



Newsletter



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Championship newsletter: 16/2013 – 14 August 2013

Welcome

Welcome to championship newsletter number 16 for the **West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship**.

Round four, the **Neath Valley Stages (Saturday 10 August)**, ran very well indeed and everyone reported that the stages were in superb conditions. My thanks go to Den Golding and all his team at Three Counties Car Club for all their hard work in making the event such a success.

It was very pleasing to see four crews make their championship debut and we were delighted to welcome Vince Bristow, Graham Thatcher, James Stait and Andrew Clayworth to the R.A.C. Championship.

Now we turn our attention to round five, the **Red Kite Stages (Sunday 8 September)**. The organisers from Amman and District Motor Club deserve lots of support to make the event the success it deserves to be after it was postponed from January due to the snow. I hope to see many of you then.

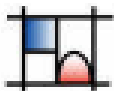
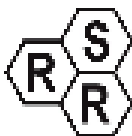
The championship season wraps up with round six, the **Trackrod Rally (Friday/Saturday 27/28 September)** and this event promises to be a fitting finale for the 2013 championship season. Rod Parking and his team have really looked after the R.A.C. Championship and I hope they will be rewarded with a very strong entry.

We have just released the first details of this year's Roger Albert Clark Rally (8-10 November). Although not a round of the championship, it would be good to see lots of championship contenders out on the tenth running of the rally that started it all! More details are later in this newsletter.

Best regards

Colin Heppenstall
Wednesday 14 August 2013
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Eligibility update

All went very well on the Neath Valley Stages, with no significant issues. I would like to remind everyone that we intend to run a friendly, open and inclusive championship and I am always happy to chat, either at an event or on the phone, if anyone has questions they want to raise. Whatever you may have experienced in the past, we are doing things in a different way and value the views of all competitors.

So, please just ask if you have questions. Contrary to popular belief, I do not bite, and we are all committed to running a championship that puts the competitor first. Of course, Simon Wallis and Alan Walker are always available as competitor representatives and Russ Langthorne is the competitor liaison officer, so there are plenty of people available.

John Cooper
12 August 2013

Round 5: Red Kite Stages (Sunday 8 September)

The regulations for round five of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship, the Red Kite Stages, have been published ahead of the 8 September rally. Please note that cheques will only be cashed the week before the rally.

Heavy snow on the original January date forced the team at Amman and District Motor Club to postpone the event, which will now run over the same route on Sunday 8 September. The organisers have completed their route survey and all is looking good: they have arranged for some work to be done in the Cefn stage. The compact rally will again be based at the Castle Hotel in Llandovery and offers 45 miles of classic Welsh gravel stages for £450 in a route that includes 100 road miles. The first car is scheduled to leave Llandovery at 9am and return to the finish at around 3pm. Scrutineering and documentation will be held from 1pm to 6pm on Saturday.

Regulations and entry forms for the historic rally and the concurrent modern event are available at www.redkitestages.co.uk

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. Friday will take in stages in Dalby and Staindale, starting from around 8pm, while Saturday's stages will be in Langdale, Gale Rigg

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and Cropton.

NO DOUBLE USE AND FIRST THROUGH for the R.A.C. Championship: 45 miles of prime forest for a very competitive entry fee of £475.

The event has a nice new website at www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk and regs are now available. It is advisable to enter early as this is going to be a very busy event.

McCormack wins WWRs R.A.C. Rally Championship thriller

Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke took their third win from four rallies in the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship after a superb battle on the Neath Valley Stages (10 August).

After a fabulous day of competition, McCormack/Clarke headed the similar Ford Escort Mk2 of Nick Elliott and Dave Price by just seven-tenths of a second after 44 flat out stage miles on superb stages in the Rheola and Margam complexes.

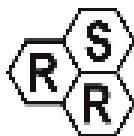
To show just how competitive things are at the head of the championship, Jason Pritchard/Dale Furniss and Matt Edward/Sam Collis finished within 20 seconds of McCormack. Other notable championship series winners included Terry Cree and Richard Shores, who topped Series 2 in their BMW 2002 and Mark Spencer/Steve Pugh who claimed Series 7 in their Ford Escort Mk2.

On a rally where every crew reported that the stages were in fantastic condition, the lead battle ebbed and flowed and could easily have been won by any of the top four crews. McCormack was immediately quick on the opening 10-miler in Rheola and went seven seconds clear of both Elliott and Pritchard lost time with sideways moments. "We were a bit slow on SS1 with a couple of silly mistakes," said Pritchard, who dropped a critical 16s to the leader.

In SS2 McCormack dropped 14s with a big moment and after five miles in Margam Elliott was 6.7s ahead at service. In SS4, the re-run of Rheola McCormack flew to pull back 5.6s, and so Elliott went into the final stage, which linked Bryn and Margam into one mighty 12-miler, ahead by just 1.1s. Incredibly, McCormack was just 1.8s faster to grab victory by 0.7s as Pritchard made sure of third with another mighty run.

"We pushed really hard and it was a tough battle," said McCormack. "Marty must have really been on it in Rheola to take five seconds," added Elliott. However, both Pritchard and Edwards had shown that they have the pace to match the big two. The result assured McCormack another victory in the Rob Smith Rallying Series 3, while Pritchard topped the Martin Jones Transmissions Series 4 for cars prepared to FIA Appendix K regulations.

Next up was a big battle for fifth place as Terry Brown/Tomos Whittle headed James Potter/Bob Duck and Will Nicholls/Nick Broom, while Jimmy McRae and Pauline Gullick were not far adrift in a gaggle of Escort Mk2s.

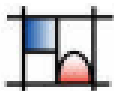
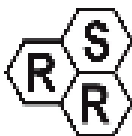


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Maximum points in class D3 went to an inspired performance by young Ben Mellors and Alex Lee, who kept their Escort Mk2 within 10 seconds of the non-registered Melvyn Evans/Gerwyn Barry. It took a big attack from Evans in the two long afternoon stages to overcome Mellors' early lead. Class D4 fell to the similar car of James Stait/Glyn Thomas, who dropped time with an electrical gremlin in the opening stage.

Making a welcome championship debut in class D2 was the Hillman Avenger of Graham Thatcher and Robert James and they enjoyed a great run at the head of the field. "Absolutely awesome," said Thatcher of the fast and flowing stages. In Series 7, for the open category cars, Mark Spencer and Steve Pugh had a great run in their Ford Escort Mk2, despite some concerns about tyre wear. "That was good fun, but a bit hairy on the tyres," said Spencer. Meanwhile, running in Series 6 for cars in close to historic specification was the Datsun 260Z of Steve Perez/Sasha Heriot, with Perez using the event as a shakedown for the car ahead of the Safari Classic in November. "It has been a really useful day," said Perez. Victory in the Capital Construction Series 2 went to the BMW 2002 of Terry Cree and Richard Shores who drove a storming rally to out-pace their rivals by over 20s. The Escort Mk1s of Dick Slaughter/Geoff Dearing and David Kirby/Chris Rixon chased the BMW and Kirby showed tremendous pace to edge Slaughter back to third. "The stages were the best I've done for a long time," said Cree. Meanwhile, Nick Jarvis and Craig Thorley won class C5. "The nicest stages I've driven on," said Jarvis after a clean run in his Ford Escort Mk1.

Engine dramas on the opening stage put the Escort Mk1 of Vince Bristow/Tim Sayer out and left the way open for Robin Shuttleworth and Ron Roughead to win class C2 again in their Escort Mk1 despite a detached throttle cable in Rheola 1. The regular Walker Diecastings Series 1 pacesetters were out over the first leg of stages. Fastest on the first run through Rheola, Ian Beveridge and Paul Price retired their Volvo PV544 with axle damage, while engine dramas sidelined the Lotus Cortina of Simon Wallis and Graham Wride near the end of the second stage. Instead, the Singer Chamois of Chris and Jo Tooze took maximum points in the category despite a day-long problem with the car's charging system. "The stages were great," said Tooze. Top of class B2 was the Alfa Romeo of John Everard/Mark Sharpley. "The whole rally has been superb," said Everard.

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Neath Valley award winners announced

The special award winners for the fourth round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship have been announced following the Neath Valley Stages (Saturday 10 August).

Jonathan Brace/Jonny Evans posted the first retirement of the rally when his Ford Escort Mk2 suffered clutch problems at the start of the opening stage. The last retirement was the Ford Escort Mk2 of Aziz Tejpar/Alister Crook, which suffered a fire on the penultimate stage. Both crews will receive a £100 voucher from West Wales Rally Spares, as will Ford Escort Mk2 crew Paul Fry/Mike Steele after their number came out of the hat in the draw for a third voucher.

Meanwhile, Alfa Romeo GT crew John Everard and Mark Sharpley will receive a cheque for £212.50 from Holton Homes after their number came out in the draw for a refund of 50% of the event entry fee.

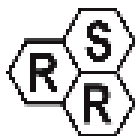
The 'Spirit of the Rally' product award from Fuchs Lubricants goes to championship newcomers Andrew Clayworth and Jez Rogers. They stopped on SS4 to assist Aziz Tejpar when his car caught fire and dropped a lot of time assisting at the scene. They went on to finish well in their superb Ford Escort Mk2 RS2000.

David Kirby and Chris Rixon won the Best Improvement on Seeding, which is a set of axle brake pads from Mintex, after a tremendous run in their Ford Escort Mk1. Finally, Terry Cree won the 'Hard Charger' award of a 20-litre jerry can from Green Valley Industrial Supplies. Cree and co-driver Richard Shores made the long journey from North Yorkshire worthwhile with an attacking drive to win class C3 and finish top championship contenders in Category 2.

R.A.C. competitors applaud Neath Valley Stages

Competitors in the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship have given unparalleled praise for the quality of the stages used on the Neath Valley Stages (10 August).

As crews arrived at the finish on Saturday afternoon, every one of them commented on the stunning gravel roads in the Rheola and Margam complexes. The compact one-day rally organised by Three Counties Car Club was round four of the championship. Among the comments were:



"Very good stages: I'd like to go round again," said Jimmy McRae.

"The stages were fabulous and well worth the trip," said Yorkshireman Warren Philliskirk.

"The stages were superb: the best I've done for a long time," said Terry Cree (BMW 2002).

"Absolutely awesome: a pleasure to be out there," said Graham Thatcher (Hillman Avenger).

"Absolutely brilliant stages: the whole rally has been spot on," said John Everard (Alfa Romeo).

"The stages were fantastic," said historic rally winner Marty McCormack.

"Fabulous stages: so fast and flowing," said runner-up Nick Elliott.

"Brilliant: stunning stages," said Phil Squires (Ford Escort Mk2).

"It was brilliant: fantastic stages," said Will Nicholls (Ford Escort Mk2).

"The nicest stages I've driven on," said Nick Jarvis (Ford Escort Mk1).

Wraps come off the 2013 Roger Albert Clark Rally

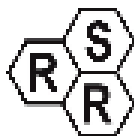
Details of the 2013 Roger Albert Clark Rally have been unveiled as championship regulations are published ahead of the tenth anniversary running of the rally on 8-10 November.

More stage miles on Friday evening, more Kielder mileage on Saturday and a big sting in the tail are the key route features of the 2013 event.

For the tenth anniversary rally, the event will start from the showground at Pickering on Friday and cover 35 miles in Dalby forest during the first evening. Saturday's leg takes in double runs at spectator stages at Duncombe Park and Croft before a stage in Hamsterley and 25 stage miles in the main block of Kielder on the way to an overnight halt in Carlisle.

Sunday's leg of over 80 stage miles will be similar to the 2012 route, which drew widespread acclaim as a tough day in the Scottish borders before the ceremonial finish at Brampton near Carlisle.

"We want to build on the success of last year's compact format," said rally



manager Colin Heppenstall. "The regulations are now out and we have a discount entry fee until the end of August. We've had a lot of interest already and a lot of new foreign crews have been making contact with a view to entering."

Heppenstall says that a new layout for the Duncombe Park stage will be very spectator friendly and that the cars will arrive at Croft much earlier on Saturday than before, with the first stage from around 11am following a major service area. The full route is:

Friday 8 November

Start from Pickering Showground at 17.30

SS1 Dalby 1

SS2 Newclose Rigg 1

SS3 Staindale 1

SS4 Dalby 2

SS5 Newclose Rigg 2

SS6 Staindale 2

Finish at Pickering Showground at 22.00

Saturday 9 November

Start from Pickering Showground at 08.15

SS7 Duncombe Park 1

SS8 Duncombe Park 2

SS9 Croft 1

SS10 Croft 2

SS11 Hamsterley

SS12 Pundershaw 1

SS13 Hope House 1

SS14 Pundershaw 2

SS15 Hope House 2

Finish at Carlisle at 19.00

Sunday 10 November

Start from Carlisle at 07.45

SS16 Glen Dhu

SS17 Newcastleton

SS18 Florida 1

SS19 Riccarton

SS20 Craik 1





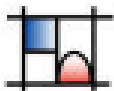
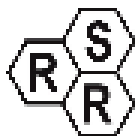
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SS21 Craik 2
SS22 Wauchope
SS23 Florida 2
SS24 Kershope
Finish at Brampton at 17.00

For more details about the Roger Albert Clark Rally, please visit www.rogeralbertclarkrally.org



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