



The Tabard - July 2009

It's been a long time coming but we've finally managed to produce this first marshals newsletter for Wales Rally GB 2009. The good news is that we are definitely running as the last event in the WRC calendar again with an earlier date from **October 22nd to 25th**. We have included a little information on the reasons why we are starting our staffing drive so close to the event plus we have details on how the event staffing will be handled for 2009. We also give an update of the WRC events so far this season. Hope you enjoy the read.

Paul Rees

Marshals Liaison and Newsletter Editor

Why is the event staffing so late this year...?

As anyone who has read the motorsport press will be aware, there has been a contractual dispute between International Motor Sports Ltd, the event organiser and its title sponsor and host, the Welsh Assembly Government. This initially stemmed from the event not being included in the 2010 WRC calendar by the FIA, although the revised calendar does now feature the event.

A breakdown in negotiations following the dispute has meant that whilst the event planning has been going ahead, it wasn't until early June with the MSA offering to underwrite the costs of the event that the green light was finally given for the event to run.

Some last minute tweaks, consultations with the manufacturer teams and with various landowners have been required but we have the up-to-date info in this newsletter with the route and other event details.

How do I enrol to marshal on the event..?

Following its successful trial last year, we have chosen to utilise the services of RallyStageTeam to help with the event staffing once again. The premise is simple - create an account on their website at www.rallystageteam.co.uk, choose to enrol in Wales Rally GB 2009 and if there's more than one of you then create a group of all your marshalling friends so you can all go together. You can then choose which stages you would like to marshal on and assuming we have room, we will allocate you to those stages.

How do I enrol...? (continued)

You will need an email address of your own and internet access but once you've signed up to the event and been allocated, you will get a whole host of information that would have been difficult and expensive to provide without the system.

We use the system to make life a lot easier on the staffing officers, so that instead of chasing address changes and contact information, they can help solve other more serious issues.

Don't worry if you don't have an email address, or if you don't want to use the internet, you can still enrol on the event by contacting a staffing officer directly by email or telephone- their details on the last page of this newsletter.

Whether you choose to enrol online or via a staffing officer, we still require the following information from you when you enrol.

- 1 - Who you are - ideally we need your MSA marshal number, name, current address, telephone numbers and email addresses.
- 2 - Which stages you want to marshal on.
- 3 - How many people you are bringing with you (if you are a group leader).
- 4 - The names (and ideally contact details, MSA number etc) of the people you are bringing.

2009 World Rally Championship to date

During the pre-season, this year's world rally championship looked like it may be a disappointing year due to the fact that Subaru and Suzuki pulled out at the end of 2008 leaving just Ford and Citroen as the Manufacturer teams. However it seems to have been just the opposite!

The season started predictably with Citroen's Sebastien Loeb continuing his dominance in the sport with a win in Rally Ireland whilst his teammate Dani Sordo took 2nd. Ford's Mikko Hirvonen took the final podium spot with Stobart's Henning Solberg in 4th and Chris Atkinson from the Junior Citroen team taking 5th.

Onto Rally Norway - the only snow rally on this year's calendar and once again Sebastien Loeb did the business winning the event whilst Ford's Mikko Hirvonen took 2nd and Jari Matti Latvala took 3rd. Henning Solberg again finished 4th with Dani Sordo taking 5th. Petter Solberg made his return to the championship with his own team in a privateer Citroen Xsara.

A change in surface once again for the next event - Rally Cyprus with its slow gravel stages. Sebastien Loeb took his 50th career WRC win with Mikko Hirvonen 2nd and Petter Solberg in an excellent 3rd. Dani Sordo managed a 4th place while Stobart's Matthew Wilson sealed 5th.

Portugal made a welcome return to the calendar for 2009 and whilst the win was once again taken by Sebastien Loeb, Mikko Hirvonen again finished 2nd keeping him close in the title race. Dani Sordo was third whilst Petter Solberg finished a creditable fourth. Jari Matti-Latvala had a huge off, rolling down a hillside but managed to walk away shaken but otherwise unscathed.

The fifth event of the season was Argentina. Sebastien Loeb once again took the win, now his fifth in a row for the 2009 championship with his teammate Dani Sordo in 2nd position. Henning Solberg took 3rd with Munchi's Ford driver Federico Villagra in a delighted 4th on his home event. Mikko Hirvonen suffered mechanical issues and retired gifting Loeb a substantial championship lead after 5 events.

So after 5 events and 5 wins for Sebastien Loeb, the Frenchman looked like he was unstoppable. However on the next event, Rally Sardinia, Loeb and codriver Daniel Elena suffered a puncture and whilst they managed to change it extremely quickly, they unbuckled their harnesses before stopping to change it and were given a time penalty meaning they finished 4th. Ford's Jari-Matti Latvala took full advantage of the situation to win the event with teammate Mikko Hirvonen again in 2nd and Petter Solberg in a solid 3rd.

Onto the Acropolis rally next. Mikko Hirvonen put in a superb event to win, but Sebastien Loeb made an uncharacteristic error and had a massive crash meaning instant retirement. It was left to Citroen Junior team driver Sebastien Ogier putting in an excellent event to finish 2nd with Jari-Matti Latvala in third position.

The 8th event of the season was a new entry to the championship - Rally Poland. For the 3rd event in a row, Sebastien Loeb made an error and clipped a tree stump that was missing from his notes. Mikko Hirvonen took full advantage to claim another win whilst Jari-Matti Latvala threw his 2nd position away with a mistake on the final superspecial stage leading to retirement gifting Dani Sordo 2nd and Henning Solberg 3rd.

2009 World Rally Championship Standings

Driver Standings after Rally Poland

1 st	M Hirvonen	BP Ford	58
2 nd	S Loeb	Citroen	57
3 rd	D Sordo	Citroen	39
4 th	H Solberg	Stobart	27
5 th	J Latvala	BP Ford	25
6 th	P Solberg	Solberg WRT	25

Manufacturer Standings after Rally Poland

1 st	Citroen Total World Rally Team	106
2 nd	BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally	89
3 rd	Stobart VK M-Sport Ford Rally Team	60
4 th	Citroen Junior Rally Team	29
5 th	Munchi's Ford World Rally Team	18



Outline Event Timetable

(All timings approx for 1st car)

Tuesday 20th October

Recce - Central and Mid Wales All day

Wednesday 21st October

Recce - South Wales All day

Thursday 22nd October

Shakedown - TBC 08.00

Ceremonial Start - Cardiff 18.30

Friday 23rd October

TC0 - Cardiff 06:00

SS1 - Hafren 1 09.25

SS2 - Sweet Lamb 1 10.06

SS3 - Myherin 1 10.24

Service A - Builth Wells (Remote) 11:57

SS4 - Hafren 2 13.34

SS5 - Sweet Lamb 2 14.15

SS6 - Myherin 2 14.33

Service B - Cardiff 18:26

Saturday 24th October

Service C - Cardiff 07:00

SS7 - Rhondda 1 08.33

SS8 - Crychan 1 10.31

SS9 - Halfway 1 10.58

Service D - Cardiff 13.08

SS10 - Rhondda 2 14.56

SS11 - Crychan 2 16:54

SS12 - Halfway 2 17:21

Service E - Cardiff 19:31

Sunday 25th October

Service F - Cardiff 07.00

SS13 - Port Talbot 1 08:28

SS14 - Rheola 1 09.27

SS15 - Port Talbot 2 11.08

SS16 - Rheola 2 12.07

Service G - Cardiff 13:52

Finish - Cardiff 14:40

Event Staffing Contacts:

Staffing Officers:

Phil Cleaton

Tel - 01685 840638

pcleaton@walesrallygb.com

Peter Whiting

Tel - 01297 444174

pwhiting@walesrallygb.com

Radio Crew Contacts:

John Upstone (South Wales Stages)

Tel - 056 0279 4262

jupstone@walesrallygb.com

Bill Wilmer (Central and Mid Wales Stages)

Tel - 07973 830705

bwilmer@walesrallygb.com

Marshals' Liaison:

Paul Rees

Tel - 07092 000583

prees@walesrallygb.com

Training Officer:

Ian Howells

Tel - 01443 675544

ihowells@walesrallygb.com

Marshals Forum:

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

Official Website:

<http://www.walesrallygb.com>

Online Enrolment:

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