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## RACRMC Newsletter December 2024

### Welcome to the December Newsletter

Firstly, I would like to wish all our members and supporters a very Merry Christmas

A lot of updates to finish off our 2024 year and a look forward to what is happening in 2025.

### Championship News

Attached to the Newsletter are the provisional final points standing for the Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship for 2024.

I would like to congratulate the following who will receive their awards at the Annual Dinner Dance at Casa Hotel, Chesterfield on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

### Winner of the Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship for 2024

Driver - Seb Perez

CoDriver - Gary McElhinney

### Category 2

1<sup>st</sup> Overall Driver - Philip Harris

CoDriver - Derek Davies

2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Driver - Ben Smith

CoDriver - Steve Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> Overall Driver - Josh Carr

CoDriver - Dale Bowen



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### Category 3

- 1<sup>st</sup> Overall    Driver -        Rudi Lancaster  
                  CoDriver -     Guy Weaver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall    Driver –         Adrian Hetherington  
                  CoDriver -     Patrick Cooper
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall    Driver –         Richard Hill  
                  CoDriver -     Ronan O’Neill

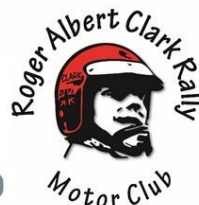
### Category K for FIA Car

- 1<sup>st</sup> Overall    Driver -        Mark Higgins  
                  CoDriver -     Carl Williamson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall    Driver –         David Pedley  
                  CoDriver -     Grace Pedley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall    Driver –         Steve Ward  
                  CoDriver -     Phil Sandham

### BHRC 2 for Cars under 1600cc

- 1<sup>st</sup> Overall    Driver -        Matt Bown  
                  CoDriver -     Shaun Hughes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall    Driver –         Chris Squires





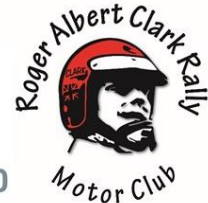
## Class Awards

1 <sup>st</sup> In Class C2	Driver –	Matt Bown
	CoDriver -	Tom Murphy
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class C5	Driver –	Jeremy Easson
	CoDriver -	Mikle Reynolds
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class D2	Driver –	Chris Squires
	CoDriver -	Shaun Hughes
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class D3	Driver –	Mike Reed
	CoDriver -	John Millington
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class D4	Driver –	Ben Jemison
	CoDriver -	Dave Tearl
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class D5	Driver –	Baz Wheeler
	CoDriver -	Sam Collis
2 <sup>nd</sup> In Class D5	Driver –	Phil Squires
	CoDriver -	Mick Squires
1 <sup>st</sup> In Class G2	Driver –	Nick Elliott
	CoDriver -	Dave Price

## Rally 2

1 <sup>st</sup> Overall	Driver -	Steve Magson
	CoDriver -	Steve Bielby
2 <sup>nd</sup> Overall	Driver –	David Dobson
	CoDriver -	Brian Hodgson





## Motor Club Awards Night

As announced in last newsletter the end of season and awards night will be held at CASA Hotel in Chesterfield on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

If you wish to book some discounted accommodation direct with the hotel then please use code: 0102RAC, with the hotel reservation team on 01246 245999

The night is not just for award winners but for all, the dress code is smart casual.

Ticket prices for the three-course event will be £50 per person.

If you would like a ticket for the event, please email [nicola@racrallychamp.org](mailto:nicola@racrallychamp.org)

## Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards



**HISTORIC AWARDS**  
2024  
**WINNER**  
*Competitive Event*

The 2023 Roger Albert Clark Rally was shortlisted for this prestigious award which was presented at a gala night at Pall Mall on 21 November.

It is with great humility that on behalf of the whole organisation team and marshals that Colin Heppenstall Rally Manager collected the award.





# RALLY ANGLO CALEDONIAN

What can we say about the clubs new event, well yet again another classified Storm Bert hit the event, with snow, wind and ice.

After delaying the start of the event for three hours it allowed the event to run 14 out of the 16 planned stages.

The event has been given very good feedback by competitors and Motorsport UK, and it is the intention to replicate the event again in 2026.

Congratulations to our four and two wheel drive winners.



A small selection of pictures to give you a flavour of the event



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**ROGER ALBERT  
CLARK RALLY<sub>25</sub>**

With now less than 12 months for the event which will be running from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The initial overview for the event is.

Scrutineering to take place at Carmarthen Showground on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Stages in South Wales on returning to Carmarthen for an overnight halt

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Stages in Mid Wales with a late evening finish

It is not expected for crews to travel all the way to Carlisle overnight

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> A lunchtime restart from Carlisle will see stages in both Scotland and England before a return to Carlisle for the overnight Halt

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> With a restart from Carlisle will see Stages in Scotland, before an overnight halt back in Carlisle

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> With a final restart from Carlisle sees the event head into Kielder for the final day with the event finishing with 'The Big One' once again, before the ceremonial finish in Carlisle.



**ROGER ALBERT  
CLARK RALLY<sub>25</sub>**





**The Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship has officially unveiled a revamped calendar for 2025, taking in seven top-quality events spanning the UK.**



Championship promoters The Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club have introduced a predominantly gravel roster for the season ahead, capitalising on the plans of many crews intending to contest the popular Roger Albert Clark Rally at the end of the season.

In a change from the nine-round 2024 season, which saw Seb Perez and co-driver Gary McElhinney clinch the crown in their Porsche 911, six gravel rounds and one sealed surface event make up the challenge with the five best scores to count.

As has become a tradition for the series, The Riponian Stages Rally will kick-start the season in Thirsk in February, offering classic tests in the Yorkshire forests, including a unique feature of closed road link sections between complexes.

The world-class stages of Get Jerky Rally North Wales mark the first of three visits to Wales in a row, providing popular tests near its Welshpool base at the end of March.





Returning to the fold after successfully reuniting in 2024, the Severn Valley Stages adds more classic Welsh stages to the calendar such as Myherin and Hafren from its base in Builth Wells, with 60 miles planned to add to the already challenging event.

The Plains Rally is all set to make a return to the calendar after a short sabbatical. From its home in Bala, yet more popular Welsh stages are planned in May.

After popular inclusion this year, the Dunoon Presents Argyll Rally takes crews to Scotland for the only asphalt event of the season. The two-day closed-road event on the Cowal Peninsula was a challenging addition, offering a unique challenge across the bumpy, narrow lanes.

Two gravel staples round out the compact season, with the popular Woodpecker Rally taking place in August, whilst the driver's favourite, Trackrod Rally Yorkshire takes in the Dalby forest in September, complete with the traditional night-time blast on the Friday to round out the season.

Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship Manager Colin Heppenstall believes it's the right format for the 2025 calendar.

"We are delighted to finally reveal the Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship offering for 2025," he says.

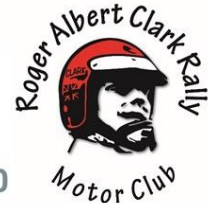
"Many will notice that it's a total contrast to the 2024 roster, but it made total sense to introduce a calendar weighted towards gravel this season and I'm confident that the BHRC will continue to enjoy ultra-close competition at the highest level.

"The seven rounds we have selected are all great rallies in their own right, and with it being a Roger Albert Clark Rally year, we are fully aware that many historic competitors revolve their season around that event. So focusing mainly on gravel will appeal to a broad range of crews this season, plus heading back to Argyll to enjoy its sensational closed roads fitted perfectly in the calendar.

"There is certainly something for everyone in the BHRC in 2025 and we are looking forward to another exciting season of historic rallying. Our regulations and championship format for next season will be announced in the coming weeks."







## 2025 Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Championship Calendar

1.	9 February	Riponian Stages Rally	Gravel
2.	29 March	Get Jerky Rally North Wales	Gravel
3.	12 April	Severn Valley Stages	Gravel
4.	17 May	Plains Rally	Gravel
5.	20/21 June	Dunoon Presents Argyll Rally	Asphalt
6.	30 August	Woodpecker Rally	Gravel
7.	26/27 September	Trackrod Rally Yorkshire	Gravel

Colin Heppenstall also commented for Club members.

It was always our intention to include additional asphalt into the championship but with the Isle of Man clashing with the Severn Valley Stages and the Tour of Epynt moving into October the Championship didn't have many options for adding new events into the calendar.





***Other Press articles published recently:***

**Seb Perez claimed the 2024 Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship title last weekend, as the season reached a thrilling climax at Rally Anglo Caledonian [23/24 November].**

The Porsche 911 driver firmly closed the lid on his title charge by taking maximum scores in both Saturday's and Sunday's leg of the event, storming to second overall in the rally itself, only beaten by a modern-day turbocharged-four-wheel-drive machine.

In doing so, Perez also ensured co-driver Gary McElhinney clinched the coveted crown despite being on the other side of the world, contesting the Silver Fern Rally in New Zealand. It was also the first BHRC overall title for a Category Two [cars registered from 1968 to 1974] crew since the late David Stokes, along with co-driver Guy Weaver, claimed the crown in 2014 in a Ford Escort MKI.

However, it could have easily been very different, as on the run-up to the event, title rival and Triumph TR7 driver Mark Higgins suffered a shoulder injury, ruling him out of the event and handing Perez the title without turning a wheel.

Whilst Perez could have easily chosen to cruise around the event, dubbed the mini-R.A.C Rally, he elected to end the season on a high as he and co-driver Dale Bowen stormed to a sensational double top score.

The gruelling two-day event, spanning over 133 gravel miles in both England and Scotland, was made even more demanding thanks to the arrival of Storm Bert, bringing severe snow and fog to the opening day in Kielder Forest.

With the challenging conditions, organisers altered the schedule on safety grounds and would eventually salvage six tests in the Borders stages. Such were the conditions; the opening two tests would claim several BHRC contenders, including Adrian Hetherington/Ronan O'Neill [Escort].

Paul Thompson/Josh Davison's early lead would give way to David Henderson/Will Atkins [Escort] after the opening loop, with Matthew Robinson/Sam Collis [Escort] in third. With the icy Ash Park and Kershope stages repeated, Thompson found his calling and claimed back the lead, but he would need to watch his mirrors.

Perez languished in 17th overall after initially struggling with the conditions, but on the second pass of stages, he found the grip levels much more to his liking and





began a fightback. On the Buck Fell test, Perez went a clear minute quicker than the impressive second fastest time of Chris Squires/Shاون Hughes [Escort] to take the lead, further cementing it over the closing stages to take the maximum score by a staggering 2mins 30 seconds.

Thompson took second and top Category 3 [cars registered between 1975 and 1981], whilst Henderson took third and top FIA honours.

Sunday's Scottish tests offered a stark contrast to the previous leg. With the snow melting away and higher temperatures, it was a return to normal in terms of both the conditions on the stages and the leaderboard.

Once again, Perez was largely unmatchable, although this time, the attack came from Hetherington, who returned for the second day in a bid to claim second in the BHRC standings. The Escort pilot was within shouting distance when a puncture in the Castle O'er stage dropped him over 40 seconds. Even though Perez's Porsche suffered gear stick issues, the champion held on to his lead to claim the second-day win.

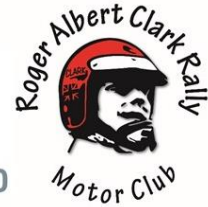
"We will take that", said an elated Perez on his championship title and second overall at the rally.

"It's nice to seal up the season with two wins here. It's been a trying season, though, we had some trying times on a few rounds like the Isle of Man, but it's been great and one hell of a battle and so very enjoyable. Mark [Higgins] and I have battled all season long, and it's been sad he wasn't here for the last one. There have been some great fights with the likes of Richard Hill, Ben Friend, Nick Elliott and all the usual suspects. It's been great fun, I've really enjoyed it, so let's see what's next".

Hetherington took second and top Category Three whilst a fierce battle between Matthew Robinson, Rudi Lancaster and David Henderson played out over the afternoon stages. On the very last test, Lancaster and co-driver Guy Weaver snatched third from Robinson, rounding off a fine drive all weekend.

In terms of the championship, the final stage of the season would prove pivotal as Lancaster and Weaver's storming run to the podium positions gave him enough points to secure second overall in the standings to round out the season as vice-champions, plus secure the Category Three title to boot.





Hetherington took third, just two points shy, whilst Patrick Cooper took third co-driver despite skipping the final round of the season.

## Rally Anglo Caledonian fends off Storm Bert

Seb Perez and Dale Bowen were the big winners on Rally Anglo Caledonian as they won both elements of the Fuchs British Historic Rally Championship double header during a quite remarkable rally in the Scottish Borders (November 23-24).

This new event on the calendar from the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club pitched crews into two days of competition across 140 stage miles with day one in Kielder forest in Northumberland and day two in the famous forests of southern Scotland.

As well as the BHRC event, Sunday's Rally Caledonian formed the final round of the Asset Alliance Scottish Rally Championship while there were also a single-day event on Saturday called Rally Anglo.

With around 120 entries in total, the event delivered a huge challenge for everyone as the arrival of Storm Bert turned Saturday's stages into a battle against snow, ice and later thick fog.

In the two-day Rally Anglo Caledonian overall victory went to Alan Carmichael and Jane Nicol in their Hyundai i20N Rally2 after a fine run, even though running first on the road meant they were acting as a snow plough on most of Saturday's stages.

Second overall, just 1m7s back were Perez and Bowen after a mighty performance in their Porsche 911 which gave Perez two more maximum scores in the BHRC and underlined the 2024 championship victory for Perez and his regular co-driver Gary McElhinney. Rounding out the historic podium were Paul Thompson/Josh Davison and David Henderson/Will Atkins in Ford Escort Mk2s on an event that delivered an incredible challenge and the early retirement of several leading crews in the tough conditions.

Meanwhile, Saturday's Rally Anglo was won by the Subaru Impreza of John McIlwraith and Heather Grisedale who finished clear of the similar car of John Bannister and Emma Clarke.

On Sunday conditions were totally different with clear skies, warmer weather and no snow in the Scottish stages as Mark McCulloch and Michael Hendry headed the Scottish Rally Championship contenders in their Proton Satria Evo. They finished 15s

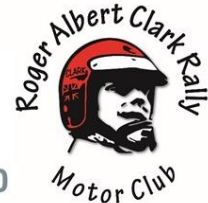


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up on John Wink/Jack Bowen (Hyundai i20 R5) with Jock Armstrong/Owen Paterson third in their Skoda Fabia. Among the two-wheel-drive crews Greg McKnight and Harry Marchbank emerged victorious in their Ford Escort Mk2.

The organisers of the event paid tribute to the army of volunteer marshals who coped with extreme conditions during Saturday to ensure that competitors got six of the planned eight special stages despite more than six inches of snow on some sections Kielder. The organisers were also grateful to spectators who coped with late changes to the timetable and running order to ensure the event went ahead in conditions that could have forced cancellation of the Saturday leg.

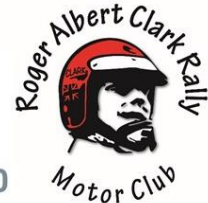
Rally manager Colin Heppenstall said: "I'd like to record my sincere thanks to all the officials and marshals who supported the event and worked so hard to make Saturday possible. It was a fine team effort from so many people in the most challenging conditions."



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## MARSHALS

Events like Rally Anglo Caledonian and the Roger Albert Clark Rally rely on a huge number of volunteer marshals, and we are grateful to each and every one of them for their support on the recent Rally [Anglo Caledonian](#).

Some of the most traveled marshals was a contingent of a dozen volunteers from the North West Kent Motor Club who'd trekked north to support the rally. They are regular supporters of the Roger Albert Clark Rally, and make an annual trip north to marshal on several stages.

They are typical of the enthusiasm and commitment provided by our marshalling team. Here they are ready for duty in the Twiglees stage on day two of Rally Anglo Caledonian.

