

R.A.C. Rally Championship



The 2013 RAC Rally Championship

Welcome

Welcome to the 2013 RAC Rally Championship. To summarise what follows, our targets are:

- Sporting and friendly competition
- Seven first class gravel rallies
- As many cars as possible competing in the championship
- Strict adherence to the MSA historic regulations for the appropriate classes
- Classes for cars from 1982-87
- Classes for cars that are close to historic specification, but not quite there
- Classes for Open cars from up to 1987
- Helpful, constructive, open and honest eligibility
- Extensive TV coverage for all classes
- Dedicated and enthusiastic championship organisers
- A maximum of 14 days needed to contest the entire championship

Colin Heppenstall
Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club
October 2012

Outline of the championship

There is no doubt that these are challenging times for British motor sport, across all disciplines. This is particularly apparent in forest rallying where, generally, competitor numbers have fallen and many organising clubs are struggling to make their events commercially viable.

We believe that the time is right to offer a new championship that encourages more crews to compete and to bring back into action cars that are currently not being used. In addition, we are keen to encourage owners of cars of relevant age to migrate towards historic rallying, leaving other championships to focus on the cars from 1988 to date. Ultimately, we want to increase the pool of pre '82 cars running to current MSA historic regulations.

The concept of the Roger Albert Clark Rally Championship is based on it being an inviting and welcoming place to compete for all levels of competitor. We believe that a commonly held current perception of historic rallying is that it is difficult to enter due to the complexities of the regulations. We want to overcome this barrier to entry by supporting potential competitors with accurate and consistent information on car specifications and positive support over technical questions. However, strict adherence to current MSA historic regulations (for the appropriate classes) is a founding cornerstone of the championship.

Organised by The Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club



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We plan to broaden the appeal of the championship further by opening it up to a later generation cars in the belief that this will ultimately bring more people into the sport. It is clear that support for Category One has dwindled as the car pool, and the drivers eager to compete in these cars, has aged. Few drivers under the age of 60 are now active in Category One and the new generation of drivers will be keen to compete in the type of cars that they saw rallying in their formative years.

We have seen in classic racing that categories catering for cars from the 1980s are now successful and we want to bring that ethos into rallying. Even cars from 1987 are now 25 years old. The oldest cars in Category One are now 50 years old, yet they were between 25 and 30 years old at the start of historic rallying in the UK. Some of our other plans include keeping the cost of registration as low as possible. For each competitor, a combined club membership and championship registration fee of £40 will apply. By making very few requests on event organisers, we plan to help them make their events viable while keeping entry fees as low as possible. The plan for 2013 is to count the best five scores from seven events. We believe that five rallies is an achievable target for many crews in the current economic climate. Inevitably, gravel rallying is centred on Wales and north of England/Scottish borders. With four events planned in Wales and three in the north, we will offer crews the chance to contest five events with only a maximum of two 'away' trips during the season.

We will work with championship partners to offer tangible benefits to competitors in the less powerful cars: these are generally the crews competing on the tightest of budgets. We plan to support genuine novices coming into the sport with a tailored package of safety equipment to get them ready to rally as inexpensively as possible. We will work closely with technical partners to offer a simple and effective 'package' deal on helmets, overalls and other relevant safety equipment.

We plan to extend this support to those seeking to switch from road rallying to special stage events. Many current road rally cars would fit the new championship once relevant safety equipment was installed.

Finally, we plan to have TV coverage of all rounds of the championship and editorial features within the programmes will include those aimed at encouraging potential newcomers to the sport. Awards for drivers and co-drivers under the age of 25 will be presented.

We firmly believe that this new championship will bring genuine long-term benefit to the sport in general and historic rallying in particular. We hope you will come and join us.



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The events

The championship schedule is:

Round 1 20 January Red Kite Rally

A welcome return for an event that uses classic Rally GB stages in Wales, from a base at Llandovery.

Round 2 3 March Mid Wales Stages

Pikes Peak, Myherin and Hafren: does it get any better? A classic event based in Newtown.

Round 3 6/7 April (Sat/Sun) Rally North Wales

Another superb event, using awesome stages like Dyfi, Gartheiniog and Dyfnant: based in Welshpool.

Round 4 28 April Tour of Hamsterley

The first northern event, using the classic Hamsterley stage and other nearby forests.

Round 5 22 June The Carlisle Stages

A brand new event from the team responsible for the Roger Albert Clark Rally. This 45-mile rally will run in the Kershope and Newcastleton complexes from a base in Carlisle.

Round 6 10 August Neath Valley Stages

An event for competitors, run by competitors, with new stages for 2013 in the classic forests of South Wales.

Round 7 27/28 September Trackrod Rally

A truly fitting finale in the rallying heartland of Yorkshire on a superb event using stages like Dalby, Cropton, Gale Rigg and Langdale. The chance to tackle Dalby in the dark adds to the sense of occasion.



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The classes

Series 1: Cars first registered on or before 31st December 1967 complying with MSA historic regulations

Series 2: Cars first registered between the 1st January 1968 and the 31st December 1974 complying with MSA historic regulations

Series 3: Cars first registered between January 1st 1975 and 31st December 1981 complying with MSA historic regulations

Series 4: Cars first registered on or before 31st December 1967 to and 31st December 1985, complying with FIA Appendix K regulations

Series 5: Cars first registered between January 1st 1982 and 31st December 1986 complying with the MSA Technical Regulations. It is the organisers' intention that vehicles in this series will be prepared to the vehicle's original specification, using period parts

Series 6: Cars first registered up to 31st December 1981 complying with the MSA Technical Regulations that have been built to comply with MSA historic regulations but do not fully comply in all areas

Series 7: Cars first registered up to 31st December 1986 complying with the MSA Technical Regulations that do not fit into Series 1 to 6. This Series includes more modern specification cars such as Vauxhall or Millington engine Escorts with free modifications retained within the original body specification

TV coverage

In 2013, each of the seven RAC Rally Championship rounds will be filmed and broadcast in a 90-minute programme on Motors TV in evening slots. There will also be a two-hour long highlights programme at the end of the season and a mid-year review, giving over 13 hours of prime TV, which is viewed by a very informed audience. Each programme will have several repeat viewings. In addition, short event review clips will be placed on the internet (YouTube in particular) as well as the Roger Albert Clark website for viral exposure.



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Eligibility

It is intended that eligibility will be treated in a fair, open and transparent way. For the appropriate classes, current MSA historic regulations will be applied in a firm and responsible way.

To support the role of the appointed championship Eligibility Scrutineer, a Championship Eligibility Group will be formed from suitably experienced individuals. Throughout the season, issues regarding vehicle / parts eligibility will be considered in the first instance by the Championship Eligibility Group who will sit after each round to discuss any issues raised. The Group will make relevant recommendations to the Championship committee, who will inform registered contenders accordingly.



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Scoring

There will be three elements to the championship scoring, ensuring everyone has something to chase across the season, no matter what car or class they are in.

Firstly, points will be scored for class position on event on the basis of 25-18-15-12-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1.

Secondly, points will also be scored (on the same scale) for the overall positions in each series.

Thirdly, points will be scored (on the same scale) for the top 14 drivers from the across all seven Series.

So, the fastest registered contender on any event will bag 75 points in total.

In addition, to encourage more crews to do more rallies later in the season, start points will be awarded at an ascending rate throughout the season: one point for the first round started, two points for the second round started and then up to a maximum of seven points for the final round of the championship if that crew has started all seven events.

The crew with the highest overall points score in Series 1 to 3 inclusive will be declared the RAC Rally Champions. There will also be champions for each of the other Series.

Registration

All competitors must hold at least a 2013 National 'B' Rally Licence and be fully paid up members of the RACRMC. The championship registration fee, including annual club membership, is £50 per crew member. A driver may register an alternative co-driver during the year at no additional cost.

New competitor support package

It is planned to offer a 'new competitor support package' aimed at encouraging new competitors to contest the championship. Aimed at crews with no previous stage rally experience, the package will include a specially discounted crew safety pack. This will cover all essential items including helmets and overalls, with experience advice available from a championship partner. The package will also include two free memberships to the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club, meaning that championship registration will be only £30 per crew member.

