

Malcolm Wilson Rally 2025

After a decidedly difficult start to the season due to the cancellation of the first two rounds of the West Wales Rally Spares HRCR Stage Masters Challenge it was good to see crews out on the first round. Rally North Wales and the Severn Valley Stages were lost to the storm damage inflicted on Wales during the winter and the organisers of the Malcolm Wilson Rally kindly facilitated our needs.

Only a handful of crews made it to Cumbria but those that did enjoyed smooth forest stages and very nice weather. Pick of the bunch when all was said and done were Baz Wheeler and John Pickavance, Baz on his very first visit to these forests. They had a largely good day but were baulked on one stage which could have proven decisive if Stefaan Stouf had managed to pip them to the post. Although not registered for the Challenge, Stefaan's co-driver Guy Weaver was and only 6 seconds separated these two crews at the end. Second driver and third co-driver were Lee Ashberry and Ian Jones who had a trouble-free run. These three crews all campaigned beautiful examples of the Group 4 Ford Escort RS1800.

In the classes Dave Peters and Andrew Richards made the long trek up from the southwest and were rewarded with a finish and maximum points in their Ford Escort RS2000 in class D3. Also travelling from the southwest were Freddy Camp and Stephen Spear who campaigned their C2 class Mk1 Ford Escort 1600 and also took a maximum score to put them in a good position for the year.

The Dixies Challenge comes next in early May where a large contingent of Challenge crews are expected to turn out.