

2008 Wales Rally GB Marshals Newsletter

Hi and welcome to the first marshals newsletter for the 2008 Wales Rally GB. This year we are going to try to make the newsletters a little more informal than in previous years - perhaps a little more humour rather than just plain facts *and* more input from yourselves - the people on the ground. Hopefully this will make it a little more fun to read and add to your enjoyment factor for the event itself.

To that end, we are looking for a suitable title for the newsletter - something a bit more exciting than "Marshals Newsletter" - perhaps something rally or marshalling related with a double meaning? Please email your suggestions to staffing@walesrallygb.com. The winner will receive a few goodies from previous years as well as credit for the title name of course.

There have been quite a few changes for this year's event - a slight date change, some major route changes and some more rule changes within the WRC. So read on and catch up with what's happening.

Paul Rees

Marshals Liaison and Newsletter Editor

Thanks from 2007!

I've been trying to think of a good way to describe the marshalling on last year's event in the extremely wet and difficult conditions. Then I read the FIA observers report of the event and I think their remarks sum up exactly what I wanted to say...

"Route Marshals operated exceptionally well under arduous weather conditions"

Whilst that may seem a little humourless for this new newsletter format, it more than accurately describes the fantastic job that was done on the 2007 event. Thanks to you all from me and the whole organising team for the hard work you put in, braving the weather and managing the incidents we had so well.

Only 6 months to Go!

The first thing we need to clarify is the date. Following the approval of the World Motorsports Council **the 2008 Wales Rally GB will run from 4th - 7th Dec 2008.**

We did originally have plans to run it a week earlier but the Welsh Rugby Union secured a fixture with Australia for that weekend at the Millennium Stadium so we thought we would move dates so we didn't steal all their fans and leave them with nobody at the Stadium for their game!

Secondly - this newsletter is **ONLY** being distributed by email and on the event website. Please forward this email to anyone who is interested in marshalling on the event. They can subscribe to the email newsletter by following the link from the marshals section of the www.walesrallygb.com website

2008 Route

We have made some significant changes to the route for this year's event. Not sure all of you will be pleased but there are a few new stages whilst some existing ones are rested and there is a real mix-up of the stages used each day.

The event HQ will be based at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and the service area will utilise last year's service area at SA1 in Swansea with some additional land and tweaks whilst the event start and finish will be in the Welsh capital city of Cardiff again.

Friday is an entirely new route - utilising classic stages that we haven't used for a good number of years - Hafren, Sweet Lamb and Myherin. We then have a remote service and a second loop of the stages which will make it an interesting day in Central Wales. However the crews then face a sting in tail with another stage run twice at 30 second intervals at Walters Arena in the dark before final service at the Swansea SA1 service park.

Saturday mixes it up as well. Starting at the service park the crews head off to Resolfen and then the Epynt military ranges for stages at Halfway then Crychan, both run in the opposite direction to recent years, with service back in Swansea. The afternoon has the same loop repeated as SS12, SS13 and SS14 then the indoor Millennium Stadium stage in Cardiff before service at Swansea.

Sunday is a much shorter day and is run exclusively in the South Wales area with Rheola as SS16 and Port Talbot on a reversed route as SS17 before service then run again as SS18 and SS19, a final short service halt and then onto Cardiff for the event finish.

Hopefully this new route injects a little more excitement into the event for you all and we will see you all out on the stages. Contact a staffing officer using the details overleaf to sign up for the event.

WRC Snippets

As this newsletter was written (just after the Rally of Turkey) it seems that there's a bit of a new feel to the WRC this year. With new events and new surfaces, some of the younger drivers are putting in excellent drives and it's a bit more exciting than it's been for a few seasons.

So far there have been 3 different winners from the first 8 events and 7 different drivers on the podium this season. Currently Mikko Hirvonen has 2 wins and 3 second place finishes although Sebastien Loeb has won 5 of the 6 events he has finished and is only 3 points behind! Jari-Matti Latvala lies in 3rd in his debut season as a works driver and Chris Atkinson in 4th giving Subaru a lot more points than they have in a long time. Petter Solberg seems to like their new car which was debuted in Greece.

Have you been watching the excellent "Access All Areas" coverage on the "Dave" channel on Sky, Virgin or Freeview? Maybe we can convince them to do a marshals spot on the program - what do you all think?

Drivers Standings after Rally Turkey

1 st	M Hirvonen	BP Ford	59
2 nd	S Loeb	Citroen	56
3 rd	J Latvala	BP Ford	34
4 th	C. Atkinson	Subaru	31
5 th	D Sordo	Citroen	30
6 th	P Solberg	Subaru	20

Manufacturer Standings after Rally Turkey

1 st	BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally	99
2 nd	Citroen Total World Rally	90
3 rd	Subaru World Rally	53
4 th	Stobart VK M-Sport Ford Rally	41
5 th	Munchi's Ford World Rally	9
6 th	Suzuki World Rally	10

Who's who and what do they do?

In every newsletter we will tell you a little about the senior officials on the event and what their role is on the event. As this is the first column, it seems appropriate to have an overview of the staffing team as these are the people you will be contacting regarding the event.

Marshal Liaison - Paul Rees:

Manages the event staffing database. Writes the marshals newsletter and manages the distribution electronically. Represents the marshals to the event organising team - involved in marshals' goodies, tabards, new initiatives etc. Collates feedback during and after the event and reports on the general progress of the event.

Staffing Officers - Peter Whiting and Phil Cleaton:

The staffing officers are the main point of contact for most marshals on the event. They deal with the marshals and timing crews directly by phone or email, managing groups and requests for stages and enter this information into the central staffing database.

They liaise with the stage and venue commanders with regards to staffing levels and try to accommodate the various requests from marshals and stage officials. In total we have over 1500 stage, radio and timing marshals doing nearly 3500 roles on the event so it's a lot of volunteers to deal with.

The good news from a marshalling perspective is that you can now have a single point of contact for marshalling on any region of the event - whether that's South, Mid or Central Wales.

Radio Staffing Officers - Bill Wilmer and John Upstone:

The radio staffing officers are the main point of contact for radio crews on the event. They recruit and manage the personnel to run the main radio safety system (known as the 'C' system) as well as personnel to run 2 other radio systems (The 'A' system for event management and the 'B' system for tracking the cars progress through the stages).

Similarly to the staffing officers, they enter this information onto the central staffing system but they also allocate the radio crews to specific junctions on the stages after consulting the stage commanders and the radio crews themselves.

Organising Team Changes

After a good number of years being heavily involved with the event as it travelled around the country, Howard Wilcock has decided that travelling between home in Nottingham and meetings in South Wales in his role as regional organiser for Cardiff is not what retirement should be about! He will still be involved in the event but not as heavily.

We welcome Ryland James as Regional Organiser for the Central Wales area covering the Hafren, Sweet Lamb and Myherin stages. Ryland worked with Lyn Jenkins on the West Wales stages last year and is an active competitor bringing a wealth of experience to the team.

With the route changes this year, and the mixing of the regions on different days, we have decided to move towards a more combined approach to staffing the event. Therefore we have slimmed down to 2 staffing officers for 2008 - Peter Whiting and Phil Cleaton - whilst Olwen Davies steps down from her role as staffing officer - thanks to her for 2007.

Outline Event Timetable

(All timings approx for 1st car)

Thursday 4th December

Shakedown - Swansea	08.00
Shakedown Service	08.00
Ceremonial Start - Cardiff	19.00

Friday 5th December

TC0 - Swansea	06:00
SS1 - Hafren 1	09.18
SS2 - Sweet Lamb 1	09.42
SS3 - Myherin 1	10.03
Service A - (Remote)	11:48
SS4 - Hafren 2	13.15
SS5 - Sweet Lamb 2	13.39
SS6 - Myherin 2	14.00
SS7 - Walters Arena 1	17.06
SS8 - Walters Arena 2	17:15
Service B - Swansea	17:57

Saturday 6th December

Service C - Swansea	07:20
SS9 - Resolfen 1	08.08
SS10 - Halfway 1	09.41
SS11 - Crychan 1	10.07
Service D - Swansea	12.07
SS12 - Resolfen 2	13.10
SS13 - Halfway 2	14:43
SS14 - Crychan 2	15:09
SS15 - Cardiff Millenium Stadium	18:00
Service E - Swansea	19:00

Sunday 2nd December

Service F - Swansea	07.00
SS 16 Rheola 1	07:51
SS 17 Port Talbot 1	09.01
Service G - Swansea	09.57
SS 18 Rheola 2	11.03
SS 19 Port Talbot 2	12.13
Service H - Swansea	12:57
Finish Cardiff	14:50

Event Staffing Contacts:

Staffing Officers:

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Marshals Forum:

<http://staffing.walesrallygb.com/forum/>

Official Website:

<http://www.walesrallygb.com>