

## Welcome

Welcome to championship newsletter number 18 for the **West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship**.

The final round for 2013, the **Trackrod Historic Cup**, proved to be another excellent event that was very well received by all our contenders. I would like to thank Rod Parkin and all his team for their efforts in delivering a cracking event.

I'm delighted to report that planning for the **2014 R.A.C. Rally Championship** is moving on apace and we will unveil the 2014 season during our awards night on 12 October, so watch out for press releases and more information following that event.

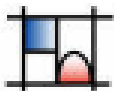
The **awards night** at the Casa Hotel in Chesterfield is coming together very nicely, so if you have not booked your tickets please do so as soon as possible. We need to confirm final numbers early next week (7 October), so please get in touch. The list of award winners is shown at the end of this newsletter.

I'm very pleased with the response to this year's **Roger Albert Clark Rally** (8-10 November). We are already up to nearly 50 entries 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.

Best regards

Colin Heppenstall  
Wednesday 2 October 2013  
E-mail: [colin@racrallychamp.org](mailto:colin@racrallychamp.org)

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



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## Eligibility and scrutineering update

### Suspension scrutineering in 2014

I have made contact with a couple of suspension manufacturers but as yet I have not been requested to visit with a view to seeking approval of their systems for the R.A.C. Championship in 2014.

Once I have all the information from a manufacturer and have completed a visit, I will submit a report to the championship Eligibility Group. If the group approves the report, it will then go to the MSA Technical Department where it will be distributed electronically to the historic committee for a final decision.

The proposal for suspension and post-event scrutineering is as follows:

If you are selected for post-event scrutineering and further selected for suspension inspection this may take the form of a strip of the struts or shock absorbers. If this is not convenient in this case the suspension will be sealed to the car and paperwork issued. There is a 30-day period in which to have the suspension stripped with the seals broken, with either myself or Rob Harris in attendance. In extreme circumstances we may have the facility to appoint another licensed eligibility scrutineer to attend the strip down.

The report of the findings will be sent to the championship stewards and Colin Heppenstall for action.

All expenses for this will be borne by the competitor.

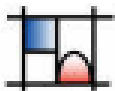
### Other items

Post-event scrutineering was completed after the Trackrod Historic Cup and there were no issues with the cars checked.

A reminder to all competitors for 2014: PLEASE CHECK YOUR SEAT DATES. Only in-date FIA homologated seats are valid for 2014. It will also be mandatory for a seat belt cutter to be carried in the car.

If your car has HRVIFs or FIA HTPs please make sure that you have your historic stickers from the MSA before the first historic event in 2014. The MSA will be sending these out to all historic paper holders but if you are in any doubt, please contact the Technical Dept of the MSA.

John Cooper  
Championship Eligibility Scrutineer  
1 October 2013



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## 2014 R.A.C. Rally Championship ready for virtual launch

The 2014 R.A.C. Rally Championship will be formally unveiled on Monday 14 October during what is thought to be the first virtual championship launch in British rallying.

Throughout Monday 14 October, the complete plan for next year's championship will be revealed in a series of multi-media announcements, covering press releases, video releases and audio clips. The home for the virtual launch will be the championship website: [www.racrallychamp.org](http://www.racrallychamp.org)

Starting at 10am, a series of hourly announcements will deliver extensive details about the 2014 championship, including the calendar, the structure, the classes and information on a raft of new initiatives being introduced for the second year of the championship.

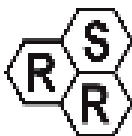
Championship manager Colin Heppenstall said he was delighted with how the plans for 2014 had come together. "We've got a superb schedule of events, which reflects the views and wishes of our competitors," said Heppenstall. "We've also got some great new ideas to unveil. We are thrilled with how well the inaugural year for the championship has gone, but we're not resting on our laurels and have an even better package planned for 2014."

## Edwards claims final victory in 2013 WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship

Matt Edwards and Elliott Edmondson ended the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C Rally Championship season in style with a hard fought win on the Trackrod Pre-87 and Historic Cup (Friday/Saturday 27/28 September), beating Ford Escort Mk2 legend Steve Bannister on his home Yorkshire stages.

The rally covered five stages on the North York moors and forests, with two tests on Friday evening and three more on Saturday. Escort Mk2 driver Edwards did all the hard work on Friday night's two stages in Staindale and Dalby, opening a 30.7s overnight lead over Bannister in the Rob Smith Rallying Series 3.

"I did my homework," said Edwards. "I spent ages watching the route DVD, studying the notes and triple-checking the lights. We changed tyres between the two stages too. I knew I could make a difference in the dark, but I said I'd have been happy to end the night 30 seconds behind Banner - not 30 seconds ahead." Bannister lost time with a stall, but admitted that he just couldn't get into the rhythm, and was at a loss to understand why. He finished the night just 4.6s ahead of Escort Mk1 crew Richard Hill and Pat Cooper, who were heading the Capital Construction Series 2.



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



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It was clear and surprisingly warm on Saturday, and with his handling now sorted Bannister went on a charge in his favourite forests. He set fastest time on SS3, Cropton, aided when Edwards dropped ten seconds with a half-spin. Bannister reduced the gap again in SS4, Gale Rigg. But Edwards wasn't to be denied, pushing hard in Langdale. While Bannister was fastest again, Edwards returned to Pickering Showground the winner by 11.9s. For Edwards it marked a fine turnaround from his last visit to Yorkshire, when his Escort Mk2's engine blew on the opening stage of last year's Roger Albert Clark Rally.

"I nearly didn't come, to be honest," said Edwards. "Yorkshire hasn't been kind to me in the past, but I knew I needed to confront my demons at some point. Geoff Jones kindly gave me some tyres and helped me out, which is a big reason why I could go, and it paid off. It's a rally man's ultimate ambition to beat Banner in Yorkshire, and to be in that position is something I never thought would be possible. I was mentally exhausted by the end of the final stage. It's a unique experience and the highlight of my rallying career so far."

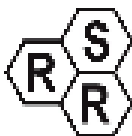
For his part, Bannister was gracious after a rare defeat: "It was much better today," he said. "We had the odd scare here and there, but we struggled to catch Matt. It was a really good fight for the whole event." Unfortunately, Hill's fine efforts on Friday came to nothing when a mechanical failure put him out of the third place he had held all event on the final stage in Langdale.

The beneficiaries of Hill's misfortune were local driver Tim Pearcey and his Scottish co-driver Neil Shanks. They had ended Friday's leg in fifth behind Tomas and Eurig Davies, having lost time with a fuel tank problem. "The foam that sits at the bottom of the tank worked loose on stage one and was causing the engine to misfire," explains Shanks. While the issue cleared for stage two, Pearcey's team elected to change the tank overnight. They borrowed a replacement unit, and worked until 1am to fit it. Their hard work was repaid when Pearcey overtook Davies on SS4 to claim third. "Friday was a disaster, but we recovered due to hard work by the team," said Pearcey. "The tank we borrowed didn't really fit, so we had to bodge it in place a bit."

Warren Philliskirk and Nigel Hutchinson finished fifth in their Escort Mk2, with Hutchinson admitting that Friday's night stages were a challenge. "We got caught in Tim Pearcey's dust on the first test, which made it even harder to see," he said. "We could do with a pair of 20-year younger eyes between us." James Potter and Bob Duck, who were sixth of the WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship to finish, also had visibility problems in their Escort Mk2, although these were caused by Potter forgetting to switch his spotlights on for the second stage. "It's a shame, because we had a brand new set of spotlights and they seemed very good," said Potter.

**West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship television partners**





There was bad luck for rising star Ben Mellors and Alex Lee, who crashed heavily on the fourth stage, Gale Rigg, in their Pinto-powered Escort Mk2. The stage was stopped so that medical crews could attend, and Mellors was taken to hospital with a broken ankle. He had been released from hospital by Saturday evening.

Maximum D3 points went to the Escort Mk2 of Paul Fry and Mike Steele.

With Hill's retirement, Porsche 911 crew Tim Mason and Graham Wild claimed honours in Series 2 for cars built between 1968 and '74, finishing just over a minute ahead of Vince Bristow and Tim Sayer's C2 winning Ford Escort Mexico. Mason had his own mechanical dramas on the final stage. "We lost second gear on the final stage, but we were able to nurse it home," said Mason. Close behind Bristow were C3 winners David Kirby and Chris Rixon (Escort Mk1) after Terry Cree and Richard Shores crashed out in their BMW 2002.

Steve Perez and John Millington had made a steady start in their Lancia Stratos, but jumped up to third in class on Saturday's opening stage before a mechanical problem sidelined him on the final test. Meanwhile, in C5 it was Barry Jordan and James Gratton-Smith who won narrowly from Chris Browne and Ali Cornwell-Browne.

John Everard/Mark Sharpley were the top WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship registered crew to finish in the Walker Diecastings Series 1 in their beautiful Alfa Romeo Junior GT. "We lost the starter motor early in on Saturday, so we had to push start it a few times," said Everard. "We had no service crew so we didn't bother fixing it. The stages were superb."

Manx driver Stephen Higgins and Richard Simpson were second registered Series 1 finishers, and won Class B1 in their Saab 96 2 Stroke. They'd had a terrible start when the only gear they could select on the start line of stage one was reverse. They eventually found third and limped through the stage before the problem fixed itself near the end of the test. "It was a bad start, but a fantastic finish," said Higgins.

Peter Egerton and Alun Cook were the top R.A.C Rally Championship crew in the Martin Jones Transmissions Series 4 for FIA Appendix K cars in their Escort Mk2. Tom Coughtrie and Calvin Cooledge were second in their similar machine after another of their increasingly impressive runs.

The Trackrod Pre 87 and Historic Cup, organised by Trackrod Motor Club, ended the inaugural WWRS R.A.C. Rally Championship in style with a compact and well-run event. The slick organisation won praise from competitors, who also appreciated the lack of road mileage. The event also gave crews an early chance to sample some of the Yorkshire stages that will form a key part of the Roger Albert Clark Rally.

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



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

The special award winners for the sixth round of the West Wales Rally Spares R.A.C. Rally Championship have been announced following the Trackrod Historic Cup (27/28 September).

Steve Magson posted the first retirement of the rally when his Vauxhall Chevette crashed on the opening Staindale stage. The last retirement was the BMW 2002 of Terry Cree/Richard Shores, which went off in the final stage in Langdale. Both crews will receive a £100 voucher from West Wales Rally Spares, as will Ford Escort Mk2 crew James Potter/Bob Duck after their number came out of the hat in the draw for a third voucher.

Meanwhile, Ford Escort Mk1 crew Vince Bristow and Tim Sayer will receive a cheque for £237.50 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 Tim Pearcey and Neil Shanks. Their team worked into the early hours of Saturday morning to sort out a fuel tank issue and keep the Escort Mk2 in the rally.

Tom Coughtrie and Calvin Cooledge won the Best Improvement on Seeding, which is a set of axle brake pads from Mintex, after an excellent run in their Ford Escort Mk2. Finally, Bristow won the 'Hard Charger' award of a 20-litre jerry can from Green Valley Industrial Supplies. His pace in his 1600cc Escort Mk1 was again outstanding and he finished second overall in series two.

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

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

The 90-minute programme covers all the action as Marty McCormack and Phil Clarke sealed the overall title with a mighty performance on fabulous gravel stages round the rally HQ in Llandovery.

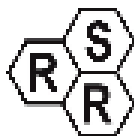
The full report from the Red Kite Stages can be watched on-line at:

<http://youtu.be/8E-5QAhQKzI>

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.

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.



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



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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 and interviews. His coverage of the Red Kite is already receiving rave reviews. 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.

### 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.

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

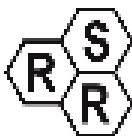
33 stage miles; entry free £250 (cost per mile £7.58)

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)

## 2014 championship awards

### DRIVERS

First Overall Driver Marty McCormack

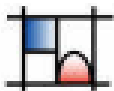
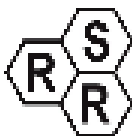
### Series Awards

Series 1	1st John Everard	2nd Steve Higgins	3rd Chris Tooze
Series 2	1st Terry Cree	2nd David Kirby	3rd Nick Jarvis
Series 3	1st Matt Edwards	2nd Nick Elliott	3rd Tim Pearcey
Series 4	1st Jason Pritchard	2nd Will Nicholls	3rd Peter Egerton
Series 7	1st Mark Spencer	2nd Dylan Davies	3rd Will Midgley

### Class Awards

C2 1st Robin Shuttleworth  
C3 1st Dick Slaughter  
C5 1st Richard Hill  
D3 1st Ben Mellors  
D5 1st James Potter  
D5 2nd Warren Philliskirk

Under 25's Award Jason Pritchard  
Over 55's Award Terry Cree  
Most Entertaining Driver Ben Mellors



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## CO-DRIVERS

First Overall Co-Driver Phil Clarke

## Series Awards

Series 1	1st Mark Sharpley	2nd Jo Tooze	3rd Graham Wride
Series 2	1st Richard Shores	2nd Chris Rixon	3rd Ron Roughead
Series 3	1st Dave Price	2nd Neil Shanks	3rd Bob Duck
Series 4	1st Dale Furniss	2nd Nick Broom	3rd Alun Cook
Series 7	1st Steve Pugh	2nd Llion Williams	3rd Paul Slingsby

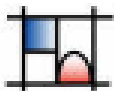
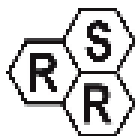
## Class Awards

D3 1st Alex Lee  
D5 1st Sam Collis  
D5 2nd Nigel Hutchinson

Under 25's Award Dale Furniss  
Over 55's Award Phil Clarke

## 2014 championship sponsors and partners

We are now busy sorting out championship partners and sponsors for the 2014 championship and we are very pleased with the response to date. We expect to have one or two opportunities for new companies to become involved in the championship, so if you are in that position or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Paul Lawrence on 01952 510382 as soon as possible.



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