

# Robert's Rally Round-up

## LOOKING AHEAD : 2011 EVENTS LISTED

With the New Year now upon us, here are most of the main ANICC rally dates on which we as a club will be involved, for your new diary. (January events are in Rally Diary) Unfortunately, due to the severe weather over the Christmas period, the UAC's "It's Not the Boxing Day Rally" was postponed with the organisers now hoping to run later THIS MONTH, but as I write no date has yet been set.

**FEBRUARY:** sees the start of the ten round 2011 Hankook NI Rally Championship, with Round One taking place at KIRKISTOWN on Sat. 19th organised by North Armagh MC. We will finish off the month at Omagh MC's SPRING RALLY in FIVEMILETOWN on Sat 26<sup>th</sup>.

**MARCH:** Sat.12th is the date of our own BMMC Training Day again at KIRKISTOWN, while Ballynahinch MC will run their NI Championship BISHOPSCOURT RALLY a week later on Sat. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**APRIL:** The MMP have their Training Day at LOUGHRY COLLEGE near COOKSTOWN on 16<sup>th</sup>. By the way, the 500 MRCI have joined the MMP for 2011. The main event this month will be the CIRCUIT OF IRELAND RALLY which takes place as usual at Easter. The 2011 event will run out of ARMAGH with HQ at the City Hotel. There will be 16 special stages taking place over the two days, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>/ Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. I will be Chief Timekeeper and need support from anyone who can help. Mid Antrim MC hope to run their round of the ANICC 2WD Challenge, the BALLYPATRICK STAGES on Sat.30<sup>th</sup>.

**MAY:** Magherafelt MC's THE TOUR OF THE SPERRINS which runs from Maghera and is the fourth round of the Hankook NI Championship, will take place on Sat.7<sup>th</sup>. Two weeks later on Sat. 21st it's the turn of North Armagh MC to run the non-championship LOUGHGALL COUNTRY PARK RALLY for two wheel drive cars only.

**JUNE:** Round five of the NI series, the MOURNE RALLY takes place on Saturday 4th. Not sure if it is back to the normal format of stages in Camlough and Slieve Gullion forest parks or on closed roads as was the case in 2010. Anyway the event is based in Newry. Then from Friday 17th until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> I should be in Letterkenny for the Irish Tarmac Championship DONEGAL RALLY which hopefully will run smoothly this year.

**JULY:** North Armagh MC will run two cracking events this month. First up is the now annual FESTIVAL OF MOTORSPORT in Loughgall Country Park on Sat.2<sup>nd</sup> while the LURGAN PARK RALLY is due to run on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup>. This popular event has now been running for over 30 years and always attracts a huge crowd for a family day out in the largest public park in NI. (At least no one should fall through ice on the lake in late July!) Another event which we always support is the BADMC CLUBMAN STAGES at Bishopscourt on July Bank Holiday Wed. 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the fourth round of the 2WD Rally Challenge.

**AUGUST:** will see the Maiden City club run their round of the NI Championship, the DOGLEAP RALLY. The forest event takes place on Sat.6<sup>th</sup> and it will be round number six. The Toddsleap.com ULSTER RALLY will take place on Fri.19<sup>th</sup>/Sat.20<sup>th</sup> and once again is based in Antrim. As well as being the penultimate round of the Irish Tarmac Championship the Ulster is also a round of the British Rally Championship, although that event is known as RALLY N.I. and does not permit World Rally Cars to compete.

**SEPTEMBER:** I understand Cookstown MC intend to run a round of the 2WD Rally Challenge over closed roads in their area on Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is also the month of two of the best loose surface rounds of the Hankook NI Championship. On Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> round seven, the Enniskillen MC's LAKELAND STAGES RALLY, takes place in the forests around Derrygonnelly while two weeks later on the 24<sup>th</sup> the BUSHWACKER RALLY, run by Omagh MC will use the Lough Braden and Killeter forests.

**OCTOBER:** The Enniskillen round of the ANICC 2WD Rally Challenge, the SYSTEM SIGNS CLUBMAN STAGES takes place in Derrygonnelly on Sat.1<sup>st</sup>. Stages are at Lough Navar forest drive and private land nearby. Then the penultimate round of the Hankook NI Championship is scheduled to take place in Castlewellan on Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The DOWN RALLY will also be a round of the Irish Forestry Championship and is organised by Rathfriland MC. Unfortunately, I note that this year's CIRCUIT RETRO is also set for the SAME WEEKEND.

**NOVEMBER:** Hopefully the GLENS OF ANTRIM RALLY will take place on Sat.5<sup>th</sup>. The event was cancelled in 2010 because not enough entries were received. Apparently this was due to a VERY EARLY closing date imposed by Mid Antrim MC. This must not happen again, as this used to be a great way to round off the NI Rally Championship, particularly if it was tight at the top of the points table! Final event (apart from It's Not the Boxing Day Rally on Wed.28<sup>th</sup>Dec.) of a long 2011 rally season for us will be Newry MC's GULLION STAGES on Sat.19<sup>th</sup>Nov. This is also the last round of the 2WD Challenge.

## **2011 WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**FEBRUARY** 11-13 SWEDEN

**MARCH** 4-6 MEXICO

**APRIL** 15-17 JORDAN

**MAY** 6-8 ITALY 27-29 ARGENTINA

**JUNE** 17-19 GREECE

**JULY** 29-31 FINLAND

**AUGUST** 19-21 GERMANY

**SEPTEMBER** 9-11 AUSTRALIA 30-OCT.2 FRANCE

**OCTOBER** 21-23 SPAIN

**NOVEMBER** 11-13 GREAT BRITAIN

Can Ford's new Fiesta beat the Citroen DS3? Will Ogier challenge Loeb? Due to debut in ITALY, will Kris Meek's MINI Countryman be a dog or a winner? Time will reveal the answers to all the above questions. Should be quite an exciting year ahead for the new look World Rally Championship. Oh and IRELAND is hoping to return to the series in 2012 or 2013 IF funding can be found.

## **Rally Diary**

### **SAT. 15<sup>TH</sup> JAN.                      NEW YEAR STAGES RALLY**

The traditional start to the year, this event will be Round One of the 2011 ANICC 2WD Stage Rally Challenge. Organised by the 500 MRCI the multi-use rally takes place entirely within the confines of KIRKISTOWN Race Circuit near Portavogie in Co.Down. We are due to supply all timekeepers and rescue personnel. SIGN ON 8am.

### **SAT. 5<sup>TH</sup> FEB.                      MGCC DEREK WALKER CLASSIC TRIAL**

Based again this year at DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK near Killyleagh Co. Down, we have been asked to help run the various tests held in and around the Downpatrick area during the day. SIGN ON at 8am where tea and coffee will be provided, plus there will be a bowl of soup and sandwiches at the finish.