

SACC, 17th September 2013, Stage Rally Co-ordinators Report

Since mid June there have been 3 rounds of the Scottish Rally Championship,

The RSAC Scottish Rally where SRC competitors were joined by BRC crews for the first time since 2005. The clover-leaf route, allowing both fields the opportunity to run first was generally well received and leading Scottish competitors showed the BRC crews a clean pair of heel on most stages.

Comparable entry level was very slightly down on 2012 with 83 non BRC cars as against 89 in 2012. A total of 120 cars took the start.

Euan Thorburn took a popular win in the SRC 'module' ahead of David Bogie with Alistair Fisher taking his maiden BRC win on the longer event.

The Speyside Stages in early August benefitted from glorious weather generating good crowds of spectators during the day.

97 crews started, exactly the same as 2012.

David Bogie bounced back from finishing 2nd on home ground to take the win ahead of Euan Thorburn. This event ran 9 shorter stages, a different format again well received, helped greatly by many marshalls travelling a long way to assist.

Both these events suffered from restricted access to forestry due to windfarming activity.

The Merrick Stages 2 weeks ago at Wigtown again suffered from a poor entry with 57 cars taking the start, a reduction of 10 from 2012. The organisers are to be commended for their decision to run the event, with full mileage in such difficult circumstances.

Allan Marshall, event manager, was taken to hospital in Dumfries on the Friday evening and returned on Saturday afternoon. Fittingly he was presented with the Spirit of the Rally award at the prizegiving. We send Allan our best wishes.

Euan Thorburn kept his SRC championship hopes very much alive by winning ahead of David Bogie, Quintin Milne taking his 2nd consecutive 3rd place.

Publicity for the event was greatly enhanced by the presence of Amy Williams, gold medallist at the Vancouver Winter Olympics 2010, co-driving for Tony Jardine. This story featured in BBC Scotland's evening sports bulletin a couple of days later.

Both Amy, (competing) and Sir Chris Hoy (in the course car with Jimmy McRae) will be at the Colin McRae Forest Stages in October so hopefully the increased awareness will continue there. 2 British Olympic Gold medallists at the same event in Scotland is quite something.

Registrations for the SRC have closed at 95 drivers and 71 co-drivers, the 166 total being only 3 less than 2012.

The Scottish Tarmac Championship

The single venue events in this series continue to benefit from healthy entries. At Albemarle the Forgans 'bounced'.... back from their accident at Crail to take a big haul of points. While the Solway Coast weekend was well received by all. Of particular note was the co-operation of and the hospitality provided by the military at Dundrennan. Unfortunately the championship lost the Lindisfarne Rally at Otterburn which was cancelled due to insufficient entries. This was due to run on the same weekend as the Merrick and an event in England on this date was also cancelled. Tynemouth MC had received 29 entries but it should be noted that many of these were not paid at the time the decision to cancel was taken. Perhaps post holidays this is not the best date for multiple events although rallies on military ground often have little choice.

Next event is the Pendragon at Warcop in Cumbria on 22nd Sept. which is always very popular, entries there may be at a premium, followed by Mull which at present has 106 entries and seems to be on the up once again.

46 registered drivers and 38 co-drivers are contesting the series with many Junior class drivers well to the fore in front wheel drive Vauxhalls, very encouraging!

Dave Robson.

