



# Newsletter



[www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)

Championship newsletter: 17/2013 – 14 September 2013

## Welcome

Welcome to championship newsletter number 17 for the **West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship**.

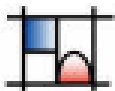
Firstly, I would like to congratulate Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke on winning the 2013 title. They are very worthy champions and have faced tremendous opposition on the way to the title. On behalf of the championship organising team I am very pleased to salute a fine achievement. We look forward to presenting them, and all the other 2013 award winners, during the awards night on Saturday 12 October.

Round five, the **Red Kite Stages (Sunday 8 September)**, was another cracking event that everyone enjoyed. The combination of great stages, excellent organisation and a compact format is just the type of event we want for the championship and my thanks and congratulations go to the team at Amman and DMC for all the hard work that went in to running the rally on the revised date.

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 the entry is looking very good.

I'm delighted to report that planning for the **2014 R.A.C. Rally Championship** is very well advanced and we have already received confirmation from the MSA that our 2014 championship application has been approved. We plan to unveil the 2014 season during our awards night on 12 October, so watch out for press releases and more information following that event. What I will say is that we have lined up a calendar of eight first-class one-day gravel rallies.

I am very pleased with the early response to this year's **Roger Albert Clark Rally** (8-10 November). Although not a round of the championship, a number of championship contenders are already entered for the tenth running of the rally that started it all and we'd love to see some more! More details of the support rallies are covered later in this newsletter, and there are some excellent deals available if you are not able to do the full event.



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Best regards

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

### **McCormack and Clarke settle the WWSR R.A.C. Rally Championship**

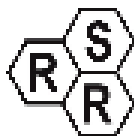
Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke are the inaugural West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship victors after another mighty performance on the Red Kite Historic Stages (Sunday 8 September).

The Escort Mk2 crew led from the start to take their fourth straight victory and seal the 2013 championship after a superb day of rallying on classic Welsh stages. While Nick Elliott and Dave Price retired after an off, Jason Pritchard and Dale Furniss turned in another fine performance to lead the challenge of McCormack and take maximum points in the FIA Appendix K category.

McCormack made his intentions clear on the opening stage in Crychan by going five seconds faster than Pritchard as Elliott dropped 10s with too soft a tyre compound. McCormack pressed home his advantage in the following stage just across the road in Cefn and then took his lead out to half a minute after the fast and flowing Caio stage.

"We were straight on it this morning: there are no lie-ins with this championship," said McCormack. "We kept pushing because we knew Nick and Jason would be coming hard at us." However, Elliott, now getting into the groove, was out on the second run through Crychan, when the car slid off the road. There was very little damage, but their rally was over.

After a dry morning with some dust starting to kick up, heavy rain showers arrived as crews completed the second lap of stages, but the dramatically different grip levels did not unsettle McCormack, who kept up his pace to head Pritchard back to Llandovery by 42s for a fine victory.



"We were a bit slow on the first run through Caio," admitted Pritchard, after losing 18s in eight miles. Otherwise, Pritchard kept well in touch with McCormack despite nursing a sore hand after a recent workshop accident. "I'm pleased to be so close in our first season in historics," said Pritchard after another impressive performance.

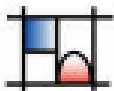
A strong and rapid rally from Matthew Robinson/Nigel Hutchinson put them up to third overall from Kevin Davies/Dale Bowen. "It was slippery on the first couple of stages, but we've had a good day," reported Robinson. Davies, on only his third rally of the year, was slowed in the morning by an ailing clutch which needed pumping, but upped his pace once it was fixed. "I was pleased with our pace in the afternoon," he said after strong runs in Cefn and Caio.

Out on the opening stage with gearbox failure went the Escort Mk2 of Terry Brown/Tomos Whittle and clutch dramas put Matt Edwards/Andrew Murphy out of contention.

Probably the best performance of the rally came from Ben Mellors and Alex Lee, who pushed their Pinto-powered Escort Mk2 into a class-winning sixth overall, just eight seconds behind the BDG version of Tim Pearcey/Jamie Edwards. An on-going gearbox problem hindered Pearcey on his first rally for three months, but Mellors had a clear run to chalk up another fine result.

Packing out a quality top 10 were a trio of Escorts, all tied on time: Warren Philliskirk/Paul Wakely, Will Nicholls/Nick Broom and James Potter/Bob Duck ended the day level, with Philliskirk setting the better time on the opening stage from Nicholls and Potter. The three cars were never more eight seconds apart on any one stage and were covered by just two seconds on the first run through the 8.5-mile Caio stage.

With another storming performance, the BMW 2002 of Terry Cree and Richard Shores was the class of category 2, finishing half a minute clear of the Escort Mk1 of David Kirby/Chris Rixon as Dick Slaughter and Geoff Dearing took third. "Excellent stages," reported Cree. "The car has been very good. The second run through Caio was very slippery in the rain and we were half a minute slower."



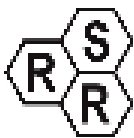
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Nick Jarvis and Paul Spooner had a good rally to take class C5 from Ian Rix/Rob Cook, while Vince Bristow and Elgan Davies topped class C2 after running first on the road with a freshly rebuilt engine. Bristow was let down on a service crew, so drove the van and trailer from Sussex and fettled the car himself during the rally to make the win very well deserved. "I'm grateful to all the people who helped in the service area," he said after finishing clear of the similar Escort Mk1 of Robin Shuttleworth/Ron Roughead.

Away from the Escort Mk2s in category 3, class D2 went to the Hillman Avenger of Graham Thatcher and Robert James. "We had understeer for the first two stages and lost a minute on the last stage with a puncture," reported Thatcher.

In Category 1, the Singer Chamois of Chris and Jo Tooze dropped a lot of time in the opening stage when it stopped with a chronic misfire and though they completed the stages, they were OTL. Meanwhile, a fuel problem sidelined the Alfa Romeo of John Everard/Mark Sharpley on the final stage so maximum category points went to the Saab 96 of Stephen Higgins and Don Bramfoot. "It's been a good day with excellent stages," said Higgins before dashing to Liverpool for the ferry back to the Isle of Man.

In series 7, for the open category cars, Dylan Davies and Llion Williams came out on top in their Ford Escort Mk1 despite some major issues with tyre wear. However, they had gone into the final Caio stage trailing the Escort Mk2 of Ben Llewellyn/Chris Davies by seven seconds. Sadly, Llewellyn lost a wheel in Caio and his rally was over after another highly impressive performance.

The Red Kite Stages, organised by Amman and DMC, had been another superb event for the R.A.C. Rally Championship, with drivers giving the event a massive vote of approval. Superb stages, slick organisation and a friendly welcome all added together to make this a great rally. Full results are available at [www.amcrallyresults.co.uk](http://www.amcrallyresults.co.uk)

## WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship award winners announced

The special award winners for the fifth round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship have been announced following the Red Kite Stages (Sunday 8 September).



Matt Edwards posted the first retirement of the rally when his Ford Escort Mk2 suffered clutch problems early in the opening Crychan stage. The last retirement was the Alfa Romeo Junior GT of John Everard/Mark Sharpley, which suffered fuel problems on the final stage in Caio. Both crews will receive a £100 voucher from West Wales Rally Spares, as will Ford Escort Mk2 crew Ben Friend/Jonathan Jackson after their number came out of the hat in the draw for a third voucher.

Meanwhile, Saab 96 crew Stephen Higgins and Don Bramfoot will receive a cheque for £225 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 winners Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke. They drove another brilliant rally to seal the title and were quick to praise the pace of their rivals after thrilling the fans out watching the action.

Friend and Jackson also won the Best Improvement on Seeding, which is a set of axle brake pads from Mintex, after a tremendous run in their Ford Escort Mk2. Finally, Ben Mellors won the 'Hard Charger' award of a 20-litre jerry can from Green Valley Industrial Supplies. Mellors and co-driver Alex Lee drove a storming rally to win class D3 in their Pinto-powered Ford Escort Mk2 and finish a remarkable sixth overall among the more powerful BDG-powered Escorts.

### **R.A.C. competitors commend Red Kite Stages**

Competitors in the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship have given a big vote of approval for the quality of the stages used on the Red Kite Stages (8 September).

The compact one-day rally organised by Amman and DMC was round five of the championship and contenders were universal in their praise of the rally and the quality of the special stages in Crychan, Cefn and Caio. Among the comments were:

Mark Spencer: "A superb rally: one of the best I have done with some superb stages."

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Tim Pearcey: "A slickly run, well organised rally on some great roads."

Nick Jarvis: "We had a really fun day over some cracking stages that stayed in good nick for the second run."

Vince Bristow: "Really good stages."

Gwilym Roberts: "Caio was a fantastic stage. I thought I'd done all the stages in Wales but that one was new to me and it was one of the best stages I've ever done."

Callum Barney: "Absolutely brilliant stages: I loved them."

Marty McCormack: "The stages were excellent."

Warren Philliskirk: "The stages were fantastic."

Phil Squires: "The stages were absolutely perfect: just the sort of stages you want to rally on."

Will Nicholls: "One of the best rallies I've done for a long time."

Peter Egerton: "A great event: just what rallying should be."

### WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship TV on YouTube and iRally

The television coverage of round four of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C Rally Championship, the Neath Valley Stages, is now available on YouTube and the iRally app.

The 90-minute programme covers all the action as championship leader Marty McCormack headed Nick Elliott by just 0.7s with Jason Pritchard and Matt Edwards chasing hard in a mighty battle of the Ford Escort Mk2s.

The full report from the Neath Valley Stages can be watched on-line at:  
<http://youtu.be/mSzcN-FudrE>

In addition to the coverage on Motors TV and YouTube, the programme is available via iRally and this platform is proving hugely popular, with hundreds of thousands of views already this year as the entire R.A.C. Rally Championship is covered.

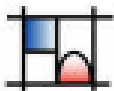


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The free iRally App is available for the iPhone, iPad and Android devices and offers an incredibly popular rally video channel. For more about iRally, please visit <http://bit.ly/iRallyNow>, or download the App free from the App Store or Google Play

On the Neath Valley Stages crews tackled sensational stages in the Rheola and Margam forest complexes. David Winstanley of rallytv.co.uk is filming all rounds of the championship and brings all the action from the stages as well as the very best in-car footage.

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.

### End of season championship awards

Within the Championship regulations it says that only awards for first, second and third overall in each series would be presented.

With the championship registrations and number of registered contenders competing on rounds being over 34 on each round to date the committee has agreed to award some additional class awards in the following classes for drivers and co-drivers.

Driver awards - first in class for Classes C2, C3, C4, D3 and D5

Driver awards to second in class for Class D5

Co-Driver Awards - first in class for Classes D3 and D5

Co-Driver awards to second in class for Class D5

### 2013 Roger Albert Clark Rally support events unveiled

Three individual rallies will support the 2013 Roger Albert Clark Rally, (8-10 November) and will offer some of the most cost effective forest rallying in Britain this season, with entry fees from as low as £7.43 per mile.

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The support rallies all offer competitors a chance to be part of what many people regard as the best rally of the season, as well as the opportunity to tackle classic stages in Yorkshire and the Scottish borders.

"I'm keen to see local crews come and join us to sample the flavour and atmosphere of the Roger Albert Clark Rally," said Rally Manager Colin Heppenstall. "I have tried to make the support rallies as user friendly as I can with compact routes and very attractive entry fees."

The three support events for the 2013 Roger Albert Clark Rally are:

### The Peregrine Print Rally

33 stage miles; entry free £250 (cost per mile £7.58)

Based at the Pickering event headquarters, the Peregrine Print Rally will take in classic Yorkshire forest tests in a very compact route on Friday. The chance to tackle night stages in Dalby makes this a rare opportunity for crews looking for a very good value rally. The Peregrine Print Rally will finish at Pickering on Friday night after 33 stage miles and minimal road mileage. These cars will run first on the road, ahead of the main Roger Albert Clark Rally.

### The Clubman's Rally

37 stage miles; entry fee £350 (cost per mile £9.46)

Based near Newcastleton, the Clubman's Rally runs through Sunday over stages in Kershope, Newcastleton, Riccarton and Craik as well as the new Florida stage before finishing in Hawick. The rally starts at 10am on Sunday and finishes at 2pm.

### The Return Challenge

37 stage miles; entry fee £350 (Cost per mile £9.46)

The Return Challenge runs on Sunday, starting from Hawick and taking in stages in Craik and Wauchope as well as the Florida stage before concluding in Kershope. The first car will start at 2.30pm on Sunday and finish at 5.30pm. As an added incentive, the organisers are offering a significant reduction in the entry fee for the Return Challenge if competitors also enter the Clubmans Rally, offering 74 stage miles for just £550 (cost per mile £7.43). A £200 refund will be issued if competitors retire on the Clubman's Rally and cannot compete on the Return Challenge.

For more details about the Roger Albert Clark Rally, and its support rallies, please visit [www.rogeralbertclarkrally.org](http://www.rogeralbertclarkrally.org)

