

Championship newsletter: 8/2014 – 26 May 2014

## Welcome

Welcome to championship newsletter number 8 for the 2014 **West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship**.

This is intended to be a fairly brief newsletter in the run-up to round four, the **Severn Valley Stages** (31 May). Once again we have a tremendous entry with just under 70 registered contenders in a field that has 78 historics and an overall entry of 117 cars. This is a great result for an event that ran on a financial knife-edge last year with 87 entries.

I am pleased to note that we have several established historic crews joining the R.A.C. Championship for the first time on the Severn Valley and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of them. Please come to the championship base in the service area for a chat, a welcome, tea, coffee and cakes!

The regs are out for round five, the **DMACK Carlisle Stages** (21 June) and regs for the **Neath Valley Stages** (9 August) will soon be available. Please don't forget that we are running a test stage on the Friday before the Carlisle Stages, with up to six runs of a 3-mile stage on offer for just £90. We hope you will support this new initiative from the championship.

As many of you will know, our eligibility scrutineer John Cooper sealed the dampers on three leading cars after the Tour of Hamsterley. I am pleased to report that checks have been completed by licensed MSA scrutineers based near to the relevant cars and we have now received their reports. Everything was found to be in order and in accordance with MSA regulations.

Best regards

Colin Heppenstall  
Monday 26 May 2014  
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**Championship website:** [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)



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## End of season awards' night

We are delighted to confirm that the date for the end of season awards celebration has been set as Saturday 25 October at the Casa Hotel in Chesterfield. The event was such a success last year that it was a very easy decision to return to the same venue.

We intend to block book a number of rooms for R.A.C. contenders and will shortly let you know booking details.

For details of the hotel and contact information, please visit [www.casahotels.co.uk](http://www.casahotels.co.uk)

## Round five: DMACK Carlisle Stages

Regulations for the 2014 DMACK Carlisle Stages (Saturday 21 June) have been released, with 45 stage miles in the Kershope and Newcastleton complexes for a competitive entry fee of £480.

The rally will feature two elements: the DMACK Carlisle Stages Rally will form round five of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship, while the DMACK Modern Carlisle Stages Rally will be open to all other competitors, including those in four-wheel drive cars.

The rally will again be based at the premises of the R J Murray & Sons Haulage Company in Longtown, Carlisle and will cover 45 stage miles and just 60 road miles. The first car will start at 9.30am and be back at the finish at 2pm on this very compact event.

The action starts with a challenging ten-mile stage in Kershope followed by a seven-mile stage in Newcastleton and then a four-mile test in Ash Park. After service back at Longtown, the three stages will be repeated.

The day before the rally (Friday 20 June) will start with a three-mile shakedown forest stage, which will be open to all competitors on the rally as a chance to give sponsors, service crews, family, guests and media a taste of forest rallying.

The shakedown will have two sessions, the first running from 10am until 12.30pm and the second from 1pm until 3.30pm. The cost will be just £90 per car for a maximum of six runs.

Scrutineering and documentation will run from 2pm until 7pm and will be followed by a barbecue for all crew members, including families and service crews. This mid-season social event is expected to be very popular as competitors, organisers and service crews all get together in a relaxed atmosphere.

The DMACK Carlisle Stages will be organised by the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club. More details at [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)

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## Round six: Zutec Neath Valley Stages

Clerk of the course Den Golding has unveiled more details of the Neath Valley Stages on Saturday 9 August. Once again, this will be the only event to use the superb stages in Rheola, Bryn and Margam as previously used on Wales Rally GB and the stages are again in prime condition having not been used since last year's rally.

The event offers 45 stage miles in six stages for an entry fee of £475 and the format will be very similar to last year's hugely successful rally. The action will start just two miles from rally HQ with a nine-mile stage in Rheola. After a 20-minute service will be eight miles in Bryn and five miles in Margam. After a 40-minute service, the route is repeated. The first historic car will start at 9am and be back at the finish by 3.30pm.

Regs will be available shortly and more details can be found at [www.neathvalleystages.co.uk](http://www.neathvalleystages.co.uk)

## Round seven: the Trackrod Rally Yorkshire

Trackrod Rally Yorkshire 2014 again includes the popular Trackrod Historic Cup. The event welcomes competitors from The West Wales Rally Spares RAC Rally Championship.

The whole event this year will be based at the Pickering Showground on the weekend of 26/27 September, accommodating Rally HQ, Friday scrutineering and documentation, in addition to the central service area. Servicing of vehicles will take place after a maximum 20 competitive forest miles and therefore management vehicles will not be allowed. Road mileage will also be kept to a minimum.

Scrutineering for all competitors will take place on the Friday afternoon, before one or two night stages in the North Yorkshire Forests. Total competitive mileage of approximately 55 miles is planned for the complete event.

After Friday night stages, (there will be no parc fermé on Friday night), competitors will then restart on Saturday from Pickering Showground from approximately 08.01hrs, with the first car due back at the finish at The Showground at approximately 13.30hrs. There will a dedicated Awards Ceremony taking place as soon after the last car has finished the event as possible. Further details will be announced throughout the year.

See [www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk), follow us on Facebook or twitter @rallyyorkshire

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## WWRS R.A.C. Championship heads for the Severn Valley

The West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship heads back to Wales for round four on the Severn Valley Stages (Saturday 31 May). The classic stages in the Crychan region will deliver another great event for 70 championship contenders on a rally that is one of the most popular on the schedule.

The event will mark the third event in the Geoff Jones Motorsport Welsh Challenge as well as the next round of the highly successful Kumho Clubmans Challenge for crews competing on a maximum of six tyres for the event.

Once again, there is a tremendous line-up of 19 pre '68 cars in the Walker Diecastings Category 1, which includes contenders in the Aldon Automotive Mini and Imp Cup. Heading the field away, thanks to two victories in Wales already this season, is the Mini Cooper of Ray Cunningham and Gary McElhinney and the Irish crew will fly on these stages. However, Tour of Hamsterley winners Graham Waite/Gill Cotton will be hurling the Volvo Amazon around in fine style and a trio of Lotus Cortinas will be right in the mix in the hands of Gwilym Roberts/Don James, Simon Wallis/Graham Wride and Paul Mankin/Desmond Bell. Ranged against the Cortinas in class B4 will be the Volvo PV544 of Ian Beveridge/Paul Price and the Alfa Romeo Junior GT of John Everard/Mark Sharpley.

Class B3 should be a battle of three classic Fords: the Cortina Mk2 of Bob and Dale Gibbons, the Ford Anglia of Peter Stimson/Mark Butler and the Cortina Mk1 of Callum Barney and Ron Channon, who make a welcome return after rolling out of the opening event of the season.

Adding tremendous depth to the Mini and Imp Cup are the Minis of Ross and Arron Forde and Clive King/Bob Ward as well as the Sunbeam Imp Sport of Geoff Taylor/Steve Greenhill. With the Porsche 911 of Edmund Peel/Jane Edgington and the Saab 96 of Stephen Higgins/Don Bramfoot, it is another glorious Category 1 entry for the R.A.C. Championship.

In the Capital Construction Category 2, David Stokes and Guy Weaver are in fine form in their Ford Escort Mk1 and head to an event they know well on the back of two victories. Offering opposition in the category and class C5 are similar cars for Warren Philliskirk/Nigel Hutchinson, Chris Browne/Ali Cornwell-Browne, Roger Matthews/Paul Morris and welcome championship newcomers Ernie and Will Graham.

Class C3 is enjoying a great season of varied competition and the entry is topped by the Opel Ascona A of Peter Smith/Paul Spooner, who will expect a tough challenge from the Pinto-powered Ford Escort Mk1s of David Kirby/Chris Rixon, Peter Egerton/Alun Cook, Simon Pickering/Colin Jenkins and championship newcomers Nick Danks/Martin Corbett and Ian Drummond/Hu Kent.

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Class C2 is home to the 1600cc cars in Category 2 and the benchmark is the Escort Mk1 of Robin Shuttleworth/Mark Midgley. But the Leeds crew can expect a big challenge from similar cars of Paul and Daniel May and Stuart and Linda Cariss as well as the fresh Hillman Avenger in the very capable hands of Barry Jordan/James Gratton-Smith.

The very fastest cars are split across class D5 in Category 3 and Category K for FIA specification cars and the event has drawn a stunning entry of most of the leading contenders in this type of car.

From the Holton Homes Category K comes the very rapid Ford Escort Mk2 of Jason Pritchard/Phil Clarke, who will be fresh from victory on the Isle of Man in their Ford Focus WRC. Other Category K Escorts include those of Tomas Davies/Eurig Davies and Darren Moon/Tim Sayer and all three crews are capable of a top overall result.

Nick Elliott and Dave Price head another superb entry for the Rob Smith Rallying Category 3 in their Ford Escort Mk2 and will be keen to repeat their victory on round two, the Mid Wales Stages. Tour of Hamsterley winner Matt Edwards, with Sam Collis back in the co-driver's seat, will head the chase of Elliott along with Richard Hill/Steffan Evans, Meirion Evans/Iwan Jones and Talbot Sunbeam Lotus crew Owen Murphy/James O'Brien, who head the class D4 runners. Add in accomplished Escort pilots like Terry Brown, Tim Freeman, James Potter, Gareth Lloyd and Richard Lane and it all makes for a sensational entry.

Class D3 for the Pinto-engined Escort Mk2s is enjoying a great season of competition and is wide open going into the Severn Valley. Gareth Lewis/Dan Holley, Mike Reed/Joe Sturdy, Adrian Young/Gwynfor Jones, Ben Friend/Sean Kennedy and Paul Fry/Mike Steele are all in the mix in this very open and competitive class.

Meanwhile, class D2 for the 1600cc cars in Category 3 is set to be a contest between the Hillman Avengers of Keith Davison/Henry Richardson, Graham Thatcher/Robert James and the Sunbeam Talbot of David Hopkins/Tony Vart. Running alongside the historics are the cars in R.A.C. Category O for open two-wheel drive cars and the entry includes the lovely Opel Manta of Simon and Alister Crook. They face the rapid Toyota Starlet of Layton Waters/Kevin Bowcott and the Escorts of Barry Stevenson-Wheeler/John Pickavance, Alan and Liam Carfrae and Neil and Simon Dwyer.

The rally will be based at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells. The first historic car will start at 8.30am and return to the finish shortly before 3pm. The Severn Valley Stages is organised by Midland Manor Motor Club.

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## Prime stage conditions for DMACK Carlisle Stages

Competitors on the 2014 DMACK Carlisle Stages (Saturday 21 June) can expect prime forest conditions for the event that covers 45 stage miles in the Kershope and Newcastleton complexes for a competitive entry fee of £480.

Rally manager Colin Heppenstall completed a route survey over the weekend (17 May) and says that competitors are in for a real treat as the forest roads are already in peak condition.

"The stages are lovely: they've been regraded and rolled since last being used," said Heppenstall. "Only some sections of Kershope were used on the recent Pirelli Rally and they have been regraded, while Newcastleton has not been used since the Roger Albert Clark Rally last November. Ash Park has not been used since last year's Carlisle Stages and is very fast and smooth."

The rally starts with a ten-mile stage in Kershope followed by seven miles in Newcastleton and then a four-mile test in Ash Park. After service at Longtown, the three stages will be repeated.

Regulations are now available and entries are already coming in for both elements of the rally: the DMACK Carlisle Stages Rally will form round five of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship, while the DMACK Modern Carlisle Stages Rally will be open to all other competitors, including those in four-wheel drive cars.

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The DMACK Carlisle Stages will be organised by the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club.

## In-car footage for the TV coverage

In-car footage is always required for the TV coverage of the championship, so if you run a good quality in-car system and would like to make your footage available, please contact Olly Dickinson via: [ojd9224@gmail.com](mailto:ojd9224@gmail.com) He can take your film on an SD card at the event or files by Dropbox or similar after the rally.

