention the discos in the evening.



Worthy of special mention:

- The museum set up with Citroën: beautiful and rare cars, well described and displayed.
- Exhibits of special series (France 3, Dolly...) Each one more dazzling than the other.
- The patience for the volunteers, in spite of a few troublemakers among the participants.

The 2cv France 2011 team, headed by its President Christian Courte spared no effort to prepare this unique Event and set up a very professional structure with dedicated working groups, an internal Google Group communication tool, a budget follow up process with constant updates... Periodic meetings took place over a 2 year period and finally a team of some 400 volunteers were ready on the D Day.

The ACI was represented by Didier Parjadis and Walter Homberger as well as our English friends from the ICCCR 2012 who manned our stand and made an enormous number of contacts for their event in Harrogate next year. Our Norwegian delegate, Arno Lund and our Italian delegates Maurizio Marini and Guido Wilhelm were also in attendance.



The official Citroën stand, under the leadership of Denis Huille, Manager of Heritage well known to the Citroën community, attracted numerous visitors and participants: notably for the display of the prototype of the Révolte - whose lines are reminiscent of the 2CV as well as the concept car DS 3 WRC and a sports car driving simulator run by the genial race car driver David Henry. Beside a DS 4 were four shiny 2CVs for press reviews and a delight for the journalists and VIPs who had the opportunity to drive them. The friendly staff of the Conservatoire were present as well and operated a well received Citroën boutique. We are pleased to see that at present time our Event of the Year is on Citroën website : <http://www.citroen.fr/home/#/actualite-news/pop/actualites/rassemblement-2CV/>



In spite of the support of the Sous Préfet, the local Deputy of the National Assembly and the Mayor, the very size of this gathering created a few problems for organizers and participants: a record traffic jam at the entrance on the evening of July 26; the tactless behavior of some groups and the difficulty of managing such a huge crowd while respecting all the safety rules. But, on the whole, the participants were extremely pleased and this world meeting will remain in their memories as a unique event, worthy of the record books. The ACI can only congratulate the delegates for selecting the Event of the year 2011. Let us also congratulate the organizers, who, though their task was daunting, knew how to meet the challenge with their teams of volunteers.

The next World Meeting will take place in Spain at Alcaniz between Barcelona and Saragossa, from July 31 to August 4th 2013; let us wish good luck to the promoters of the event whom we were unfortunately unable to meet, in spite of their presence on site, and with whom we must finalize certain details before having our delegates vote on their candidacy for the Event of the Year.

Far-sighted 2CV fans are already thinking of 2015: after a very active campaign on the part of the Slovenians and the Polish - the latter group was finally chosen.

No doubt that the bar was set very high by the French in 2011 ; but the future organizers of 2cv Worldmeetings can also learn from this experience, even from the encountered difficulties : this can only encourage the constant improvement of this type of rally and head in the direction of the policy of quality of our association, the Amicale Citroën Internationale.

Well done everyone!

Didier Parjadis

President - ACI



Amicale Citroën Internationale
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