

SACC Stage Rally Report, June 2014

MSA ARR Craib Scottish Rally Championship;

Rounds 2 & 3 both continued the strong entry level seen at the Snowman with 100 entries for the Border Counties giving 92 starters and an almost capacity entry for the Granite City with 113 starters.

Championship registrations at this point were already in excess of the 2013 figure.

Competitors experienced snow on early stages in Kielder and thick fog on the opening stage at Aberdeen making for testing conditions. Surfaces generally held up well on both events, helped no doubt by the mild winter.

Following the tragic events on Jim Clark Saturday, the Reivers Rally did not run but it too had attracted over 100 entries with a great many crews travelling to the event for the first time.

The organisers dealt promptly with refunding entry fees in what can only continue to be very difficult times. This is appreciated by all entrants, many of whom in turn, donated part of that refund to the event, a gesture gratefully acknowledged by Berwick & District MC and Border Ecosse CC.

From SRC meetings on Sunday the following points were amongst many discussed;

With immediate effect all applications for event/championship media accreditation must be accompanied by a risk assessment, no risk assessment means NO accreditation.

Look into giving marshals telephone contact details for their stage commander and /or HQ. Such details are often only included in safety plans which are not distributed amongst all those on duty. It is recognised that forests may not always permit phone contact but we must make a start.

The Scottish Rally has taken several steps to increase awareness of safety issues and competitors will be advised that there may be an impact on the event timings as a result.

The Galloway Hills rally will now be the final round of the 2014 SRC on Sunday 26th October. The SRC acknowledge the co-operation of Mike Riddick and his team at Solway Car Club.

Also,

An announcement will be made in the coming days regarding vehicle eligibility for the 2015 season.

The championship will host guests of ARR Craib at a hospitality day this Friday in Pitfichie forest. Representatives of the Forestry Commission will be in attendance, having taken an increased interest as a result of recent events. Brian Kinghorn from the Pirelli will be in overall charge and full cover will be provided by Saltire 1 from SMMC, Shire Recovery and Dr. Bob Pawson.

With the agreement of STRC, Dave Weston has been selected (and agreed to stand) for proposal to Rallies Committee. The relevant CV will be forwarded to Lock this week. Dave has a vast range of experience in UK rallying and was Scottish Champion in 2006. His sons are currently contesting the BTRDA series and his finger is very much on the pulse, both in a competition and business sense.

We are under no illusions that this guarantees acceptance but are confident he would make a worthy addition to the group.

Scottish rallying remains in good health, a recent one-two on the Plains rally in Wales demonstrating the depth of talent from this side of the border.

There continues to be however, difficulty in recruiting sufficient marshals for all the events proposed and I've no doubt this has already been part of discussions this evening.

Dave Robson.

SACC Stage Rally Co-ordinator.

17/6/14