

Championship newsletter: 1/2015 – 23 January 2015

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## Welcome

Welcome to championship newsletter number 1 for the 2015 **West Wales R.A.C. Rally Championship**.

We are less than two weeks away from the opening event of the 2015 season and we are delighted with the response for the opening round, the **Red Kite Stages** (Sunday 1 February). We also have a number of crews who plan to start their season at round two, the Mid Wales Stages (Sunday 1 March).

Meanwhile, it was good to see many competitors, old and new, at **Autosport International** on 8-11 January (see story below), when we had championship registrations open. Don't forget that you can register at signing-on for events, but if you register before then we can get the sticker sets mailed out so that you can get them on the car in the workshop rather than in the service area.

We have included outlines of the championships in this newsletter and the attached Mintex MSA British Historic Rally Championship newsletter. Please double-check that you have entered for the right championship and if you have any questions, please give us a call.

Finally, a note about championship stickers and sun-strips: unfortunately, these will not be available in time to send out by mail, so they will be available for collection at signing-on for the Red Kite.

I look forward to seeing you in Llandovery!

Best regards

Colin Heppenstall  
Friday 23 January 2015

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**Championship website: [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)**

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## The 2015 events in detail

### RAC round 2: Mid Wales Stages (Sunday 1 March)

The Viking Motorsport/Links Electrical Mid Wales Stages will follow the successful format of previous years with rally HQ in Newtown and four superb stages in Pike's Peak, Myherin and Hafren. The competitive action will again finish with the spectacular run down the Pike's Peak hairpins. Scrutineering and documentation will be on Saturday afternoon (28 February) at the Theatre Hafren on the outskirts of Newtown. Regs should soon be available from [www.newtown-mc.co.uk](http://www.newtown-mc.co.uk)

### RAC round 3: Pirelli Rally (Saturday 25 April)

Scrutineering and documentation will be on Friday 24 April, starting early afternoon at the H&H auction mart just of J43 of the M6 at Carlisle. There will be a ceremonial start in Carlisle city centre on Saturday morning, likely to be from 10am with cars in place from 9am.

The route will take crews up to Kielder for three stages (25 miles), then service in the Kielder area, followed by the same stages again. All the stage mileage will be on the south side of the Kielder dam using the best Category A haul roads. The Rally HQ and finish will be at Kielder Castle, with the first car to the finish at around 4pm, with the prize-giving on the ramp.

### RAC round 4: Severn Valley Stages (Saturday 30 May)

The 42nd Severn Valley Stages will be based at the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells and take place on 30th May.

Scrutineering will be on Friday afternoon 29 May. The organisers do not expect to make any major changes from the 2014 format. [www.severnvalleystages.co.uk](http://www.severnvalleystages.co.uk)

### RAC round 5: Carlisle Stages (Saturday 13 June)

The Carlisle Stages will again be based close to Carlisle and will use the superb stages in the Newcastleton and Kershope complexes.

Scrutineering will be on Friday afternoon, with Saturday offering a 45-stage mile route with limited double usage. The event is a round of the BTRDA Rally Series as well as the R.A.C. Championship, so a bumper entry is expected. More details to follow shortly. [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)

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### RAC round 6: Harry Flatters (Sunday 26 July)

This one-day rally over the famous Epynt ranges is traditionally based in Brecon where scrutineering and documentation is held on Saturday afternoon. The route recce will take place on Saturday morning.  
[www.breconmotorclub.co.uk](http://www.breconmotorclub.co.uk)

### RAC round 7: Neath Valley Stages (Saturday 15 August)

Scrutineering and documentation will take place from 2pm on Friday 14 August at Rally HQ in Rheola (the same venue as 2014). There is free overnight camping on Friday and Saturday nights. The 45 competitive miles will feature three stages run twice: Rheola, Bryn and a brand new stage that has NEVER been used. The format will be: first car starts at 8.30am for a nine-mile stage followed by service. The second loop takes in stages two (six miles) and three (seven and a half miles). After a main service halt, the route is repeated, with the first car due at the finish at around 3.45pm.  
[www.neathvalleystages.co.uk](http://www.neathvalleystages.co.uk)

### RAC round 8: Trackrod Rally Yorkshire (Friday/Saturday 25/26 September)

The organisers of the Trackrod Rally Yorkshire intend to run a very similar format to 2014 with Friday afternoon scrutineering followed by a 7pm start and stages in the dark, finishing at around 10pm. The event will then restart on the Saturday at approximately 8.30am with classic Yorkshire stages before finishing early afternoon. The event will be again based at Pickering.  
[www.trackrodmotorclub.co.uk](http://www.trackrodmotorclub.co.uk)

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## The championships at a glance

### West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Championship

- A clubmans championship for National B licence holders
- A six-tyre only championship
- Eight rounds, excluding Isle of Man but including the Carlisle Stages
- Categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and Appendix K cars (to 31.12.85)
- Open Category plus pre '90 cars in period specification

### Mintex MSA British Historic Rally Championship

- National A level championship with prestigious British title
- Nine rounds including Isle of Man double-header
- Categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and Appendix K cars (to 31.12.85)
- Includes:
  - Motorsport Auctions Welsh Challenge
  - Northern Challenge
  - Holton Homes Clubmans Challenge (for crews running no more than 6 tyres)

### The Kumho R700 tyre

There has been dialogue between the MSA and Kumho recently regarding the R700, and it has been agreed that the tyre will be allowed for 2015 for one year only.

So we would like to clarify to contenders that the Blue Book is correct and this tyre can be used in 2015.

### Management vehicles

We want to again remind everyone that management vehicles are not permitted in the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship. This is the relevant section of the championship regulations:

*13. The use of management cars or chase cars is prohibited on every round of the Championship. Servicing will only be permitted from properly identified service vehicles in Official Service Areas.*

We will have judges of fact out and about on events this season to look out for illegal servicing and suitable action will be taken against any crew found to be breaking the rules.

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## Tyre marking

We will be providing Championship specific tyre stickers which will be affixed to your chosen six tyres on each round and referenced accordingly. These may be checked at any time during a Championship round to ensure those tyres nominated at the start of the event and still being used.

Failure to use a tyre referenced will result in the championship points for that round being withdrawn from the competitor. These points will then not be reallocated to other championship contenders.

## Eligibility – a reminder of item 8 in the championship regulations

All championship entries must have and produce at all events those forms necessary for their Category:

- An FIA HTP or MSA HRVIF which must be carried in the car at all times on each round, where appropriate.
- Vehicle Registration Document (V5 or V5C).
- Valid MOT Certificate as appropriate
- An MSA Competition Car (Stage Rally) Log Book.
- Homologation papers (Category 3 and 4)

If the required papers are not in order (not correct or not produced) then championship points may not be allocated for that round.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The issue of these papers does not necessarily mean that your car complies with the Championship Regulations.

## Eligibility – two further reminders

Mitsubishi Evo top mounts must not be used on historic rally cars: period type and design are the only ones that comply.

Under-floor guards must only be made of fibreglass and must not cover the vertical section of the outer sills.

## Post-event scrutineering

Post-event eligibility scrutineering will be stepped up further in 2015 and will start on the Red Kite Stages. The event organisers have kindly arranged the use of a garage with three vehicle lifts, so if you are selected for post-event scrutineering, please follow the instructions given.

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## Big response to 2015 BHRC and R.A.C. at the NEC

There was a fantastic response to the 2015 MSA British Historic Rally Championship and the 2015 West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship when they were unveiled at Autosport International at the Birmingham NEC (8-11 January).

The Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club had a prominent stand from which to launch its 2015 programme and a constant stream of visitors across four days included current and potential competitors, commercial partners, event organisers and fans.

The start of the 2015 season heralds a new era for the BHRC as Britain's leading championship for historic cars starts a new five-year term under the management of the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club.

Championship registrations for the coming season flooded in and there are already over 40 contenders entered for the opening event of the season, the Red Kite Stages.

"We were delighted with the response at the show," said championship manager Colin Heppenstall. "There is a real buzz about the coming season with many crews returning and a significant number of new competitors set to join the historic fraternity."

## DVD of the 2014 Roger Albert Clark Rally

The DVD of the 2014 Roger Albert Clark Rally is now available. The two-hour DVD of the rally, produced by Olly Dickinson, was filmed from six cameras and numerous on-boards cameras and is priced at £20. The DVD comes with a free on-board DVD covering 100 minutes of action. All years of the Roger Albert Clark Rally DVD are now available: the 2012 and 2013 films are £15 and all other years from 2004 are £10 each. The DVDs can be ordered from the championship office.

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