



Newsletter



www.racrallychamp.org

Championship newsletter: 5/2013 – 8 March 2013



Welcome

Welcome to the fifth championship newsletter for the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship.



Eight months of work by many people finally came to fruition on the opening round, the Rally Marketing Mid Wales Stages on Sunday 3 March, and I am delighted to report that it was a runaway success. We had a fabulous entry, tremendous competition and wonderful stages all combined with a true spirit of camaraderie and good humour around the championship. We could not have wished for a better start and my congratulations go to all the series and class winners.



I would also like to record a word of gratitude to Chris Tomley and his team at Newtown and District AC for working so hard to run such a popular event.



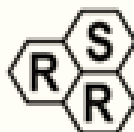
Now we turn our attention to the second round, Rally North Wales. Regulations are out and entries are already being received. As a quick reminder, our event is described in the regulations as module E and we have 53 stage miles, all on Saturday 6 April.



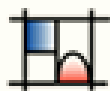
I hope to see many of you there and also on the Tour of Hamsterley (Sunday 28 April) when we expect to have a number of northern-based competitors joining us for the first time.



Don't forget to check the championship website for all the latest news and information.



Best regards



Holton Homes

Colin Heppenstall
Friday 8 March 2013
E-mail: colin@racrallychamp.org

Championship website: www.racrallychamp.org

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Round 2: Rally North Wales (Saturday 6 April)

Regulations are available from the event website: www.rallynorthwales.co.uk
Entries are now being received.

Round 3: Tour of Hamsterley (Sunday 28 April)

Regulations are now available for the SG Petch Tour of Hamsterley and the first eight entries are already in. We urge everyone to enter as early as possible as there is a good chance that the maximum entry of 90 cars will be reached. For more details, visit the event website: www.tourofhamsterley.co.uk

The event format will be three loops, with two service halts at the same location. There will be two loops of 15 miles and then a final 14-mile stage.

Round 4: DMACK Carlisle Stages (Saturday 21 June)

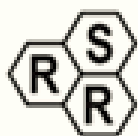
Plans for the new event run by the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club are progressing well. It has been decided to include classes for local crews who are not currently championship contenders, but who may like to contest the event and get a feel for the championship. More details will soon be posted at www.racrallychamp.org

Round 5: Neath Valley Stages (Saturday 10 August)

Prime organiser Den Golding reports that everything is shaping up very well for the Neath Valley Stages. Rally HQ will be in Resolven, with scrutineering, documentation, service and finish all taking place at one location. There is plenty of room for overnight camping, motorhomes and caravans. There will be the opportunity for RAC Championship contenders to scrutineer on Friday evening. They are planning to run a total of 50 stage miles, with around 65 road miles. It is guaranteed to be the best value (£ per stage mile) forest event in the country. The event website will shortly be updated www.threecountiescarclub.com

Eligibility

At the end of the Mid Wales Stages, several cars including class winners, were checked for eligibility by series scrutineer John Cooper. The cars were checked for compliance with MSA historic regulations and were found to fully comply. These checks were part of the championship's on-going commitment to ensure compliance with regulations.





Co-drivers' corner

Jane Edgington is available to co-drive, either as a one-off or for more events in the championship. She can be contacted on e-mail at: girtorque@btinternet.com

James Whitaker is keen to develop his experience on maps ahead of a planned entry on the Roger Albert Clark Rally. So if this is of interest, please contact James via rallystar@hotmail.co.uk

Jim Goodman (Yorkshire-based) is looking for a co-driver's seat on some events and brings lots of experience. He can be contacted at: hunmanbyjim@supanet.com

Meanwhile, **Tim Jones**, of rapid Escort C3 fame, is looking for a co-driver to complete the remaining rounds of the championship. He would like someone prepared to contribute, possibly paying the entry fees. His number is 07970 788264.

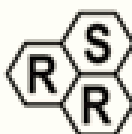
TV coverage

The television coverage for the opening round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C Rally Championship, the Rally Marketing Mid Wales Stages, will first be screened on Motors TV on Saturday 16 March at 9pm.

Each round of the championship will be reported in a dedicated stand-alone 90-minute programme, while a mid-season review and a two-hour end-of-season review will mean at least 15 hours of prime coverage. With each programme likely to air around six times, the total exposure for the championship will be up to 90 hours.

Support for coverage of the 2013 WWRS R.A.C Rally Championship comes from TV partners Swift Leisure, Jordan Road Surfacing, Skipton Ford, Sherwood Engines, Robinson Road Planing, Rally and Competition Equipment, Lloyd-Thomas Opticians, Amigos and rallyprep.co.uk.

David Winstanley of rallytv.co.uk will be filming all seven rounds of the championship and is planning to bring all the action from the stages as well as the very best in-car footage.



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Round one award winners announced

The special award winners for the opening round of the West Wales Rally Spares RAC Rally Championship have been announced following the Rally Marketing Mid Wales Stages (Sunday 3 March).

Jerry Bailey and Graham Lacey took the unfortunate accolade of posting the first retirement of the rally when the head-gasket of their Ford Escort Mk2 failed and they retired four miles in to the opening stage. The last retirement was the Lotus Cortina of **Pete Gunson/Johnny Haynes**, which broke on the final stage. Both crews will receive a £100 voucher from West Wales Rally Spares, as will **Dick Slaughter/Geoff Dearing** who's number came out of the hat in the draw for a third voucher.

Ford Escort Mk1 crew **Robin Shuttleworth and Ronnie Roughead** will receive a cheque for just under £300 from Holton Homes after their number came out of the draw for a refund of 50% of the event entry fee.

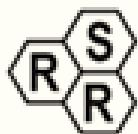
The 'Spirit of the Rally' product award from Fuchs Lubricants will go to **Grant Shand**. Having retired from the event after going off on the first stage, Shand was in the service area later in the day when Alan Walker needed a rapid gearbox change. Not only did Shand and some of his crew from Rally Xtreme dive in to help with the work, he also supplied a replacement clutch to get Walker back in the rally.

Iwan and Aled Rees won the Best Improvement on Seeding, which is a set of axle brake pads from Mintex. They started as car 151 and turned in a very impressive performance to finish 23rd overall and win class C3 in their Ford Escort Mk1.

Finally, **Ryan Barrett** won the 'Hard Charger' award: a 20-litre jerry can from Green Valley Industrial Supplies. On his first gravel rally for two years and on unfamiliar stages, the Northern Irishman drove superbly to finish third overall.

Championship points

The championship points following round one, the Mid Wales Stages, are attached with this newsletter. They are also available on the championship website: www.racrallychamp.org



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Elliott takes opening WWS R.A.C. Rally Championship round

Nick Elliott and Dave Price were the big winners on the opening round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship, the Rally Marketing Mid-Wales Stages (Sunday 3 March).

The Cheltenham crew took victory by just 3.7s after a glorious battle with Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke, while Ryan Barrett and Barry Ferris made it two cars from Northern Ireland in the top three.

With records crowds of spectators packing into the stages and a real buzz around the opening event of the R.A.C. Rally Championship season, it could not have been a better start to the championship. A fabulous atmosphere among the crews and fierce competition on some of the finest gravel stages in the country was a truly winning combination.

Series winners were:

Series 1: John Everard/Mark Sharpley (Alfa Romeo Junior GT)

Series 2: Chris Browne/Ali Cornwell-Browne (Ford Escort Mk1)

Series 3: Nick Elliott/Dave Price (Ford Escort Mk2)

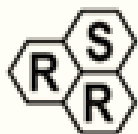
Series 4: Nev Jones/Chris Davies (Ford Escort Mk2)

Series 5: Simon Wallis/Graham Wride (BMW 325)

Series 7: Dylan Davies/Lion Williams (Ford Escort Mk1)

Championship manager Colin Heppenstall was thrilled with the opening event. "The Mid Wales Stages has been a perfect start to the championship," he said. "There has been great competition, fabulous stages and lots of very happy competitors! We'd like to say a very big thank you to Chris Tomley and the team at Newtown and District AC for all their hard work."

A more detailed event report is available on the championship website.



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