



## The Tabard - May 2010

Hello and welcome to the first marshals' newsletter for the 2010 Wales Rally GB. With around 6 months to go until the start of the event, the draft route has been published and sent to the FIA so now we have an idea of where we might be going we can invite you all to be part of the team.

For this year's event, we have a few stage changes, some new stages and a new twist on Day 2. We are planning on publishing a further 3 newsletters prior to the event so if there's anything about the event you would like to know more about drop me a line and we can try to cover it. Hope to see you all on the stages....

*Paul Rees*

Marshals Liaison and Newsletter Editor

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### 2010 Route and Changes

The 2010 route is largely similar to the 2009 event with Friday stages in Central Wales, Saturday Stages in Mid Wales and Sunday Stages in South Wales regions but the details have changed quite a bit.

The event is again based solely in Cardiff with Rally HQ, the event start, main service area and event finish all taking place in the Cardiff Bay area with the Manufacturer teams located in the bowl directly in front of the Wales Millennium Centre.

The event starts on Thursday evening in Cardiff with the Ceremonial Start then we add something new with a spectator stage on asphalt roads in the Cardiff Bay area.

Friday stages are the same as last year with a run through Hafren, Sweet Lamb and Myherin then remote service in Builth Wells and another run through the loop of stages in the afternoon.

Saturday has some big changes to it. Whilst the stages are still located in Mid Wales, we start with a run through Radnor - a stage not used since 1999. We then move onto a new stage to the event - Monument Hill.

The start of this stage is on the tarmac road called Mabioin's Way on the north side of the Ranges and is next to a Monument erected to the Royal Engineers regiment who built the road in 1973. Tying in with this is the fact that on the 1960 RAC Rally the first ever special stage was held in Scotland at Monument Hill near Dalmally so this stage name commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that turning point for the event as prior to this the RAC had been a touring event with driving tests. The introduction of special stages turned it into the major world event we have today.

### 2010 Route and Changes (continued)

After the Monument Hill stage we have the now familiar Crychan stage. However this has been renamed as Four Ways Crychan and will use 11 kilometres of asphalt roads before joining the gravel road route used by the stage last year.

Following the Four Ways Crychan stage is the Halfway stage which is the only unchanged stage of the day and runs prior to the remote service at Builth Wells. After service, the cars do the same loop of 4 stages again before heading down to Cardiff for an evening run around the spectator stage at Cardiff Bay.

Sunday is the shortest day of the event, with the Resolfen stage and the Margam Park stages both having revised routes and being run twice prior to the Ceremonial Finish, which is back in Cardiff.

So a real mix of something familiar and something new for 2010. Let us know what you think....

### RallyStageTeam for 2010

After its very successful introduction last year, we will once again be using the Rally Stage Team system to enrol marshals in the event. It makes our job a lot easier if you and your team members can update your own information on the system. You can still contact a staffing officer by email or phone if you would prefer but the automated systems help us do the staffing job much more easily.

The RallyStageTeam system is now live for marshal and radio crew enrolment in Wales Rally GB 2010 at [www.rallystageteam.co.uk](http://www.rallystageteam.co.uk)

## WRC Roundup

As I write this we are 5 rallies into the 2010 season and once again there's a familiar face at the top but a little variety further back. This year's points have been changed to give a little more emphasis on winning events with 1<sup>st</sup> now giving 25 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 18 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> 15 points, 4<sup>th</sup> 12 points, 5<sup>th</sup> 10 points, 6<sup>th</sup> 8 points, 7<sup>th</sup> 6 points, 8<sup>th</sup> 4 points, 9<sup>th</sup> 2 points and 10<sup>th</sup> getting 1 point. There are also some high profile newcomers in the form of Formula 1 star Kimi Raikkonen and US driving star Ken Block so it will be interesting to see how everyone fares and whether the new drivers can really shine at the top level.

Sweden was a cold start to the year with lots of snow. It was a cracking season opener for Mikko Hirvonen who took the win but a steadier start for Sebastien Loeb who finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Petter Solberg and Dani Sordo both got caught out by the snow-banks but finished in the points whilst Jari-Matti Latvala managed to take the final podium position in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kimi Raikkonen meanwhile had a harsh bump to reality and finished out of the points.

Round 2 was a return to Rally Mexico with a major change to the heat and dust after the snow of Sweden. It was Petter Solberg and Sebastien Ogier who led the way on the first day, Loeb suffering with road sweeping duties and the Fords seemingly struggling all the time. Raikkonen had a monster crash and Ken Block slid off the road in his first WRC event whilst Sordo retired as well. However on Day 2 Loeb took the lead and didn't relinquish it, giving him his first win of the season. Solberg and Ogier's fight went to the last super-special stage with Solberg taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ogier 3<sup>rd</sup> meanwhile Hirvonen finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Latvala 5<sup>th</sup>.

Onto Jordan for round 3 for the lowest altitude round of the season. Loeb running 1<sup>st</sup> on the road for the 1<sup>st</sup> day struggled and Hirvonen had a few spins that dropped him down the order. Latvala took the reins whilst Sordo and Solberg pushed hard. On day 2 Latvala, now 1<sup>st</sup> on the road kept going well but was overtaken by both Loeb and Ogier with Hirvonen having a big crash and Solberg keeping pace.

Day 3 of Jordan had tactics come into play. Although Loeb was supposed to be 1<sup>st</sup> on the road, Ogier booked in early and swept the road whilst Hirvonen booked in early as well to give Latvala a fighting chance. At the end of the rally, Loeb was in 1<sup>st</sup>, Latvala was 2<sup>nd</sup>, Solberg, who had stayed out of trouble and set some good times, took 3<sup>rd</sup> whilst Sordo took 4<sup>th</sup>.

The fourth round of the championship was held in Turkey. With new stages, it was a new challenge for everyone. The first day's action was led by Ogier and Sordo, both running a few cars down the order and benefitting from the likes of Loeb, Solberg and Latvala sweeping the roads in front of them.

Onto Day 2 and Latvala, who had been going well crashed and lost time, Ogier was hampered by running 1<sup>st</sup> on the road and a puncture and Sordo also lost time. That left Loeb to storm up the leader board and Solberg to sit just behind him with Hirvonen just behind. The final day saw the positions stay very similar due to rainfall meaning that running 1<sup>st</sup> on the road was better so the final positions had Loeb in 1<sup>st</sup>, Solberg in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hirvonen in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ogier in 4<sup>th</sup> with Raikkonen an excellent 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

New Zealand was the 5<sup>th</sup> event of the year and proved to be an exciting event. On the first day, Sebastien Loeb made an uncharacteristic mistake as 1<sup>st</sup> on the road and hit a bridge side on losing some 1 minute 40 seconds. Petter Solberg had a good run as did Latvala and Ogier. Day 2 was a huge fight-back for Loeb who stormed back to 2<sup>nd</sup> at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day with Ogier in the lead, Latvala in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sordo in 4<sup>th</sup>.

However it was the final day that things became very interesting. A couple more mistakes by Loeb meant that going into the last stage it was Ogier, Latvala, Solberg then Loeb. However Ogier spun, Loeb spun and Solberg crashed out giving Jari-Matti Latvala his third career win with Ogier in second position and Loeb in third.

### Drivers Standings after Rally New Zealand

1 <sup>st</sup>	S Loeb	Citroen WRT	108
2 <sup>nd</sup>	J Latvala	BP Ford	72
3 <sup>rd</sup>	M Hirvonen	BP Ford	64
4 <sup>th</sup>	S Ogier	Citroen Juniors	63
5 <sup>th</sup>	P Solberg	Citroen Juniors	53
6 <sup>th</sup>	D Sordo	Citroen WRT	34
7 <sup>th</sup>	M Wilson	Stobart Ford	30
8 <sup>th</sup>	H Solberg	Stobart Ford	24
8 <sup>th</sup>	F Villagra	Munchi's Ford	22
10 <sup>th</sup>	K Raikkonen	Citroen Juniors	14

### Manufacturer Standings after Rally New Zealand

1 <sup>st</sup>	Citroen Total World Rally Team	156
2 <sup>nd</sup>	BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally	151
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Citroen Junior Team	75
4 <sup>th</sup>	Stobart M-Sport Ford Rally Team	74
5 <sup>th</sup>	Munchi's Ford World Rally Team	32

### Outline Event Timetable

(All timings approx for 1<sup>st</sup> car)

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Shakedown	
Shakedown Service	
Ceremonial Start - Cardiff	18.45
SS1 - Cardiff Bay 1	19:30

#### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Service A - Cardiff	06:00
SS2 - Hafren 1	09.38
SS3 - Sweet Lamb 1	10.19
SS4 - Myherin 1	10.37
Service B - Bwlth Wells (Remote)	12:10
SS5 - Hafren 2	13.51
SS6 - Sweet Lamb 2	14.32
SS7 - Myherin 2	14.50
Service C - Cardiff	18.30

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Service D - Cardiff	07:00
SS8 - Radnor 1	10.00
SS9 - Monument Hill 1	11.10
SS10 - Four Ways Crychan 1	11.41
SS11 - Halfway 1	12.19
Service E - Bwlth Wells (Remote)	13.33
SS12 - Radnor 2	14:58
SS13 - Monument Hill 2	16:08
SS14 - Four Ways Crychan 2	16:39
SS15 - Halfway 2	17:17
SS16 - Cardiff Bay 2	19:25
Service F - Cardiff	19:37

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Service G - Cardiff	07.00
SS 17 Resolfen 1	08:33
SS 18 Margam Park 1	09.46
SS 19 Resolfen 2	11.27
SS 20 Margam Park 2	12.40
Service H - Cardiff	13:47
Finish Cardiff	14:29

### Event Staffing Contacts:

#### Staffing Officers:

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#### Marshals Liaison:

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#### Training Officer:

Training Roadshows will be arranged for later in the year and contact details will be provided nearer the time.

#### Marshals Forum:

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

#### Official Website:

<http://www.walesrallygb.com>

#### Online Enrolment:

<http://www.rallystageteam.co.uk>