

STAGE RALLY REPORT- GRAVEL, First report of 2018 Season.

Sponsor

ARR Craib, will again be the main sponsor of the SRC 2018 Season, however other sponsors of note are REIS, KNC Groundworks, and Pirelli.

Calendar and Format

The championship calendar this year will consist of 7 rounds all on Gravel

10th Feb 2018	Snowman Rally (Gravel)	Inverness, Highlands
10th Mar 2018	Border Counties Rally (Gravel)	Jedburgh, Scottish Borders (cancelled due to SNOW)
21st Apr 2018	Speyside Stages (Gravel)	Elgin, Moray
19th May 2018	RSAC Scottish Rally (Gravel)	Dumfries, Dumfries & Galloway
23rd Jun 2018	Argyll Rally	Dunoon, Argyll & Bute
11th Aug 2018	Grampian Forest Rally (Gravel)	Crathes, Banchory, Aberdeenshire
8th Sep 2018	Galloway Hills Rally (Gravel)	Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway
3 rd Nov	Awards Evening	Aviemore Highland Resort

All events will have a targeted mileage of 45miles.

EVENT FORMATS AND ENITITIVES

Following changes to the class structure two years ago, the 2018 championship will continue to offer competitors categories for all types of competition cars and budgets, from slightly modified 2WD cars to full spec R5 and WRC machinery.

To further develop fuller entries to events and maintain competition throughout the season we have in addition to initiatives brought forward in 2017, the Star Driver Initiative, now has a Forest test session with Timo Laukkanen and probable entry to Rally GB. The Winning Junior's will have a free entry to Rally GB and test session in Forest with Timo Laukkanen, also on all SRC_events we have extended the subsidised ferry costs for competitors coming from overseas (Ireland) into 2018

- Challengers Championship, open to competitors who have not previously finished in the top 10 on an SRC round in last 10years
- The SRC Subaru Cup, for controlled specification clubman cars
- The SRC 2WD Rally Championship
- A Northern Challenge, catering for the High number of clubmen from more northern parts, this also includes one southern event to encourage them to venture further south

Season so far

ARNOLD CLARK SNOWMAN RALLY

Widely varying conditions across all 6 stages played their part in making this year's championship opener one of the most open and unpredictable events in years. Consistency over the inconsistent surfaces would pay dividends for inaugural winners Andrew Gallacher & Jane Nicol, Andrew taking his first forest rally win some 39 years after his Dad last won this event.

Going into the final stage, 3rd to 6th places were separated by only 8 seconds. Another giant-killing performance by Steven Clark was spoiled by Turbo issues, this left 2 local former winners of the event,

Reay Mackay and Donnie McDonald to battle for the final podium place, the latter doing enough to claim the place by just 3 seconds.

Entries however were down a bit on 2017 levels

The second round, The Border Counties Rally as we all know was cancelled due to the Beast from the East, the BCR for the second year should have hosted the first round of the BRC.

With the Speyside just around the corner it will be interesting to see how the cancellation of the BCR effects entries

We have extended MCR as our Media representatives for this year, and a reorganisation of how they work and are managed, has meant that our exposure is at an all-time high. The purpose of course is to attract more registered members, supporters and sponsors.

'THE FOREST' REPRISE

So how many of you watched the latest episode of the BBC Scotland programme 'The Forest' which included coverage of the forestry's role in the running of the Galloway Hills? It followed the progress of sponsor and local hero Jock Armstrong as he took his 9th win on the rally that bears his families name. It also showed the challenges facing event organisers and marshals as they try and deal with spectators who want to go and do what they have always done.

We were all saddened to learn last Sunday of the passing of Ian Urquhart, Coogie will be deeply missed by all in Scottish Rallying and I dare say much further afield. RIP

Gordon Adam, Chairman SRC MC.

20/3/2018

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