

The Tabard - July 2010

Hello and welcome to the second edition of "The Tabard" - the marshals' newsletter for the 2010 Wales Rally GB. With around 4 months to go until the start of the event, there have been a few small route changes, some interesting news regarding a National B event included within Wales Rally GB and a few more snippets for you to keep up to date with what's happening.

Paul Rees

Marshals Liaison and Newsletter Editor

2010 - Further Route Changes

We published the 2010 route in draft form in the May issue of The Tabard but we have made a few changes to the route and timings since then.

Day 1 (Thursday and Friday) is identical in terms of timing to the previously published route. However on Day 2 (Saturday) we start an hour earlier than before and the stages run to an earlier timetable than previously published.

On Day 3 (Sunday) we have added a visit to the service park in Cardiff between the 2 runs of the Sunday stages which means the morning stages run 45 minutes earlier than previously whilst the afternoon stages run around 30 minutes later than previously.

P. ramorum Tree Disease in South Wales

P. ramorum is a fungus-like pathogen that kills many of the trees that it infects. It was found on Japanese larch trees in South West England last year, and in woodland in the Afan Valley, Dulais Valley and Garw Valley in June.

However working together with Forestry Commission Wales we can confirm that it's business as usual for the event despite the presence of the P. ramorum tree disease in forests which are to be used on the final day of the 2010 event. It can be spread by tree needles and soil clinging to people or vehicles but, as the planned rally route takes competitors from uninfected woodlands to infected woodlands, the risk of cars spreading the disease is greatly reduced.

Cars will be washed down with disinfectant at the end of the competitive route, before they travel to Cardiff for the ceremonial finish. Spectators and Marshals will be asked to follow some simple biosecurity precautions, such as keeping to paths, cleaning footwear and not taking any plant material away to minimise the spread of infection.

National B Event - New for 2010

For the past few years we have run the Armed Forces Landrovers at the tail-end of the WRC rally as an additional but small event. This year we have expanded this and created a National B rally for anyone to enter - no longer limited to Landrovers but with modern or historic classes.

The National B event uses a different schedule to the WRC event and will fit into gaps between runs of the main event. The National B event will start in Builth Wells on the Saturday morning and will follow the main WRC event after the first running of Radnor, then will go to service at Builth Wells and then continue onto Monument Hill, Four Ways Crychan and Halfway after the main event has done their first runs.

There is then an overnight halt at Builth Wells with the crews travelling to South Wales to compete on Resolfen and Margam Park and onto the Finish in Cardiff in the early afternoon.

Hopefully this event will add a few of the more interesting older cars back onto the event and encourage more competitors who don't have a homologated car.

News from the FIA World Council

The FIA world council made a few decisions at their recent meeting that apply to rallies...

Names of co-drivers are to be displayed on rear side windows alongside the driver. This change applies immediately.

The published WRC calendar for 2011 will be unchanged and remain at 13 events (it had been proposed that a 14th event be added).

Any make of tyres can be used once again from next year ending the Pirelli control tyre restriction. There will be regulations introduced to control tyre costs.

WRC Roundup

We are now just over halfway of the 13 events in the 2010 WRC season, having had Rally de Portugal at the end of May and Rally Bulgaria (a new entry to the WRC) this last weekend.

The Rally de Portugal started extremely well for the Citroens with Sebastien Ogier taking an early lead, Dani Sordo in 2nd and Sebastien Loeb in 3rd after the first day with the Ford Focus of Mikko Hirvonen and Jari-Matti Latvala trailing in 4th and 5th places.

Day 2 showed Ogiers pace as he stayed in the lead whilst Loeb inherited 2nd from Sordo after Dani suffered tyre issues and Petter Solberg took advantage of his road position to move up to 3rd. Latvala crashed out and Hirvonen couldn't match the pace of the Citroen drivers.

At the end of the event, It was Sebastien Ogier who took the first WRC rally win of his career from Sebastien Loeb following a convincing drive. Petter Solberg hit a barrier on the last stage and dropped to 5th giving Dani Sordo 3rd and Mikko Hirvonen 4th.

The inaugural Rally Bulgaria was the first sealed surface rally of the season but that meant it was business as usual for Sebastien Loeb.

Loeb took an early lead on day one, whilst Ogier pushed (too) hard and set some early fast times, only for an off to drop him to 6th. Sordo was consistently quick and ended the day 2nd whilst Petter Solberg was 3rd with new co-driver Chris Patterson. The Ford drivers of Hirvonen and Latvala couldn't keep pace with the Citroens and ended 5th and 6th on Day 1. Meanwhile Kimi Raikkonen set some cracking times, probably more at home on the tarmac but crashed out on stage 4.

On Day 2, Loeb consolidated his lead, whilst Sordo and Solberg had an excellent fight for 2nd and 3rd with Solberg posting fastest times to go into the final day less than 5 seconds behind Sordo. Ogier's form is once again showing and he pulled away from Mikko Hirvonen to finish day 2 in 4th position with Hirvonen in 5th.

Latvala is sitting in 6th position with a new face to the Stobart WRC team - Per Gunnar Andersson in 7th. Meanwhile Henning Solberg is in a Fiesta S2000 in 10th and Raikkonen is back up to 14th after restarting under super-rally rules.

Into the last day of the rally and whilst Loeb was comfortably in first position, the battle for 2nd intensified. At the start of the day just over 4 seconds separated Sordo and Solberg so bot attacked hard with Sordo taking just enough time out of Solberg to hold onto 2nd. Ogier held station in 4th giving Citroen the top 4 positions. Hirvonen and Latvala took 5th and 6th respectively - seems like the Fords are really struggling this year.

Drivers Standings after Rally Bulgaria

1 st	S Loeb	Citroen WRT	151
2 nd	S Ogier	Citroen Juniors	100
3 rd	M Hirvonen	BP Ford	86
4 th	J Latvala	BP Ford	80
5 th	P Solberg	Citroen Juniors	78
6 th	D Sordo	Citroen WRT	67
7 th	M Wilson	Stobart Ford	40
8 th	F Villagra	Munchi's Ford	26
8 th	H Solberg	Stobart Ford	25
10 th	K Raikkonen	Citroen Juniors	15

Manufacturer Standings after Rally Bulgaria

1 st	Citroen Total World Rally Team	232
2 nd	BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally	185
3 rd	Citroen Junior Team	125
4 th	Stobart M-Sport Ford Rally Team	98
5 th	Munchi's Ford World Rally Team	40

Petter and Phil split

Phil Mills announced his retirement from the co-driving seat after Rally de Portugal meaning that Petter Solberg will now have Chris Patterson as his co-driver for the remainder of the 2010 season.

Petter and Phil have contested 152 events together over the past eleven years but will now go their separate ways after Mills decided to stand down to focus on other areas of his life.

WRC 2011 cars

Citroen and Ford have both been testing their new 2011 WRC cars for the first time over the past few weeks. Ford will be using a Fiesta (presumably based on the S2000 chassis) whilst Citroen have developed the DS3 as their new base. Both cars will run an all-new 1.6-litre turbocharged engine.

Outline Event Timetable

(All timings approx for 1st car)

Thursday 11th November

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

Friday 12th November

Service A - Cardiff	06:00
SS2 - Hafren 1	09.38
SS3 - Sweet Lamb 1	10.19
SS4 - Myherin 1	10.37
Service B - Builth 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 13th November

Service D - Cardiff	06:00
SS8 - Radnor 1	09.03
SS9 - Monument Hill 1	10.19
SS10 - Four Ways Crychan 1	10.44
SS11 - Halfway 1	11.22
Service E - Builth Wells (Remote)	12.47
SS12 - Radnor 2	14:12
SS13 - Monument Hill 2	15:28
SS14 - Four Ways Crychan 2	15:53
SS15 - Halfway 2	16:31
SS16 - Cardiff Bay 2	18:39
Service F - Cardiff	18:51

Sunday 14th November

Service G - Cardiff	06.15
SS 17 Resolfen 1	07:48
SS 18 Margam Park 1	09.01
Service H - Cardiff	10.06
SS 19 Resolfen 2	12.04
SS 20 Margam Park 2	12.40
Service H - Cardiff	13:47
Finish Cardiff	14:29

Event Staffing Contacts:

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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>