

## **FULL ECOSSE CHALLENGE ROUND FOR MERRICK**

Organisers of the Merrick Forest Stages Rally in September have announced that the event will count as a full round of the Brick & Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge – one of the most keenly contested championships in Scotland.

It means both 1.9 and 1.6 Peugeot 205's will be in the starting line-up in Newton Stewart on September 8th.

Now in its fifth year, the Brick & Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge is Scotland's premier one-make rally series.

It prides itself on nurturing young talent, as well as providing low-cost competition for those on a tight budget.

Rally manager Allan Marshall described the inclusion of The Merrick as a full round of the Ecosse Challenge as a “great boost”.

He went on: “The commitment and competitive spirit shown by the Ecosse crews is fantastic. The fans love it”.

The Merrick Forest Stages Rally replaces the Park Systems Furniture event of recent years.

It will comprise five challenging stages through the Galloway forest - centred on a new purpose-built service area at Glentool.

This will greatly reduce road mileage between stages, making it one of the most compact rallies in the Scottish Championship calendar.

The Merrick will be Round 7 of the County Saab MSA Scottish Rally Championship.

The event will also count as rounds of the Beatsons Borders Stage and Palmerston Furniture Five of Clubs rally championships.

Further information can be found at [www.merrickstages.co.uk](http://www.merrickstages.co.uk).

Rally Manager Allan Marshall 01671 403611 (mob 07876 211 576)

ends