



LAST TIME OUT Tony Bardy won the North West Stages event in February 2012

Venues in use for North West Stages

THE Legend Fires North West stages will use two new venues for 2013, the Trax Motorsport Centre in Preston and the Port of Fleetwood.

The event takes place on Friday, February 8 and Saturday, February 9.

The Lookers Citroën sponsored Trax Preston stage, used primarily for motocross racing, will offer floodlight spectator viewing on both the Friday night and a further stage on the Saturday afternoon.

And a new section will be added to the traditional Blackpool Promenade

spectator stage, sponsored this year by Michelin Tyres.

Spectator stages will also be run on Fleetwood waterfront and the GT40C Rally Show within the Norcalympha Exhibition Hall on the Friday afternoon and the Saturday will also be bigger and better.

Don't miss the full preview in next Thursday's motor sport

Three Sisters are ready for season

RALLY: The curtain goes up on another season of rallying at the Three Sisters circuit at Ashton-in-Makerfield with the Roskirk Stages on March 3.

This year's event will follow a similar format to previous years, with 12 stages on the 'sealed surface' venue covering approximately 26 stage miles.

In addition to the Roskirk Stages, Blackpool South Shore MC are also running the Roskirk F1000 Junior Stages.

The combined entry between the two rallies will be 60 cars, so make sure you enter in plenty of time in order to guarantee a run.

For more information or an entry visit www.bssmc.com.

Briant to speak

SPEAKER: Mick Briant, three-times Motoring News Road Rally Championship winner, will be guest speaker at the SD34 MSG annual awards and presentation night.

Briant will be joined by fellow road rally legends Ian Grindrod, John Morton, Malcolm Graham, Dave Scaife and Ian Joel on Friday, February 22 at Blackburn Rugby Club. Tickets are £5 per person, including pie and peas, and will be available from terymartin01@aol.com or Chris Woodcock, pdschris@aol.com.

TT legend's night

BIKES: An evening with John McGuinness will take place at Stockport's Edgeley Park on February 22 at 7pm.

The TT legend will talk about his career as part of an event that also includes a three-course meal, raffle and auction.

John Gwynne will be the compere and tickets cost £42.40. Enquiries to julie@bellevueaces.co.uk.

Docks switch

MOTOCROSS: The opening round of the AMCA Wulfspout British Masters Championship has been moved to Preston Docks. Originally scheduled for Mallory Park racing circuit, the organisers have switched venues but the date, March 9 and 10, remains the same.

Clitheroe to host

CLUB: Clitheroe DMC are hosting the Go Motorsport Development roadshow at their weekly meeting on Tuesday, February 5. Starting at 8.30pm, the roadshow takes place at Waddington Sports and Social Club near Clitheroe.

Battle of Whit

TRIAL: Back Cown Quarry at Whitworth is the venue for Rochdale DMC's club, novice and beginner trial on Sunday, February 17.

The trial starts at 10.30am, contact Margaret Whitlow 01706 633977 for an entry.

Red Rose trial

TRIAL: Red Rose Motorcycle Club are holding a pre-65 trial at Warmden Quarry, Accrington, on Sunday, February 17 at 10.30am.

Open to all adult pre-65 solo riders, contact Theron Thomas 01253 856927 for an entry.

Challenge is laid down in a new Micra series

Accrington rally ace sets up Nissan series for 2013

By NEIL JOHNSON
neil.johnson@nqnw.co.uk

A NEW low cost rally championship, designed to encourage young drivers into the sport, has been launched by an East Lancashire competitor.

Multiple rally and autotest champion Steve Johnson, who lives in Accrington, has created the K11 Micra Challenge in conjunction with the Association of North Western Car Clubs (ANWCC).

"The idea came about after talking to other competitors and organisers about the escalating costs of stage rallying," explained Johnson, who is also the North West Go Motorsport regional development officer.

"By creating a championship open to just one class of car, the one-litre Nissan Micra, it offers a way of enjoying the sport without it costing the earth.

"And we have deliberately framed the regulations to keep costs as low as possible, such as the requirement that everyone must use a 'control' tyre.

"There are lots of ready-prepared cars around from around £2,500 and we anticipate the cost of entering each event to be around £200.

"By running the Challenge within the ANWCC Stage Rally Championship, competitors have up to 24 events to choose from throughout the year.

"Again, to keep costs down, just eight scores will count towards the title and you can score two of the eight as a marshal.

"Ten years ago, it would have cost around £3,000 to do 10 stage rallies on control Falken tyres.

"We have done our calculations and es-



UP FOR A CHALLENGE
The K11 Micra Challenge has been set up for 2013

time it would only cost another £500 to do the same 10 events in 2013."

And Johnson, who competes in a Nissan Micra himself, was keen to emphasize that the car can be used for other motor sport events, not just stage rallying.

He said: "A K11 Micra is also eligible for other events, such as production car autotests and autosolos, which cost as little as £25 an event to enter."

Johnson and his team launched the series at the Autosport Show, traditionally the annual season curtain-raiser, at Birmingham's NEC last month.

He added: "There was a lot of interest and we anticipate a healthy entry for our first round, this month's Blackpool-based Legend Fires North West Stages."

For more information on the 2013 K11 Micra Challenge, visit www.anwcc.org.

2013 Championship calendar

- Feb 8/9: Legend Fires North West Stages (Motor Sport NW)
- Feb 15/16: Chris Kelly Memorial Rally (Manx AS)
- Feb 24: Oak Leaves (Ecurie Royal Oak MC)
- Mar 3: Roskirk Trophy (Blackpool South Shore MC)
- Mar 9: Jack Neal Memorial Rally (Clitheroe & District MC)
- Mar 10: Tour of Epynt (Port Talbot MC)
- Mar 17: Lee Holland Memorial Stages (Pendle MC with Garstang & Preston MC)
- Mar 24: SMC Stages (Stockport 061 MC)
- Apr 13: Horiba D'Isis Rally (Quinton MC)
- Apr 14 (for 21): Lookout Stages (Trackrod MC)
- May 5: Hallamshire Stages (Sheffield & Hallamshire MC)
- May 10/11: Manx National Rally (Manx AS)
- May 11: Cetus Rally Stages (Wigan & District MC)
- May 25: Llanbedd Stages Rally (Harlech & District MC)
- Jun 9: Keith Frecker Memorial Rally (Blackpool South Shore MC)
- Jul 7: JRT Enville Stages (Warrington & District MC)

- Jul 14: Gareth Hall Memorial Rally (Bala & District MC)
- Jul 21: Opposite Lock Stages (Slaithwaite MC)
- Aug 4: Ditton Priors Stages (Telford AC)
- Aug 18: Centenary Stages (Sheffield & Hallamshire MC)
- Aug 25: Hero's Stages (Epynt MC)
- Sep 6/7: Promenade Stages (Wallasey MC)
- Sep 22: Pendragon Stages (Kirby Lonsdale MC)
- Sep 29: Hero's Stages (Pendle District MC)
- Oct 11/13: Mull Rally (Mull CC)
- Oct 13: Adgespeed Stages (Wigan & District MC)
- Oct 27: Jaspers Bakery Swynnerton Stages (Ecurie Royal Oak MC)
- Nov 2/3: Glyn Memorial Rally (Caernarvonshire & Anglesey MC)
- Nov 8/9: Pokerstars Rally (Manx AS)
- Nov 9: Neil Howard Memorial Rally (Bolton-le-Moors CC)
- Nov 23: Hall Trophy Stages (Clitheroe & District MC)
- Dec 7: Lincoln Green Stages (Lindholme MSC)