



Editorial from Jean-Marc Laffont

L'Association Circuit des Remparts President

In 1938, a group of automobile enthusiasts gathered together in the "l'Automobile Club des Deux-Sevres, Charente et Vendee" to organise a speed event called "Circuit Automobile des Remparts", to commence on Sunday 2nd July 1939. As the name suggests, the Route chosen was to snake around the "Cite des Valois", in the walls of the Old town.

The "Automobile Club de Deux-Sevres Charente et Vendee", amongst all the possible sites and thanks to it being naturally hilly, allows a crowd to perch on the foothills, or sit in the Stands and have exceptional visibility.

On the 2nd July 1939, as Europe was already trembling at the sound of marching boots, National and Local drivers arrived for the meeting. 20,000 spectators are there to watch Raymond Sommer cross the line to finish first.

Unfortunately the start of the hostilities, deprived the Circuit des Remparts of the success that it seemed to promise, at least to the level of street circuits like Pau, or even Monaco.

After the War, restarting would be slow. However, despite more essential preoccupations, spectators and participants arrived in 1947, for cars and then motorbikes. In 1955, following the terrible accident at Le Mans, the Angouleme Event was cancelled.

Happily, Angouleme has passion and the Circuit des Remparts was reborn.

Today it's an unmissable event on the Classic International Calender. This incredible achievement is the result of passion and commitment shown by all Competitors, our growing number of Sponsors, a generous and enthusiastic public, local institutions and communities and in particular the Mayor of Angouleme, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Thanks to them, thanks to you all, the Circuit des Remparts can celebrate it's 80th Anniversary, with an enthusiasm and a vitality that without doubt, it's never had.

At 80 years old, the Circuit des Remparts has never been so young ! In September, come to Angouleme, to take our elixir of youth !

Jean-Marc Laffont

Association du Circuit des Remparts d'Angouleme President