

VISIT CONWY
CAMBRIAN
OCTOBER 28TH 2023

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME



28.10.23





DO NOT:

- Stand on the track
- Stand below the level of the track
- Stand in front of arrows or signs
- Stand in Prohibited Areas
- Stand or sit on or near log piles, walls or fences
- Sit close to the edge of the track
- Block escape routes
- Be distracted
- Play games with your safety or that of drivers
- Remove Stage signs or arrows
- Be the one to stop the stage

ALWAYS:

- Expect the unexpected
- Listen for approaching cars
- Remain alert
- Leave yourself room to move quickly
- Try to keep behind something solid
- Keep children under supervision
- Keep dogs on a lead
- Do as the Marshals ask
- Help the Marshals to run a safe stage

BE SURE THAT:

- The unexpected can happen
- If you ignore Marshals' instructions the Stage will be stopped

PLEASE PROTECT:

- Yourself
- Others around you
- The Stage

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE ORGANISERS ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING:



- All Residents on route
- Association of North Western Car Clubs
- Brenig Visitor Centre
- British Trials & Rally Drivers Association
- Competitors
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Conwy County Community Councils
- Conwy Harbour Master
- Conwy Tourist Board
- Dwr Cymru
- Dylan Roberts cyf
- GEM Communications
- Llandudno Town Council
- Marshals from near and far!
- Medical personnel
- Mostyn Estates
- Motorsport UK
- Natural Resources Wales
- North Wales Police
- Onthepacnote
- Patterson Pacenotes
- Peter Lucas Tool Hire
- Pine Lodge Rally Maps
- RAB Rally Timing
- Radio Operators
- Rally4Wales
- Rescue & Recovery Crews
- Rybrook Land Rover Conwy
- Scrutineers
- Snowdonia National Park
- Stewards
- Tynemouth Computer Services
- Victoria Centre, Llandudno
- View Creative
- Welsh Association of Motor Clubs

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CHAMPIONSHIPS SPONSORS



SPONSORS



ORGANISATIONS



NORTH WALES CAR CLUB PRESENTS



WELCOME

TITLE SPONSOR



Croeso/Welcome to the 68th running of the renowned Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, run by the North Wales Car Club, and based in beautiful Conwy county borough which is home to some of the most challenging forest stages in British rallying.

This year the event is pleased to be a round of the British Rally Championship, the MRF Tyres British Trials and Rally Drivers Association Championship, the Motorsport UK Pirelli Welsh Championship, Bowler Motorsport Championship, the Mini Rally Challenge, the IPS Paint Challenge, and the Association of North Western Car Clubs Championship. It is supported by Conwy County Borough Council and Llandudno Town Council who value the contribution makes to the local economy.

The rally is also supported by the communities in Conwy county that host the stages, car parking, and servicing and we are very grateful to them for their continued help and encouragement.

The rally is again being run as a National and Interclub event, and following the practice or previous years, the route has been refreshed to include one of the most challenging stages in world rallying which hasn't been used by any event for many years.

As in 2022 the event will be based at the Venue Cymru conference centre and arena in the resort town of Llandudno, and the service area will be located at the Welsh Government buildings in Llandudno Junction, both of which provide great facilities. The Bowler Defender Challenge section of the rally will have its base at Rybrook Land Rover in Llandudno Junction.

The organizing team very much appreciate the loyalty of competitors who have entered the event, also of the hundreds of marshals who volunteer their time to ensure the rally runs efficiently and safely, and of course the spectators who turn out in all weathers to support the sport we all love. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable day.

Thank you. Diolch yn fawr.

**THE VISIT CONWY
CAMBRIAN RALLY TEAM..**



**For direct event information please
download the Sportity app and insert this
password:**

Cambrian2023

THE SPORTITY APP

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY 2023

The main event Notice Board for
comptitors.

Password – Cambrian2023

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY 2023 -MEDIA

Key information for Press and Media
including Media Pack, starting lists,
links to live coverage and results as
well as a 'See it first' press release
folder. Find out how to become Mot-
orsport accredited.

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY 2023 -MARSHALS

Key Information for our wonderful
VoulnTeers including Marshal Briefing
Pack, start lists and Live Results.
#ThankYouMarshal

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY 2023 -SPECTATORS

Key information for Spectators
including starting lists, links to live
coverage and results.

Password – Cam23Spec

f i CAMBRIANRALLY

**VISIT CONWY
CAMBRIAN**
OCTOBER 20TH 2023

FIND OUT MORE
WWW.CAMBRIANRALLY.CO.UK

EVENT OFFICIALS

NO TELEPHONE CALLS AFTER 21:00HRS PLEASE.

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
Senior Clerk of the Course	WENNA ROBERTS	07887 803387 clerkofcourse@cambridgerally.co.uk
Deputy Clerks of the Course (National and Interclub):	CHRIS ASHLEY, ANDREW KELLITT	hairy_chris@hotmail.co.uk andrew@akrally.co.uk
Assistant Clerks of the Course:	ROGER EVANS CHRIS PHILLIPS CALVIN COOLEIDGE PEREDUR DAVIES	rogerevans007@btinternet.com cprallying@aol.com crcooleidge@googlemail.com peredurwyn@hotmail.co.uk
Rally Manager	ALYN EDWARDS	
Secretary of the Meeting:	PHIL BARLEY	07867 550106 secretary@cambridgerally.co.uk
Entries Secretary:	SARAH ROBSON	07515 908480 entries@cambridgerally.co.uk
Motorsport UK Safety Delegate:	SUE SANDERS	
Event Safety Officer:	TONY JACKSON	
Assistant Safety Officer:	MATTHEW JACKSON	
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Scrutineer:	HOWARD CORBALLY	
BTRDA Scrutineer:	tbc	
BRC Scrutineer:	tbc	
Motorsport UK Pirelli Ravenol Welsh Rally Championship Scrutineer:	PAUL LOVERIDGE	07831 656472
Environmental Scrutineer:	IAN WILLIAMS	
Chief Marshal Equipment Officer:	PAUL 'SMILEY' JONES	marshals@cambridgerally.co.uk
Deputy Chief Marshal:	CHRIS PHILLIPS	
Spectator Safety Officer:	ALAN CORNS	
Chief Communications Officer:	CHRIS WOODCOCK	
Competitor Liaison Officer:	SIMON GRONOW RYLAND JAMES	07554 423516 07773 346878
Event Treasurer:	NEIL COULSON PETE HOLLAND	
PR Co-Ordinator:	ROGER EVANS	07951 336812
Service Area Managers:	CHRIS PHILLIPS ROBBIE JONES	07899 805898 (C Phillips)
Chief Medical Officer (CMO):	DR. ALARIC HICKS	
Chief Timekeeper:	RICHARD BLACKSHAW	

ONES TO WATCH...

MAX MCRAE SKODA RS

The latest generation of a world famous rallying family is making his first visit to the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally. Max McRae, whose late uncle Colin was World Rally champion, and his grandfather and father also have illustrious records in the sport, will no doubt attract attention.

He first rallied in 2020 winning the N3 class in three rounds of the West Australian Rally Championship. His career was hampered by the Covid epidemic, but 2022 saw two Production Class wins in a Subaru Impreza in the Australian Rally Championship, and he also competed in Europe in a Fiesta

Rallye 4 notching up third in class on the Donegal International Rally, and third Junior BRC on the Nicky Grist Stages.

This year he competed in the Junior ERC Championship and led two events and recorded several fastest stage times.





MATTHEW HIRST

FIESTA R5

Matthew Hirst and Declan Dear will have another chance to clinch the Motorsport UK Pirelli Welsh Rally Championship title for a third time on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally.

In a carbon copy of last year, the Delta Salvage/Witham Group Ford Fiesta R5 crew scored maximum points on the first four rounds – only for their Woodpecker Stages jinx to deny them a five out of five clean sweep.

Having contested the event every year since 2018, the Cambrian is an event Hirst knows well and wrapping the Welsh title up with a round to spare will be top of his agenda. He said: "From a competitor's standpoint, one of the things I enjoy about this event is how it reinvents itself year on year. The route tends to be unpredictable which certainly adds to the challenge with the preparation going into the event from a pace notes perspective. This year is no different."

ROBERT PROUDLOCK

ADAM R2

Scottish competitor Robert Proudlock is in only his second year of rallying, but has shown that he's a rising star. This year competing an Opel Adam R2, he's clinched the Scottish Junior Rally Championship and has entered the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally with the aim of taking the BTRDA Junior title too - despite close competition at the top of the points table.

He said: "With the competition being as fierce as it is, it won't be an easy task. Nevertheless I can't wait to get out into the Welsh forests and hopefully round off what's already been a fantastic year."



LUKE FRANCIS

FIESTA R5

Two times Cambrian Rally winner, and former Welsh Rally champion, North Walian, Luke Francis is making a welcome return to the sport after stepping back from rallying in 2018 to focus on business and family life.

Reunited with his former co-driver John H Roberts in a Ford Fiesta R5, he's not expecting to win the rally but after a successful test drive prior to the event, hopes to put in a strong performance with a possible top ten finish in what is virtually his home event encompassing some of his favourite rally stages





GARRY PEARSON

POLO

Having lost out on winning this year's British Rally Championship after the last round, the Trackrod Rally in Yorkshire, when the title was taken by World Rally Championship competitor, Adrian Fourmaux, Scots rally star Garry Pearson is hoping to seal second place in the championship this weekend.

No stranger to the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, he enjoys the challenges set by the Conwy county based rally stages, and he and co-driver Daniel Barritt competing a Volkswagen Polo R5 has been on consistent form all season, putting in some outstanding times on both gravel and asphalt surfaces during his title challenge.

TOM CAVE

POLO GTI R5

Former British Rally Championship front runner, Tom Cave will make his first start in an R5 car for almost two years on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally and will definitely be one to watch.

He narrowly lost out on the 2021 BRC championship to fellow Welshman Matt Edwards, but says that on this event with no points to compete for he is going out to enjoy himself in a Melvyn Evans Motorsport Volkswagen Polo GTi R5.

He said: "It's an event I've always enjoyed The stages are absolutely world class. I'm really looking forward to it."





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SCAN ME



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Don't sit when watching or waiting.
Respect the tape and signage.
Keep children and pets under control.

#rallysafety

motorsportuk.org/rallysafety

CAMBRIAN CHALLENGE AWAITS THE BRITISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Motorsport UK British Rally Championship is set to round out its 2023 season in the world-class gravel stages of North Wales, as the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally plays host to the seventh and final round.



The race for the coveted BRC title was decided in the super-fast forests of Trackrod Rally Yorkshire back in September, as Frenchman Adrien Fourmaux took his fifth BRC win of the season to etch his name on the impressive trophy, alongside greats such as Colin McRae, Richard Burns, Ari Vatanen and many more.

He and co-driver Alexandre Coria dovetailed the BRC alongside a World Rally Championship WRC campaign in their Ford Fiesta Rally2, and it's due to that commitment, that will see them skip the season finale.

With the overall championship decided, the focus now turns to the remaining clashes not only for position in the standings but across the other categories in the series and the Llandudno-based event provides the perfect battleground to see out the season in style.

Iconic forest stages which saw the world's best drivers thread their top-flight machinery through the rugged landscape throughout the Wales Rally GB era of the World Rally Championship, will also host the BRC's final chapter of 2023 as the likes of Brenig, Elsi and Cloc Main will be familiar stages to fans and drivers alike.





Heading the BRC1 charge for the swansong is Duns driver Garry Pearson in his Volkswagen Polo GTi. The Scot has spent the season adapting to the VW on both surfaces and aside from an early exit on his home rally, the Jim Clark, has enjoyed a largely consistent points haul on each event. He will be looking to rubber-stamp his second place in the championship and on this occasion, he will be co-driven by Hannah McKillop.

Returning to the British Rally Championship for the first time since 2021 is Ollie Mellors in the Proton Iriz Rally2. His last BRC appearance was at the Cambrian Rally two years ago and has since switched his attention to events in France.

A recent victory at Rally National de Fourmies en Avesnois highlights his asphalt pace, but having been off gravel since February 2022 means he and co-driver Ian Windress may take a while to adapt.

Having wrapped up the BRC4 title, Steve Waugh will be able to relax for his second attempt at the Cambrian Rally. Having only started rallying in 2022, Waugh has spent much of the season learning events in his Fiesta R2T with co-driver Mark Broadbent alongside but has the benefit of some prior knowledge this time around.



Another to be heading to the final round with the crown in hand is National Rally Title champion Alan Carmichael. The Hyundai i20 driver did all he needed to in Yorkshire to take back-to-back titles but was conscience that co-driver Claire Williams could potentially be beaten so makes the trip over from Northern Ireland to ensure they both claim the spoils in 2023.

McBride and co-driver Liam McIntyre recorded their first Junior win at the Trackrod and the Fiesta Rally4 crew are in the hands of the gods if they are to secure the crown.

All eyes this year will be on the Junior British Rally Championship title duel between young chargers Kyle White and Kyle McBride. White has taken four victories so far this season and is in the box seat when it comes to the standings thanks to an impressive season behind the wheel of his Peugeot 208 Rally4.



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SSI - ELSI 1

FIRST CAR DUE AT 08:49

SURFACE GRAVEL || 8.93 MILES SPECIAL STAGE

A famous rally stage, Last used in 2020 this stage was also used on WRGB.

Great Spectating spots from the car park to Spectator are at post 22.

Spectators Parking off the B5401 Catering & toilets available.

WHAT 3 WORDS [P1-W3W.CO/FEEDS.FLAMINGO.LATCHE]

NO LITTER PLEASE!!

SS4 - ELSI 2

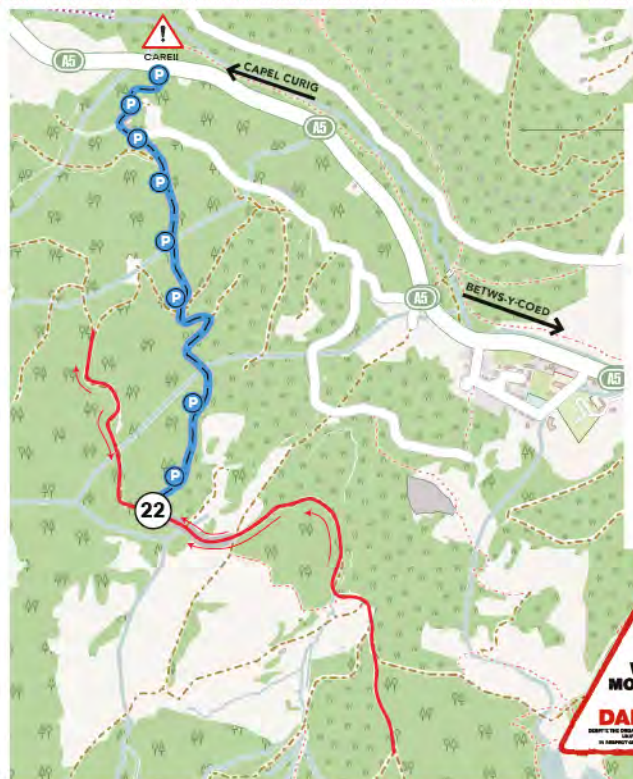
FIRST CAR DUE 13:38

SURFACE GRAVEL || 5.41 MILES SPECIAL STAGE

SS6 - ELSI 3

FIRST CAR DUE 16:26

5.41 MILES SPECIAL STAGE



SPECTATE SAFELY!

ARI NEEDS YOU TO

Be alert!
Always expect the unexpected
Stay at the designated spectator areas
Remember that in an accident anything can happen
Always follow the instructions of the marshals
Your safety - Your life
ONLY A SAFE RALLY IS A GOOD RALLY

#AriNeedsYou msa.uk.org/rallyfuture



SS1,SS4 & SS6 ELSI



SPECTATE SAFELY!

ARI NEEDS YOU TO

Be alert!
Always expect the unexpected
Stay at the designated spectator areas
Remember that in an accident anything can happen
Always follow the instructions of the marshals
Your safety - Your life
ONLY A SAFE RALLY IS A GOOD RALLY

#AriNeedsYou msak.org/rallyfuture



SS3 - BRENIG 1

FIRST CAR DUE AT 10:22

SURFACE 80% GRAVEL - 20% TARMAC || 4.50 MILES SPECIAL STAGE

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Spectators Parking off the B5401

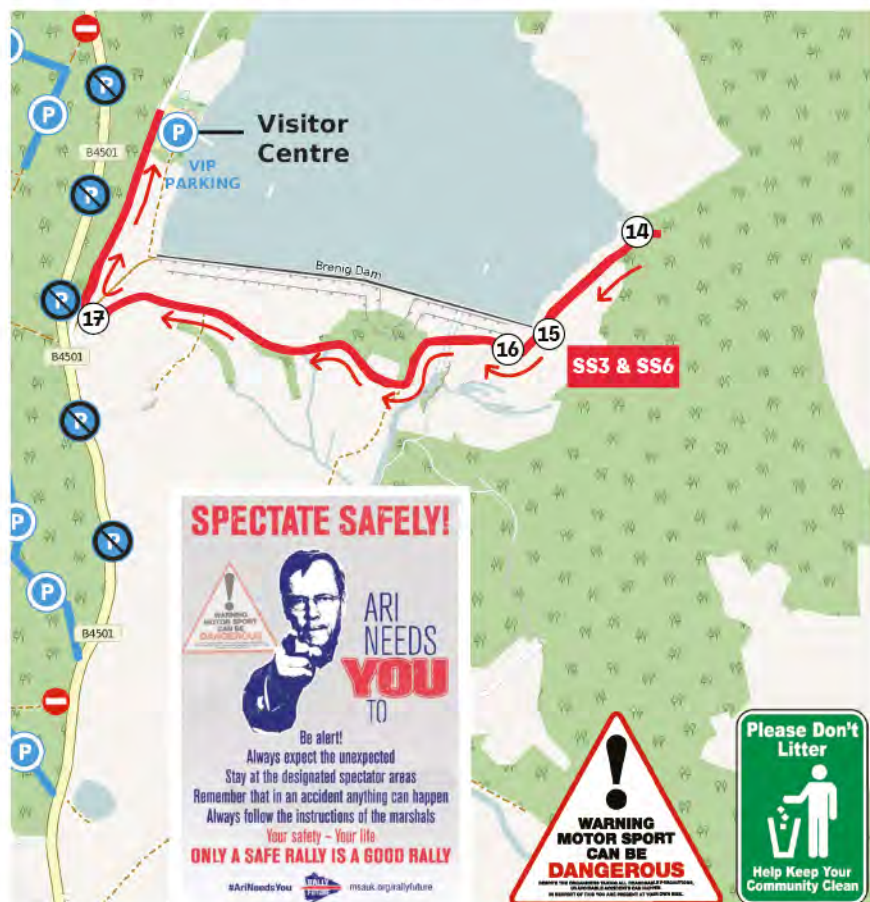
WHAT 3 WORDS [P1-W3W.CO/HACKSAW.WEALTH.CEMENTED]

NO LITTER PLEASE!!

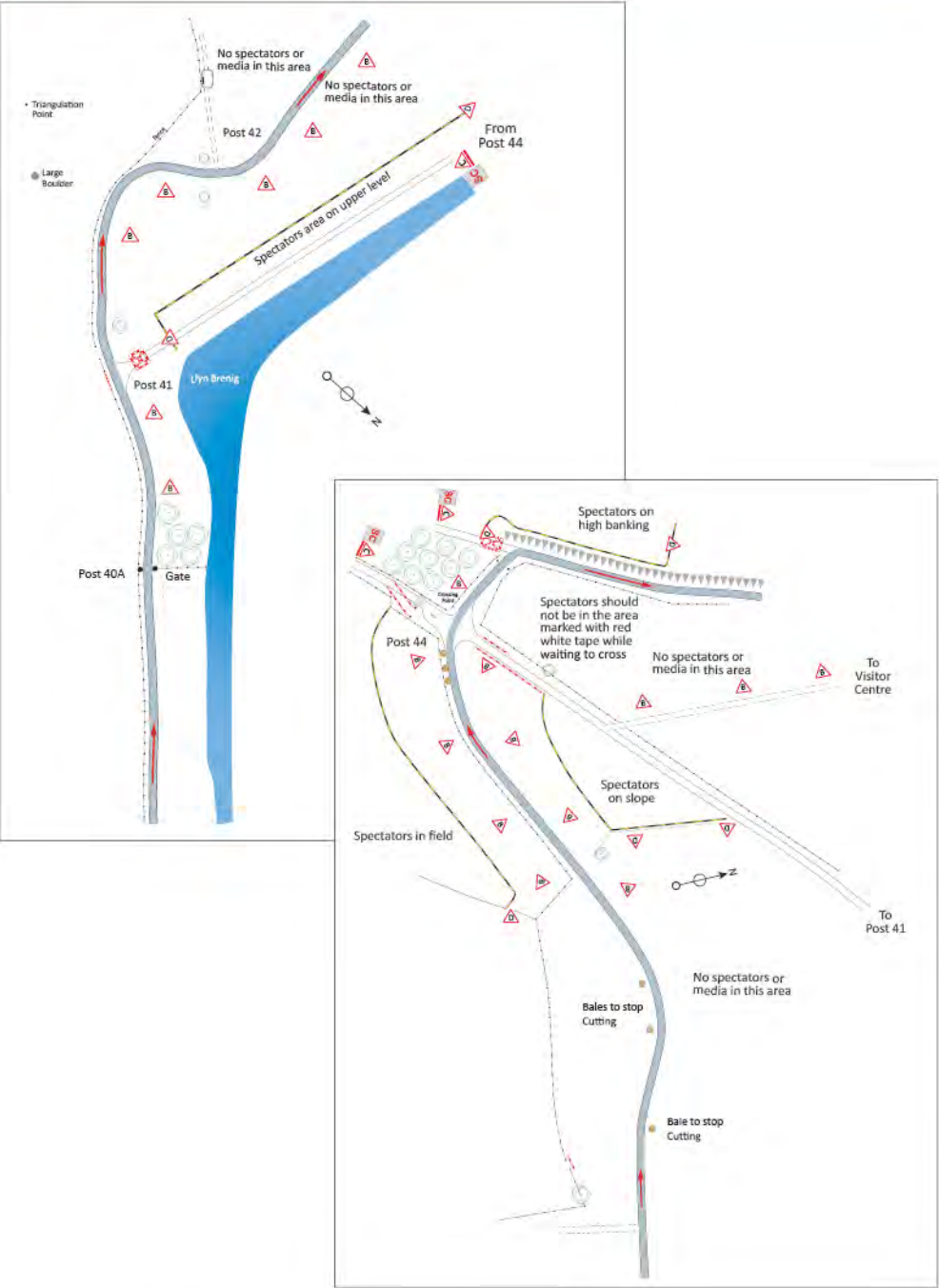
SS5 - BRENIG 2

FIRST CAR DUE 14:58

SURFACE 80% GRAVEL - 20% TARMAC || 13.50 MILES SPECIAL STAG



SS3 - BRENIG 1





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ENTRY LIST 2023

ENTRY NO	SEED	DRIVER NAME	CO-DRIVER NAME	CAR MAKE	CAR MODEL	CAR CC	CAR CLASS
4	1	Matthew Hirst	Declan Dear	Ford	Fiesta RS	1600	1
89	2	Tom Cave	TBC	Volkswagen	Polo GTI R5	1618	1
5	3	Garry Pearson	Hannah McKillop	Volkswagen	Polo	1598	1
98	4	Ollie Mellors	Ian Windress	Proton	Iriz RS	1600	1
32	5	Luke Francis	John H Roberts	Ford	Fiesta RS	1597	1
72	6	Russ Thompson	Stephen Link	Mitsubishi	EVO 9	1998	2
47	7	Ian Bainbridge	Will Atkins	Volkswagen	Polo	1600	1
74	8	Rob Wilson	Richard Morton Crozier	Mitsubishi	Lancer Evo 7	2000	2
106	9	Max McRae	Cameron Fair	Skoda	Fabia RS		
75	10	Alan Carmichael	Claire Williams	Hyundai	RS	1600	1
79	11	James Mc Carville	TBA	Ford	Fiesta RS	1598	1
65	12	Daniel Sigurðarson	Ásta Sigurðardóttir	Ford	Fiesta	1596	1
73	14	Simon Rogers	James How	Mitsubishi	Evo 6	1997	2
13	15	Ben friend	Cliff Simmons	Ford	Escort mk2	1998	H3
90	16	Adrian Hetherington	Ronan O'Neill	Ford	Escort RS1800	1998	H8
34	17	Boyd Kershaw	Keegan Rees	Ford	Escort	1998	6
46	18	Kyle white	Sean topping	Peugeot	208	1200	5
19	19	Robert Proudlock	Steven Brown	Opel	Adam	1600	7
3	20	Martyn Andrews	Steve Greenhill	Subaru	Impreza	1998	2
50	21	David Tomlin	Keith Ashley	Ford	Fiesta RS	1598	1
22	22	Iwan Roberts	Daniel Jones	Ford	Escort G3	2000	6
53	23	Wug Utting	Bob Stokoe	Subaru	Impreza N12b	1998	3
24	24	Daniel Moss	Samuel Davies	Mitsubishi	Lancer Evo X	1998	2
85	25	Steve Hollis	Tim Currie	Volkswagen	Golf R	2998	2
23	26	Callum Griffiths	William Lewis	Ford	Fiesta ST	1998	6
58	27	Jóhann Fylkisson	Heida Karen Fylkisdóttir	Mitsubishi	Evo 9	1994	2
48	28	Tony Simpson	Stefan Arndt	Ford	Fiesta	998	7
52	29	Kyle McBride	Liam McIntyre	Ford	Fiesta	998	5
77	30	Keelan Grogan	Ayrton Sherlock	Peugeot	208 Rally4	0	5
71	31	Jack Brennan	John McGrath	Peugeot	208 Rally 4	1199	5
108	32	Aoife Raftery	Damien Connolly	Ford	Fiesta		
82	33	Ernie Graham	Karen Graham	Ford	Escort RS1600	1975	H3
6	34	Colin Minton	Bonnie Papper	Ford	Fiesta RS	1600	1
26	35	Ricky Crone	Ilan Devine	Ford	Escort	1998	6
102	36	Liam Clark	Tony Edwards	Ford	Fiesta R2	1600	7
44	37	Liam Griffiths	Daniel James	Ford	Fiesta ST	1998	3

ENTRY LIST 2023



ENTRY NO	SEED	DRIVER NAME	CO-DRIVER NAME	CAR MAKE	CAR MODEL	CAR CC	CAR CLASS
31	38	Colin Griffiths	Marc Morgan	Subaru	STI	1998	2
83	39	Richard Ceen	Alun Hayward	Ford	Fiesta	1598	1
84	40	Sam Mason	James Seymour	Ford	Fiesta	998	7
66	41	Ieuan "Pantsod" Evans	Dafydd Evans	Ford	Escort Mk2	1975	H6
70	42	Geoff Phelps	Colin Jenkins	Ford	Escort	1998	6
101	43	Andrew Stokes	Jonny Tad Evans	Ford	Escort Mk1	1975	H3
80	44	Andrew Fox	Jaime-Lee Fox	BMW	325	2800	4
63	45	Stephen Benton	Oli Benton	Ford	Escort Mk2	2000	H8
56	46	Alfie Hammond	Phil Boyle	Ford	Fiesta	0	7
33	47	Alex Cannon	Alan Carfrae	Ford	Fiesta R2	1600	7
54	48	Jack Harris	Aaron O Regan	FORD	FIESTA R2T	999	5
10	49	Stephen Waugh	Mark Broadbent	Ford	Fiesta	998	5
9	50	Dan Chester	Paul Barbet	BMW	E30	2998	4
1	51	Michael Jenkins	Tom TÄŕŕngren	Ford	Fiesta	1600	7
18	52	james Iarminie	Rich Jones	Ford	Fiesta	1598	7
92	53	Martin Walters	Marie Fletcher	Honda	Civic	1594	7
87	54	Cyril crook	Paul Pritchard	Vauxhall	Astra RWD	2092	4
95	55	Frazer Martin	Dylan Bargate	Mitsubishi	Evo 6	1998	2
61	56	Arwel Lloyd Jones	Sion Williams	Ford	Escort MK2	1998	H3
88	57	Jonathan Lee Jones	Glenn Mercer	Ford	Fiesta R2	0	5
14	58	Wil Armitage	Jeremy Pole	Peugeot	306 S16	1998	6
11	59	Garry Whitney	Karl Keating	Honda	Civic	1600	7
49	60	Jonathan Whalley	Peter Dennis	Ford	Escort Mk2	1998	H6
60	61	Arwel Parry	Lucie guttridge	Subaru	Impreza	1998	2
64	62	Ross Clements	Christopher Lear	Ford	Sierra XR4x4	2933	2
99	63	Daniel Markham	William Alfred Coldicott	Peugeot	205	1900	6
42	64	David Beecroft	Fraser Parish	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
43	65	Daniel Beecroft	Phillip Gillespie	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
38	66	Miles Williams	Andy Dennis	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
39	67	Richard Wynne-Williams	Matthew Lowe	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
40	68	Paul White	Pete Wilson	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
36	69	Jorma Jokela	Janne Jokela	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender

ENTRY LIST 2023

ENTRY NO	SEED	DRIVER NAME	CO-DRIVER NAME	CAR MAKE	CAR MODEL	CAR CC	CAR CLASS
37	70	Vanessa Ruck	Chris Cuming	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
51	72	Gareth Bent	Paul Hulston	Land Rover	Bowler Defender 90	2000	Bowler Defender
41		Ed Williams	tbc	Land Rover			Trophy
	201						
21	202	Nigel Jenkins	Karen Jenkins	Vauxhall	Nova	1397	8
105	203	Dave Brick	Freddy Brick	Vauxhall	Nova		
17	204	Dylan Fowler-Bishop	Dan Evans	Nissan	Micra	1348	8
55	205	Chris Bush	Robert Bryn "Chicken" Jones	Vauxhall	Corsa	1398	8
25	206	Ashley Francis-Adams	Tudor Jenkins	Nissan	Micra	1348	8
91	207	Chris Greenall	James Greenall	Vauxhall	Nova	1400	8
93	208	Lewis Hooper	Rhys Edwards	Nissan	Micra	1398	8
104	209	Hywel Davies	Jamie Atherton	Ford	Escort Mk2		H1
59	210	Ed James	Charlie Mason	Nissan	Micra Kit Car	1395	8
96	211	Gethin Rhun Price	Sion Rowlands	Nissan	Micra	1400	11
16	212	Luke Watts	Matt Rogers	MG	ZR	1396	8
69	213	Kelvin Evans	Ifan Rowlands	Nissan	Micra	1275	8
35	214	Julian Birley	Emyr Hall	Talbot	Sunbeam TI	1598	H2
94	215	Rory Jones	Tom Hughes	MG	ZR	1396	8
15	216	Giles Armitage	Josh Rhodes	Peugeot	205 GTi	1895	9
97	217	Daniel Shalev	Fiona Crump	Ford	Fiesta	1600	10
100		Gareth Humphreys	Adam Burkill	BMW	Mini	1600	-6
30	220	MICK SMITH	Paul Michael Stringer	bmw	mini copper s	1600	4
45	221	Tim Green	Jordan Joines	Mini	Cooper S	1600	4
2	222	Gordon Davies	Jack Morris	Mini	Cooper S	1600	4
8	223	Guy Butler	Florence Butler	BMW	Mini Cooper s	1600	10
103	224	George Andrew Clarke	Tom Clarke	Mini	Cooper S	1595	4
29	225	Wesley Gifford	Julia Perry	Mini	Cooper	1598	7
76	226	Gary A Jones	Matthew Jones	Mini	Cooper	1598	10
86	227	John Day	TBA	BMW	Mini R50	1598	10

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CHAMPION MATTHEW

HEADS THE MOTORSPORT UK PIRELLI W

BY PAUL EVANS



MATTHEW HIRST AND DECLAN DEAR WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO CLINCH THE MOTORSPORT UK PIRELLI WELSH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE FOR A THIRD TIME ON TODAY'S VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY.

In a carbon copy of last year, the Delta Salvage/Witham Group Ford Fiesta R5 crew scored maximum points on the first four rounds – only for their Woodpecker Stages jinx to deny them a five out of five clean sweep.

Having contested the event every year since 2018, the Cambrian is an event Hirst knows well and wrapping the Welsh title up with a round to spare will be top of his agenda. Hirst will also be looking for an overall win, as are plenty of other Welsh contenders.

W HIRST



WELSH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLE

Rob Wilson was the Pirelli Welsh star on last year's Cambrian – collecting second placed points and scooping the Welsh Junior title, Welsh Challenge and class W13 titles, plus the runners-up spot in the overall drivers' standings. Co-driven by Richard Crozier, the young Herefordshire driver will be aiming for another top result in his Mitsubishi Evo 7.

Wilson had an epic battle last time out with Russ Thompson/Stephen Link (Dunnow Plant Mitsubishi Evo 9), and that is set to continue today.

Other crews to look out for include Bob Morgan/Ade Williams in their Winner Garage Škoda Fabia R5, Colin Minton (partnered by the newly crowned Pirelli Welsh Junior co-driver champion Bonnie Papper) in his Ignition Motorsport Ford Fiesta R5, David Tomlin/Keith Ashley in their Axon Ford Fiesta R5 and Wug Utting/Bob Stokoe in their Geoff Jones Motorsport-prepared Subaru Impreza N12b.

With all but two of 18 Pirelli Welsh class titles still up for grabs, battles will be raging throughout the field – not least in the Welsh Juniors, where frontrunners Callum Griffiths, Sam Mason, Liam Griffiths, Gethin Price and Dylan Fowler Bishop are separated by just 10 points.

The flamboyant Iwan Roberts Jnr/Daniel Jones lead the highly competitive Hockly Motorsport-supported 2WD category in their Roberts of Ffestiniog Ford Escort G3.

They'll be chased hard by the likes of Geoff Phelps/Colin Jenkins (Hartpur Farm Escort Mk2), Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees (Flying Kiwi Ford Escort Mk2), class W12

leaders Tim Phelps/Elwyn Manuel (Britpart Escort Mk2) and Andrew Fox/Jaime-Lee Fox (Xwatch Safety Solutions BMW 325).

Everything is still up for grabs in the Restruct Welsh Historic classes, with the additional incentive of the top three finishers in each Historic class at the end of the season being put forward for the David Stokes Historic Challenge award for drivers and the Guy Weaver award for co-drivers.

Julian Birley/Emyr Hall lead class W5 in their Talbot Sunbeam, although rivals Mark and Debora Tugwell (Metalways Escort Mk1 Twin Cam) and Ian Beveridge/Paul Price (Toyota Corolla Levin TE27) have also won the class this year and remain title contenders.

In class W8, the battle for Ford Escort RS1600 Mk1 supremacy between Andrew Stokes/Jonny Tad Evans, Jeremy Wells, Jonathan Brace/Paul Spooner and Gary Smith/Clive Jones could not be closer – with the 50-year old cars remaining a firm fans' favourite.

Lyn Davies/Aled Richards lead class W9 in their 57 Tyres-backed Escort RS1800 Mk2. Expect him and class rival Robert Gough (co-driven by Paul Morris) to be right up there swapping times with the 4WD crews and battling for a top 10 result.

If you'd like to know more about the Pirelli Welsh Rally Championship, click onto: wnrc.wamc.org.uk.

CHALLENGE TITLE RACE STILL WIDE OPEN



The Rally Challenge drivers lead is currently held by Richard Merriman who has just concentrated on the sealed surface rounds in his Darrian T90. Richard declined a kind offer from fellow competitor Leighton Smith to use his Peugeot 205 as his last foray into the forests didn't end well when back in 1982, he ended the day on his roof on the JC Van Hire Stages. He now has to sit back while the final two rounds , both held in forestry, take place. Favourite for the title must now be Surrey based Irishman Ernie Graham. He and wife Karen bring their Flexifly sponsored Historic specification Mk. 1 Escort. The couple are far from home and dry as all ten of the current top placed drivers who compete on forestry events, and Karen's nearest rivals have entered.

Points for the 'IPS' are awarded for the class position achieved in each rally, not just amongst contenders with a maximum 30 up for grabs each round. Just one point separates second and third placed Martin Walters on 108 and Andrew Stokes on 107, so Ernie's current score of 116 still makes it too close to call.

Equally close is the co-drivers category. Coleford's Colin Jenkins leads by just one point over Dan Evans whose class victory on the Toyota Harlech Stages, elevated him to second in the standings. Colin, who is with Geoff Phelps in an Escort, has now competed on seven rounds and with the best seven out of twelve scores to count, he will now have to drop his lowest score points up until the last round, his home event, the Wydean Stages.

Martin Walters and Marie Fletcher narrowly missed out on the 2022 title in their Honda Civic when they were unable to contest the last round, and lying fourth and sixth consecutively, cannot be ruled out.

The fight for the Junior title is between current leader, Dylan Fowler Bishop, (Restruct Nissan Micra), and Luke Watts, (MG ZR). Dylan is also going to be hard to beat in the RJD Motor Services Two Seats Trophy category of the Challenge which rewards competitors who both drive and co-drive throughout the year.

The Rally Challenge, which is promoted by Maesteg and District Motor Club attracted 140 registrations this year. It was created back in 2013 to raise funds and awareness for Wales Air Ambulance and is on target to have reached £16,000 since its inception by the end of this year.



Honda Civic Martin Walters / Marie Fletcher



MK.2 Geoff Phelps / Colin Jenkins



Mk. 1 Andrew Stokes / Jonny Tad Evans

Reports, photographs and points can be found at: independentpaintsuppliesrallychallenge.co.uk



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ANWCC FOREST FOREST RALLY CHAMPION



THE CAMBRIAN IS THE NINTH ROUND OF AN 11-ROUND SERIES SO PLENTY STILL TO BE DECIDED!

The current leading driver is the Flying Kiwi, Boyd Kershaw, who was runner-up last year. With co-driver Keegan Rees in the rapid Escort he will be trying to increase his current lead of just one point over Yorkshire driver Gary Cooper who has scored maximum points in the four events started in his Subaru, but all in the north of England area.

Currently third and in with a chance of overall honours is MG ZR driver Luke Watts from the Forest of Dean area, and in class is battling against fellow club members Nigel and Kaz Jenkins in their Vauxhall Nova.

North Walian Jamie Edwards leads the co-drivers with five maximum scores in R5 cars, but the reigning champion is closely followed by Manx resident Bonnie Papper in her first year of competition. Kershaw's co-driver, Keegan Rees from south Wales is in third spot.

Current class leading drivers are Luke Watts (MG ZR), Dan Jones (Vauxhall Nova), Boyd Kershaw (Ford Escort), Dan Chester (BMW) and Gary Cooper (Subaru Impreza) whilst the leading co-drivers are Kaz Jenkins (Vauxhall Nova), Cyril Jones (Vauxhall Nova), Keegan Rees (Ford Escort), Jack Morris (MINI Cooper S) and Jamie Edwards (Skoda Fabia).

With the Malton Stages in Yorkshire and the Wyedean in the Forest of Dean next month still to count it is impossible to predict the eventual champions, but local knowledge may favour a couple of crews!

STAGE SHIP 2024



Full details of all the ANWCC Championships, with updated championship charts and events info are available on www.anwcc.co.uk where details of the 2024 championships will also be appearing soon, competitor registrations are open and linked from the home page.



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BACK-TO-BACK



Following their victory on the recent Trackrod Forest Stages – their fourth of the season – Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta Rally2) have secured the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship crown, narrowly beating Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards (Skoda Fabia R5) on the way. In Elliot's case, at the age of just 20, it's his second consecutive title – a feat that no-one has achieved since Ricky Evans back in 1994/95!

PAYNE!...



Nigel & Kaz Jenkins have also claimed the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star® Championship. Apart from a rare retirement on the Woodpecker Stages, the husband-and-wife team's Nova has scored five maximums and one 2nd place, putting the matter beyond the reach of the opposition with a round to spare.

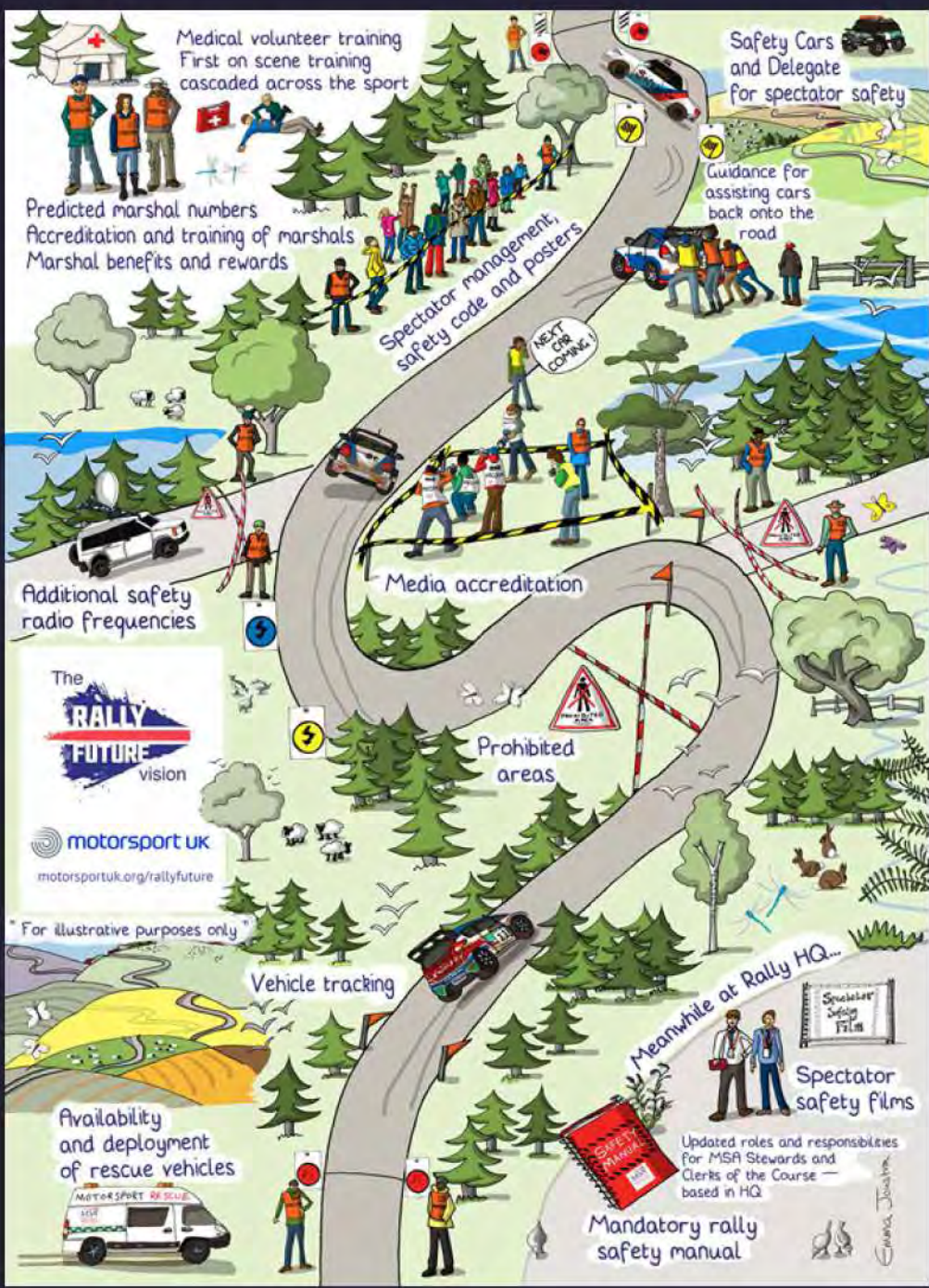
Nevertheless, as the BTRDA Rally Series reaches its conclusion on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, there are still plenty of classes and categories that have yet to be decided... The MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship – which caters purely for two-wheel drive cars – is far from over! Current leaders Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees (Escort MkII) will need to be on their mettle in North Wales if they are to maintain their position as there are, mathematically, four other crews who could relieve them of their hallowed position! Andy Davison (Sunbeam VXR) holds 2nd place ahead of a hard-charging Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons (Escort MkII) who have already accrued three maximums, while Ernie & Karen Graham's immaculate Escort RS1600 not only leads the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup but could also improve on its 4th place in the Silver Star table.

Upholding front-wheel drive honour, Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown's Opel Adam is 5th and, in spite of the best efforts of Liam Clark (Fiesta R2), leads both the BTRDA Rallye R2 and Junior R2 Cups. However, neither of these could be described as 'safe'!...

Behind Payne/Woodburn and Newby/Jamie Edwards, the final Gold Star podium spot is still up for grabs. It's a straight fight between Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Lancer EVO9) and last year's Cambrian Rally winners Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) and so it goes without saying – but we will anyway! – that sparks will be flying while that is sorted out...

Similarly, the Bronze Star® Championship also has some unanswered questions. 2022 MRF Tyres Rally First Cup winner Lewis Hooper has since upgraded his Micra and holds 2nd in the table, on equal points with Chris Greenall's Nova. However, should neither driver finish the Cambrian and Dylan Fowler-Bishop (Micra) come out on top, as he did on the Woodpecker Stages, runner-up spot beckons....!

The BTRDA Rally Series prides itself on providing a place for all vehicles covered by Motorsport UK technical regulations and such a strategy provides competition – at times very intense! – throughout the entry. Long may it continue!...



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