

## Rally2 championship returns in 2019 with new calendar

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Rally2 is set to return in 2019 with calendar shakeup - Click to download image - Image credit to: Paul Lawrence.

## After a successful maiden season in 2018, the popular two-wheel-drive rally championship "Rally2" will return for a second year, offering prime gravel conditions for crews throughout five forest events spread across the UK.

Rally2 will once again continue to offer an alternative series for crews who are seeking prime road conditions alongside a diverse calendar of events which offer both experienced crews and newcomers a challenging year behind the wheel. Two

wheel drive crews will once again be able to effectively run first on the road on each event in the series\*.

Promoted by the Roger Albert Clark Rally Motor Club, the force behind the Fuchs MSA British Historic Rally Championship (BHRC) and Roger Albert Clark Rally, the series aims to recreate the atmosphere and friendliness sometimes lost in bigger championships and kicks off with the North Wales Rally Services – Rally North Wales on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Dolgellau.

The series continues to replicate its 2018 calendar by heading to the Pirelli Carlisle Rally in April and the ATL Carlisle Stages in June. After the summer break, the series will introduce the first of two new events; The Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages in September.

The final sting in the tail of the series will be the introduction of the ultimate challenge, the Roger Albert Clark Rally to round off the season. Crews in the Rally2 series will tackle the Sunday stages of the rally which will be held in the South of Scotland. Points will also be allocated on the day if registered contenders elect to contest the full event.



Front or rear wheel drive - all 2WD crews are welcome to the Rally2 series -Image credit - Paul Lawrence - Click to download

An integral part of the championship is the class structure which continues to allow both beginners and seasoned experts to compete alongside each other and vie for class honours. The Tyro category offers a cost-effective entry-level option whilst the One-Four class should appeal to the under 1400cc crews. The Open and Open-Plus category ensures those with more power can still qualify. The Rally2 championship was devised last season to offer competitors in two-wheeldrive machines the opportunity to compete on forest events which utilised the "Rally 2WD" format. It sought to bring together competitors in lower powered cars who were suffering from lowly road positions due to the "fastest first" seeding requirement which was in force at the time.

Since then, Motorsport UK (formally The Motor Sports Association) have announced a regulation change offering events the opportunity to adjust the running order and despite this, the Rally2 series continued to go from strength to strength during the season.

Joint Championship co-ordinator Matt Cotton believes the series will continue to offer an excellent alternative for competitors across the country who are seeking a new challenge.

"You could say that Rally2 lost its USP in the middle of last season but one thing is clear from the feedback we have had over the past few months and that is there is still a big appetite for the Rally2 series in 2019" he says.

"We have listened to our competitors and brought in some changes for next year whilst keeping the championship fresh and interesting for all crews, no matter what they are driving or how experienced they are. We have kept the simple class structure and we really just wanted to ensure that we could give people a reason to compete, enjoy a great atmosphere both on and off the stages whilst having a great time. It's certainly an exciting prospect and we look forward to building on last season and welcoming more competitors to the series in 2019".

Championship organisers are working on various incentives for the season ahead which includes TV coverage and an online review after each round of the series.

Class awards at the end of the year will be once again be presented at the Fuchs MSA British Historic Rally Championship awards evening in 2020.



New events join Rally2 in 2019 Image credit - Paul Lawrence - Click to download

\*Final running order is to still to be confirmed by all events in the calendar.

30th March 2019	NWRS Rally North Wales	Dolgellau, Wales
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Pirelli Carlisle Rally	Carlisle, England
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	ATL Carlisle Stages	Carlisle, England
31st August 2019	Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages	Ludlow, England
24th November 2019	Roger Albert Clark Rally	Sunday Leg - South of Scotland

2019	Rally2	Calendar	(subject to MSA approval)	:
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Championship regulations and more information can be found online at: <u>http://racrmc.org/rally-2wd/index</u>

More information on the championship can be obtained from the championship co-ordinators:

Matt Cotton <u>matt@mcrmotorsportmedia.com</u> T: 07870 216931 Bex Hinton <u>bex@mcrmotorsportmedia.com</u>

Or follow the championship on social media: <u>www.facebook.com/rally2</u> <u>www.twitter.com/rally2UK</u>