

**2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 12: Dayinsure Wales Rally GB**

The Michelin LTX Force H4 and S5 to tackle Welsh mud

The 2017 FIA World Rally Championship continues with its annual trip to North Wales where, in 2016, Michelin claimed its 50th world title, just weeks after notching up its 300th world class rally win in Catalonia. Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia, who made sure of last year's Drivers' crown with victory in Spain, won the British round, too, to secure the Manufacturers' title for Volkswagen/Michelin.

This time round, the French crew is again in contention for the Drivers' and Co-drivers' crowns and M-Sport could well wrap up the Manufacturers' championship on home soil. All it needs to do is survive the Welsh forests and pick up at least three points.

The total distance covered by the 2017 Wales Rally GB is 1,470.35km, which includes 21 special stages totalling 306.98km. The format is quite similar to that of last season, but there are a few changes. A 1.6km stage around the Tir Prince horse-racing track will kick off action on Thursday evening, for example, while 'Dyfnant' has been moved from Friday to Saturday. Indeed, it will be the first of the second day's night-time tests which return to the menu. After being dropped since 2013, Gwydyr (Sunday) is back, too.

"The total competitive distance has been shortened from 330km in 2016 to a little more than 300km this year, so there will be a high price to pay for any error," observes **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's WRC programme. "The drivers will consequently need to find the ideal trade-off between speed and caution and steer clear of the event's traditional hazards, including the many stage-side log-piles. The conditions, as usual, promise to be mixed, damp and deceptive, so it won't be an easy one for the tyres, especially as the Welsh forest tracks pack of lot of sharp stones. Slow punctures tend not to be too much of a handicap for the crews who can be expected to count essentially on the outstanding strength of the soft-compound MICHELIN LTX Force S5. Barring exceptional circumstances, this is likely to be the choice from start to finish."

Michelin Motorsport's staff for the 2017 Dayinsure Wales Rally GB

- **Jacques Morelli**, FIA WRC Programme Manager
- 4 team advisors (CTE)
- 2 coordinators
- 8 fitters
- 1 press officer



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The MICHELIN LTX Force S5/H4 (for WRC crews)

Number of tyres available for the Dayinsure Wales Rally GB: 720

Number of tyres per driver: 28 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 28 S5s (soft compound) and 16 H4s (hard)

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90/S80 (for WRC2 crews)

Number of tyres available for the Dayinsure Wales Rally GB: 804

Number of tyres per driver: 26 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 26 S80s (soft compound) and 16 H90s (hard)



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