

AUTOMOBILE & TOURING CLUB OF THE UAE

Press Release

13 March 2009

Sulayem meets vintage car owners

DUBAI: FIA Vice President for Sport Mohammed Ben Sulayem attended a reception hosted by organizers of the Gulf Arabian Tour on Thursday (March 12) evening at the Atlantis hotel where he exchanged notes with vintage car owners.

Over 70 vintage cars representing the great history of Rolls-Royce and Bentley had rolled into the UAE on Tuesday (March 12) on the final leg of their Middle East tour which began its journey on February 26 in Doha, Qatar.

The Arabian Gulf Adventure, a Rolls Royce and Bentley car owners' tour, is the first tour of its type in the Middle East.

Before arriving in Dubai, the Arabian Gulf Adventure had made stops in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman over a three-week period involving over 70 cars - only the third rally of its kind in the world. Similar tours were organized in Malaysia in 2001 and Borneo in 2005.

The ATCUAE President was introduced to the guests by tour organizer Peter Cameron.

Sulayem, who is also President of the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE, an active member of the *Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens* (FIVA), the world governing body for vintage vehicles, exchanged notes with other vintage car owners during the reception at Atlantis hotel on Thursday night, an event held on the eve of shipping the touring cars back to their respective countries of origin.

Sulayem said that the ATCUAE, as the official representative of FIVA in the UAE, was only too happy to be of assistance to the organizers and welcomed suggestions that more of such tours should be organized to encompass the entire region.

Earlier in the day, Sulayem hosted two-time World Rally Champion Marcus Grönholm at the ATCUAE headquarters when the latter paid him a courtesy visit during his private visit to Dubai.

Grönholm was delighted to be taken on a tour of Sulayem's personal collection of vintage cars and envisaged keen interest in some of the more rare models that have been maintained to the highest standard.