

Hertfordshire Stages – Sunday 27th June 2021

I have been asked to act as Stage Commander on Stages 1/5/9 on this new Closed Road Rally. The date of 27th June should give us a chance of being allowed to run (as good as can be predicted in the current environment, anyway). The Club that is leading the event is Middlesex County AC – that used to run the Rockingham Stages (with Thame MSC).

The stage is four miles long and runs to the South East of Stevenage – easily accessible from the A1(M) or M25 and is 80 miles from Oxford. The lanes used are quite tight (many banks and hedges) and run through a couple of hamlets. There is a bit of elevation change and has been chosen for the challenge offered by the roads.

The aim is to have 120 cars running at 30 second intervals. All MSUK eligible cars will be found a place, and a class, to run in.

Preliminary setting up and managing of the afternoon recce (basically we will set up a Passage Check mid stage to ensure that competitors only do the two allowed runs) will take place on **Saturday 26th June**

On **Sunday 27th**, I expect to be signing on marshals at 7am.

- We will have the taping off and signing to do to complete the Stage Set Up
- The three passes of the stage are (currently) scheduled for 09.00hrs, 12.10hrs and 15.20hrs
- That means we should be clearing up by 15.45. Clearing up will involve taking down all signs, arrow, posts, tape and (ideally) running them through the stage to the Stage Finish where they will be stripped, sorted and rubbish bagged for return to store / disposal. Should all be done within an hour (based on past experience).

Of course, I am looking for help to set up and run the stage. I need:

- **Deputy Stage Commander**
- **Stage Safety Officer** (the MCAC regs require that the SSO goes through the Stage with the MSUK Safety Delegate then returns to the Stage Start ready to attend any serious incident.
- **Stage Spectator Safety Officer** (I am awaiting details of possible Spectator Areas – but they won't be good thanks to the terrain!)

- **Stage 00 Car (Safety Car Licence Required)** – rather than have an overall 00 car, MCAC Have decided that it would be better to have a 00 car for each stage. They will follow the MSUK Delegate through the stage, putting right any points raised, then site at the start, waiting to carry out the intermediate Safety Car duties should a gap in the running be necessary.
- **Stage Resident Liaison Officer**
- **Stage Equipment Officer** (I have started listing resources that are needed and will be looking for MCAC to supply (in the main) so we will collect at the start of Stage Set Up and prepare for collection at the end of the event.
- **Arrival Timing Crew**
- **Start Timing Crew**
- **Start Radio**
- **Flying Finish Crew**
- **Stop Crew**
- **Stop Radio**
- **Course Marshals** (over 45 needed due to 8 junctions, various footpaths and adequately covering the hamlets)
- **Radio Marshals** (8-10No)

If you would be able to help with any of these posts, please reply in the first instance to me, **Simon Marks** – A304SCA@aol.com or **(07973) 412530**. Please feel free to pass this on to friends / fellow Club Members who you think might also like to come out and help.

As far as preparations are proceeding, I have spent half a day at the stage and have prepared an initial Stage Set Up ad Marshal Deployment Plan, which I am now working through to come up with an Equipment List. The main event organising team has a MSUK Permit in place and are working through the many and various items around running a Closed Road Rally. One lockdown / tiers allow, I will be able to get back to Hertfordshire and carry on with meeting some of the locals and detail planning.

Closed Road rallies seem to provide a good day's marshalling enjoyment. I hope that you will find this none no different and, by the end of June, will be ready for some fume tainted air out in the countryside!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Simon