

Holtton Homes

## Welcome

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

The main news for this issue is that **Rally North Wales** has now been cancelled for 2013, despite major attempts by the organising team to find a suitable date in the calendar. A statement from the organisers follows in this newsletter. As per our championship regulations, we will now take the best five scores from six events in calculating end of season awards.

Round two of the championship is now the **SG Petch Tour of Hamsterley** (Sunday 28 April), and this is shaping up to be a fantastic event, with 70 historic entries in a capacity field of 95 cars. At least 55 of those cars will be R.A.C. Championship contenders and I would like to thank everyone who has entered for giving the rally and the championship such tremendous support.

Hamsterley is followed by the **DMACK Carlisle Stages** (Saturday 22 June) and event regulations will be available next week from the event website, which can be found via the main championship website at [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org).

Don't forget that the new date for the **Red Kite Stages** is Sunday 8 September. We need an e-mail from each registered crew to confirm the new date, so if you have not yet replied, please can you do so as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the Tour of Hamsterley.

Best regards

Colin Heppenstall  
Friday 19 April 2013  
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Championship website: [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)

## MORRIS LUBRICANTS RALLY NORTH WALES CANCELLED IN 2013

Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire Car Club Ltd, organisers of the Welshpool-based Morris Lubricants Rally North Wales - originally planned for Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April and subsequently postponed due to adverse weather conditions – have confirmed that the event will not be run in 2013.

Event Manager Kevin Witton explains the reasons for the cancellation: "Despite lengthy discussions with the Motor Sports Association, their Rally Championship Steering Group and the five championship organisers who had confirmed our event as one of their qualifying rounds, we simply could not find a suitable alternative date to run our event in 2013."

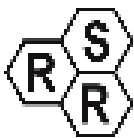
MSA Steering Group Chairman Mike Broad summed up the organisers invidious situation: "The Morris Lubricants Rally North Wales is the only rally that qualified for four of the biggest stage rally championships in the UK and it has been an impossible task to find a new date that worked for everyone involved.

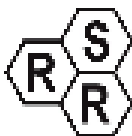
"Other issues not solely relating to date availability had to be taken in to account. For example, the allocation of forest stages, venues for service parks in both Welshpool and Dolgellau, and the start/finish facilities in Welshpool. It has not been an easy decision for the Wolverhampton club and I am sure, having given full refunds to every one of the 140 entrants, they will have lost a considerable amount of money through this enforced cancellation.

"I have a tremendous amount of sympathy for Kevin and his volunteer team and am delighted to hear that they have already been assured of a place in the 2014 MSA British Rally Championship."

## Stunning entry for WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship round two

A truly sensational entry will line up for the SG Petch Tour of Hamsterley (Sunday 28 April), the second round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship. With Steve Bannister, Marty McCormack and Nick Elliott at the head of the historic field, it is going to be fiercely competitive and with a total historic entry of 65 cars, it is one of the best fields ever seen in the north of England.





The quality of entry runs right through the field as over 50 crews from the WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship are joined by a strong contingent from the Motoscope Northern Historic Rally Championship. Add in a quality 26-car field of modern cars, and fans will be in for a superb day in the Hamsterley forest complex in County Durham.

The Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club has developed the R.A.C. championship, which focuses on historic rally cars complying with MSA historic regulations. But, significantly, it is also opening up the chance for the next generation of cars to join the historic fraternity.

The championship is running over seven one-day gravel rallies in England, Scotland and Wales. The championship caters for cars from MSA historic Categories One, Two and Three as well as cars prepared to FIA Appendix K. Additional classes accommodate cars built up to the end of 1986 as well as other pre '87 cars that do not fully comply with historic regulations.

The big talking point of the rally will be the continuation of the fabulous contest between the Ford Escort Mk2s of McCormack and Bannister from last year's Roger Albert Clark Rally. McCormack narrowly won that contest, but Bannister will be determined to level the score in Hamsterley. Louise Sutherland partners Bannister this time around. When they tackled a stage in Hamsterley on the November event, Bannister beat McCormack by a single second, so it is going to be very close.

However, Elliott and Dave Price will head north as the current championship leaders after a thrilling victory over McCormack on the season-opening Mid Wales Stages. Elliott does not know Hamsterley very well at all, but will be right in the thick of what promises to be an epic contest. In fact, his only prior experience of Hamsterley was in the dark and snow of the 2010 Roger Albert Clark Rally.

Of course, this is certainly not only a three-way battle in the Rob Smith Rallying Series 3 and it is another Northern Ireland crew of Ryan Barrett and Barry Ferris who will be leading the chase of the top three. Add in more very quick Escort Mk2s for Jason Pritchard/Dale Furniss, Will Onions/Dave Williams, Matthew Robinson/Nigel Hutchinson, Tim Pearcey/Neil Shanks, Matt Edwards/Sam Collis and Rob Smith/Alun Cook and the spectacle is going to be stunning. But that's only the top 10 crews and many more quick crews pack out the entry. Pritchard is running his car in the Martin Jones Transmissions Series 4 for cars prepared to FIA Appendix K regulations and his speed on the Mid Wales, first time out in an Escort MK2, showed that he is going to be a major contender.

While the top-flight Escort Mk2s dominate Class D5, the superb Vauxhall Chevette of Steve Magson/Geoff Atkinson joins the championship to head class D4 and is the only non-Escort in the top 30.

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At the top of Class D3, the Opel Kadett of Peter Smith/Patrick Walsh will go head to head with the Ford Escort Mk2 of Ben Mellors/Alex Lee, while crews like Alan Hughes/Richard Wardle and Paul Fry/Mike Steele could get into the mix in their Escort Mk2s.

In the Capital Construction Series 2 (1968-74), championship newcomers Richard Hill and Pat Cooper join the contest in their Ford Escort Mk1 and will be quick, but they face a big challenge from the similar car of round one winners Chris Browne and his wife Ali Cornwell-Browne. Another front-running crew joining Class C5 are Simon Tysoe and Cliffy Simmons in their Escort Mk1 and Nick Jarvis/Alan Carfrae will also be quick.

Meanwhile, the battle for Class C3 will be just as hard-fought. Iwan and Aled Rees started with a maximum score on the Mid Wales in their Pinto-powered Escort Mk1 and will go up against the similar car of Dick Slaughter as well as the potent BMW 2002 of Terry Cree/Richard Shores. In Class C2 for the 1600cc cars, the Escort Mk1 of Robin Shuttleworth and Ron Roughead is the car to beat.

In the Walker Diecastings Series 1 for the pre '68 cars, the field will be headed by the Lotus Cortina of Simon Wallis/Graham Wride and they will set a cracking pace. Leading the chase will be the gorgeous Alfa Romeo Junior of John Everard/Mark Sharpley and the Singer Chamois of Chris and Jo Tooze. Pete Gunson and Jonny Haynes field their Lotus Cortina, while the wonderful Saab 96 of Steve Higgins completes the R.A.C. field.

The Holton Homes Series 5 caters for cars built up to 1987 and is very much a family affair in Hamsterley as the Toyota Corollas of John Midgley/Geoff Maybank and Will Midgley/Paul Slingsby enact a father versus son battle. Meanwhile, Series 7 for open pre '87 cars is going to be a contest between the Ford Escort Mk2s of Mark Spencer/Steve Pugh and Robert Cholmondeley/Dave Evans.

The Tour of Hamsterley is organised by Stockton & District Motor Club in association with Teesside Motor Sport Group. More details at: [www.tourofhamsterley.co.uk](http://www.tourofhamsterley.co.uk)

### Round 3: DMACK Carlisle Stages (Saturday 22 June)

The rally will be based at the premises of the R J Murray & Sons Haulage Company in Longtown, Carlisle (post code CA6 5TR). The venue will host documentation, scrutineering, service area and overnight secure parking within a warehouse. Scrutineering will be held from afternoon to early evening on Friday, and then the cars will go into the secure overnight park.

Saturday's route will take in 45 stage miles and just 65 road miles. The format will be four stages (Chamot Hill, Arthur's Seat, Newcastleton and Kershope), then service and then a re-run of the four stages.

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The event running order will be the same as for the Tour of Hamsterley, with a first group made up of Category 1 cars and 1400cc cars. Next will be the main R.A.C. field, followed by the modern cars.

Event regulations should be available next week (commencing 22 April).

## Round 4: Neath Valley Stages (Saturday 10 August)

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. The event website will shortly be updated at: [www.threecountiescarclub.com](http://www.threecountiescarclub.com)

## Round 5: Red Kite Stages (Sunday 8 September)

The new date for the Red Kite is Sunday 8 September and it is expected that the event will run to the format planned for the January date, with documentation and scrutineering in Llandovery on Saturday.

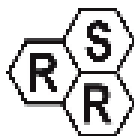
We need to get signatures from registered crews regarding the new date and will ask for these at documentation for the Tour of Hamsterley from those who have not replied by e-mail. We are, of course, very keen to support this new date and hope that as many registered contenders as possible will enter.

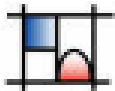
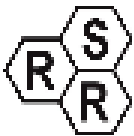
## Round 6: Trackrod Rally (Friday/Saturday 27/28 September)

Rod Parkin, head of the Trackrod team, has confirmed that the R.A.C Championship contenders will be first on the road both for the Friday evening leg and for the stages on Saturday. NO DOUBLE USE AND FIRST THROUGH for the R.A.C. Championship: 45 miles of prime forest!

Rally Yorkshire is to return to Pickering and will have its headquarters at the market town's newly refurbished Showground.

Parkin said: "Our move to the superb facilities at the Pickering Showground will enable us to create a compact route for competitors since it is close to the fabulous stages in the North York Moors Forests where all the action takes place. Friday night will see two spectacular stages in the Dalby complex with additional stages during Saturday in the surrounding forests."





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A recent independent survey concluded that the contribution of the rally to the local economy in 2012 was almost £1 million. Benefits to the tourism industry, local shops and amenities were sizeable as, from an estimated attendance of 16,500, over 60% of those who took part in the survey came from 'outside the area' and three-quarters of the visitors stayed at least one night.

More details at: [www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk)

### End of season awards' night

The date for the end of season awards celebration is confirmed as Saturday 12 October at the Casa Hotel in Chesterfield. We have a guest speaker arranged, so all is looking good.

A number of rooms have been block booked for R.A.C. contenders under the block code RACR121013. When booking, guests should quote this code to get the special £85 bed and breakfast rate.

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

### Volvo for sale

Volvo Amazon 123GT Category 1 car.

I am unable to compete at present so the car is available. Possibly a bit overpriced before at £14950 (though for lots of rally cars you wouldn't even get an engine for that!), I've still got the car, and would be willing to let it go for £12950 or a bit less, a fraction of what it has cost. I can be contacted on 07952 757048. Great fun to drive - if you thought Escorts go sideways a lot try driving an Amazon!

Dave Reynolds

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