



1978 Mercedes W116 280S Classic Rally Car

PRICE £17,995



ABOUT THIS CAR

Mercedes-Benz introduced the W116 280S in 1972 which notably was the predecessor of the S-Class or the "Special Class" and was the marques flagship luxury car, fitted with ride smoothing coil springs all round and disc brakes as standard, in 1978 the W116 became the first mass produced car to have Bosch electronic anti-lock braking as an option.

From the same ingredients in 1977 a Mercedes 280 driven by rallying exponent Andrew Cowan won what was and still is regarded by many as the toughest endurance rally in the world – the London to Sydney Marathon. Mercedes celebrated four top ten finishers crossing the finish line after 30,000 KM's of some of the toughest roads and hardest conditions thrown at all the entrants. This underpins the strength and engineering in the Mercedes product at the time through to current times.

This "gentleman's rally car" was destined for the South African market so left the factory in Germany fitted with RHD configuration, Air Conditioning, uprated road springs, a standard but rare manual gearbox (which is ideal for rallying) and a factory fitted sump guard which it still carries today; what more needs to be said about the rally heritage already factored in at the start of its life!

The car has recorded 103,800 kms (64,500 miles) on its straight six 2,746 cc carburetor fed series M110 engine. This is the same series power unit as used in the Mercedes works supported cars mentioned already that entered and won the 1977 London to Sydney Marathon.

Successfully campaigned on some tougher events including problem free outings twice on the LeJog rally and a notable 3rd in class finish on the 2017 14-day Baltic Classic Rally, all these events trouble-free which further examples the over-engineering the Mercedes brand champions.

Modifications have been subtly made for regularity use with a Brantz meter Rally Timer, both tastefully and professionally fitted up inside the glovebox so they are out of sight when not needed.

Other rally mods include a battery master cut out switch, twin coils, fire extinguisher, stronger towing points, mud flaps and commercial specification tyres offering those all-important long distance rally stronger side walls. The vendor commissioned the black bonnet wrap for the Baltic rally (which can be easily removed if needed) and for that all important added comfort on the longer events tailor-made lambskin seat covers for both driver and passenger were also commissioned - warm in winter, cool in summer!

Other creature comforts include original carpet mats, central locking, electric windows, power steering and the original Becker Monza radio cassette all once more confirming it's a Mercedes-Benz – Its over 40 years old and everything still works!

The car is to be sold with a sensible selection of rally spares - alternator, fuel pump, ignition leads and cap, rotor arm, plugs, hoses and brake pads and comes with the original tool roll too!

This car can be used immediately as it stands today – rally ready as the "gentleman's rally car" that it has been for some time perfect for regularity events or tours, or maybe a new owner might commission further preparation works for more robust event work which we would be happy to advise on - or one could simply enjoy this Special Class car as it is.

The car is currently with Rally Preparation Services sister Company, the SASCo storage facility and available for inspection.

All viewings and test drives welcomed through direct contact with Rally Preparation Services.

All email enquiries please contact us on mail@rpsrally.com or telephone +44(0)1993 358009

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SPECIFICATIONS:

- Date of original registration 16/06/1978
- Reinforced Commercial Spec Tyres
- Fire Extinguisher
- Brantz Trip meter
- Brantz Stopwatch
- Lambskin Seat Covers
- Comprehensive service and maintenance history
- Spares kit

INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THIS CAR? GET IN TOUCH +44 (0)1993 358009 OR EMAIL: MAIL@RPSRALLY.COM