



## RACRMC Newsletter February 2023

### Welcome to the February Newsletter

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

The first round of the British Historic Rally Championship has taken place at the Riponian and registrations are doing very well as we now have over 60 registered contenders, Regulations and Registration forms are available on the club website [www.racrmc.org](http://www.racrmc.org)

### Championship News

41 Registered contenders participated on the Riponian Stages and a full set of Championship Points are attached to this newsletter and are available on the club website.

Entries are currently open for the second round of the Championship at Rally North Wales

### Roger Albert Clark Rally

Regulations have been published for the event which is running the 23 – 27 November 2023.

We are still finalising the stages but it looks like the final mileage will be just over 350 stage miles over the 5 days.

Entries open at 18.00 hrs, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### Other News

Remember Memberships are due, and to keep up to date with the latest information prior to it being announced via press release you will see it here first. At the end of February non members will be removed from the email address lists.





Press Releases from the past month:

## **Chilman storms to maiden British Historic Rally Championship win at the Riponian**

**In a tooth-and-nail battle which was fought out across every one of the Riponian Stages Rally tests on Sunday (12 February), it was Roger Chilman who came out on top, taking his maiden Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship victory.**

In a nip-and-tuck fight for the lead which saw up to four protagonists in with a chance of taking the win, it was the Ford Escort MKII crew of Chilman and co-driver Patrick Walsh who kept their cool over the final loop of stages to set their stall out early for the season ahead.

Taking second place and just four seconds shy of the winners, BHRC debutants Tom Walster and Chris Ridge proved they will be ones to watch this season, whilst Adrian Hetherington and Ronan O'Neill put their troublesome 2022 Riponian memories firmly behind them with third, giving the Ford Escort MKII a podium lockout.

But predicting a winner wasn't an easy task during the day, as the new generation of BHRC challengers mixed with seasoned returnees for a fascinating battle for honours across 43 stage miles in classic Yorkshire forest tests such as Cropton and Gale Rigg.

With Matthew Robinson a non-starter and Marty McCormack retiring on the opening stage with mechanical issues, there was another familiar pair of names out front after the opening stage, as Nick Elliott and Dave Price stormed into an early lead in their FIAT 131 Abarth. They were five seconds to the good over Chilman with 2019 champions Simon Webster and Jez Rogers a further one second behind, tied with Hetherington.

Walster bagged a stage win in Cropton but it was Chilman's time which allowed him to take the lead as Elliott fell to second although there was only a five-second gap by the mid-point of the rally.

That top three would change after the repeat run of Gale Rigg, as Elliott spun the Fiat at an infamous hairpin on the stage, losing almost fifteen seconds and hopes of a win. It was Hetherington who found his form in the afternoon with two stage wins, but it wouldn't undo a slow start to the day, and Chilman made sure of a win with the fastest time over the final Wass Moor test.





“That’s a fantastic win” enthused Chilman.

“We had a really clean run today and went as quick as we wanted to go and really enjoyed the day. Some great stages out there but they were a bit tricky, although there was a lot more grip than we thought there was going to be. That said, there were some slippery patches around. Tom [Walster] has been amazing today considering it's his second time in the car so he will be a real factor in the championship. But this is a great start to the year”.

Elliott salvaged fourth and took the FIA Category top honours in the process, whilst Webster rounded out the top five.

In Category 2 [cars between 1968-1975], it was a simpler affair with Josh Carr and Richard Wardle returning an impressive drive to take their very first Category win. After securing second place in the championship in 2022, the pairing returned to go one better this time around and enjoyed the perfect start, leading from the second test and were never headed in their Ford Escort MKI.

Making their BHRC and Ford Escort MKI debut, Craig Jones and Ian Taylor set three fastest times on their way to second, beating local aces Warren Philliskirk and Garry Green who took third.

In Category 1, [up to 1968] Terry Cree and Richard Shores took their Mini Cooper S to victory with a clean run over the six tests, whilst Nick Cook and Dave Raw secures a maximum score in Rally2 [non Historic]. Robin Shuttleworth and Malcolm Smithson took the BHRC2 win for Category B and up to 1600cc machinery.

The Fuchs Lubricants British Historic Rally Championship now heads to Welshpool for the second round of the series, the Get Jerky Rally North Wales at the end of March.

### **The Roger Albert Clark Rally**

Press release: Monday 6 February 2023

### **Roger Albert Clark Rally route outline revealed**

The provisional route for this year's Roger Albert Clark Rally has been revealed with the event starting in Carmarthen and finishing in Carlisle five days later.





The November 23-27 event will feature as many as 150 special stage miles not previously used on the rally, as it ventures into new regions of Wales and further into south-west Scotland than ever before.

Rally manager Colin Heppenstall unveiled the route outline at the BHRC awards dinner on Saturday night (February 4) and confirmed five full days of rallying and more than 340 stage miles from Thursday to Monday. The competitive route covers some of the best forest stages in Wales, Scotland and Northumberland before the finish in Carlisle on Monday afternoon.

The rally opens with scrutineering and documentation at Carmarthen Showground on Wednesday, November 22, before a ceremonial start in Guildhall Square in Carmarthen on Wednesday evening.

The competitive action begins on Thursday morning (November 23) with a day of 45 stage miles and service at Walters Arena. Friday will be the first really tough day covering around 80 stage miles as the route ventures further into mid-Wales with service at Sweet Lamb.

The first cars will finish Friday's leg at around 1630hrs and competitors will then complete a transport section to Carlisle where the rally will be based for the remaining three days.

The restart on Saturday morning will be from H&H Auctions at 0730hrs ahead of over 60 competitive miles in south-west Scotland, based on service in the Newton Stewart area. After another overnight halt at Carlisle, Sunday's action moves into the Kielder complex with nearly 80 competitive miles and service at Kielder Greenside as the route heads east.

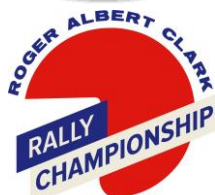
Monday will provide a serious sting in the tail with over 80 stage miles, including several long stages, in the central block of Kielder before the first finisher is due back in Carlisle at 1530 hours.

Heppenstall said: "I'm delighted to unveil our provisional route outline for this year. We are planning 340 miles of forest stages and around 850 liaison miles. Importantly, we are expecting to include around 150 miles of stages that have never been used on this event before and we will also be looking carefully at which stages are double used.

"The level of competitor interest at this stage is unprecedented and I know many competitors have been waiting for this information in order to make hotel bookings. We plan to publish the event regulations on February 18 and entries will open on March 1. We will soon publish details of how the entry system will work." The entry fee will be £4900.

### **Wednesday 22 November**

1000 to 1600: scrutineering and documentation at Carmarthen Showground





1900: ceremonial start in Guildhall Square, Carmarthen

### **Thursday 23 November**

0800: start from Carmarthen Showground

45 stage miles: service at Walters Arena

1530: end of leg at Walters Arena

### **Friday 24 November**

0800: re-start from Walters Arena

80 stage miles: service in Sweet Lamb

1630: end of leg, location to be confirmed

### **Saturday 25 November**

0730: restart from H&H Auctions, Carlisle

60 stages miles: service in Newton Stewart

1930: end of leg at H&H Auctions, Carlisle

### **Sunday 26 November**

0800: restart from H&H Auctions, Carlisle

80 stages miles: service at Kielder Greenside

2000: end of leg at H&H Auctions, Carlisle

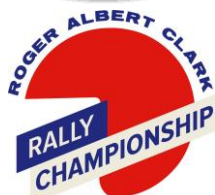
### **Monday 27 November**

0800: restart from H&H Auctions, Carlisle

80 stages miles: service at Kielder Greenside

1530: finish at H&H Auctions, Carlisle

Please note: all details remain provisional at this time.







## The Roger Albert Clark Rally

Press release: Tuesday 14 February 2023

### Roger Albert Clark Rally entries to open on 1 March

Entries for the 2023 Roger Albert Clark Rally will open on Wednesday 1 March, with a new system designed to remove the initial rush for places and reward those who have supported the event over previous years.

The event regulations are due to be published on Saturday 18 February and entries will open 11 days later at 6pm on March 1. This year, there will not be a time pressure on placing entries. Competitors will have until March 19 to complete the on-line entry form and pay a deposit of £1000.

The organisers will accept 180 entries plus 15 reserves. Any entries lodged beyond that total will be added to a waiting list. Prospective competitors will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £1000 to gain a place on the list of accepted entries.

Within the 180 places, 25 entries will be allocated to first time competitors, 15 entries will be at the organisers' discretion and 20 entries will be reserved for foreign-based competitors.

Should there be more than 120 applicants for the remaining 120 entries, priority will be given to drivers who have previously started the event the most times. Only two drivers have started all 14 editions but many have done the event multiple times and loyal supporters will be recognised if all entries cannot be accommodated.

A second instalment of £1500 will be due by July 1. The entry fee is £4900 but any entries paid in full by April 30 will be discounted to £4500. The final deadline for the full entry fee payment is October 28.

All accepted entries at March 31 will go into a draw and one crew will receive a credit of £1000 towards the balance of the entry. In addition, all entries received and paid in full by May 1 will be entered into a draw and the winner will get a refund of 50% of their fee.

The 2023 edition will mark 20 years of the event, which will run over a full five days of forest rallying starting on Thursday morning and finishing on Monday afternoon.

### TIMELINE:

Saturday 18 February: regulations published

Wednesday 1 March: entries open





Sunday March 19: deadline for completed entry forms and £1000 deposit

Friday March 31: provisional entry list published

Saturday July 1: second instalment of £1500 due

Saturday October 28: deadline for balance of entry fee

Regards

Colin & Nicola

22 February 2023

