

## EVENT HISTORY



The Mid Wales Stages has run with many different names, sponsors and routes since the first event in 1977. That year the event ran at the end of March as the Tour of Dyfnant, was sponsored by Century Oils and used stages in (unsurprisingly!) Dyfnant Forest. The following year, the event moved location and ran in the forests near to Llanwrtyd Wells as the Nant-yr-Hwch Stages, before becoming the Greenhouse Stages in the following years, running first in Ceri, then in Dyfnant. The event then ran as the Dolforwyn Stages and ran in Dyfnant and Aberhirnant, before finishing at the Dolforwyn Hall Hotel, near Abermule.

Over the next few years the event moved to a May date and ran as the Newtown Stages or the Newtown Mid Wales Stages. The event used stages in the Dyfnant and Aberhirnant forests, before utilising stages in the Ceri and Sarnau forest complexes, and up to 1991 the only cars to have won the event were Ford Escorts and Vauxhall Chevettes.

In 1992 Champion Spark Plugs took over the event sponsorship and this year was the first of four consecutive wins for Newtown garage owner Dave Humphreys, firstly in a Sierra Cosworth and with an Escort Cosworth for the next 3 years.

1994 saw the first running of a Historic Stage Rally, which has grown from having around a dozen entries originally, to in excess of 60 entries in recent years. This year also saw the event run with stages in Radnor forest, which were also used for the following 3 years.



As with many events in 2001, Foot and Mouth disease saw the cancellation of the rally. The 2002 event saw Rally Marketing of Welshpool starting their sponsorship of the rally, which would continue for the next 12 years. Also this was the first win for Graham Middleton, whose five consecutive victories is the highest in the events history (Dave Humphreys also made it five wins with his victory in 1999).

The 2007 event saw the running of the stages in Hafren, Sweet Lamb, Myherin and Tarenig that the rally continues to use. The event moved to its now traditional date at the beginning of March for the 2011 running of the event and in 2014 the event ran with a new joint sponsorship from Viking Motorsport and Links Electrical. Over the last couple of years, the weather has made for 'interesting' driving conditions and, as mentioned previously, the historic rally has played a much larger role with Nick Elliott taking victory in five out of the last six events.



In 2016, the event ran as the opening round of the MSA British Rally Championship. The weather made the race for the BRC crews very 'interesting'! After 2 hard fought days of competition, Elfyn Evans / Craig Parry took their Dmack Ford Focus to the top of the podium 17 seconds ahead of Fredrik Ahlin / Morton Erik Abrahamsen in their Ford Focus and with the similar car of Tom Cave / James Morgan taking third.