



Media Release: For Immediate Use: 21/07/08

## **MERRICK AIMS TO BUILD ON REPUTATION**

The regulations have been published for the Merrick Forest Stages Rally on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

The organisers have been keen to build on the success of last year's encouraging first running of the rally – when it was awarded the Chairman's Cup for the best event in the Scottish Rally Championship.

The “Merrick” will follow a similar format to last year, but with even fewer road miles.

The total route is approximately 110 miles, including 6 special stages totalling about 44 miles on forestry roads.

Both scrutineering and signing-on will be based in Newton Stewart itself, rather than Bladnoch Distillery as in previous years, making the event even more compact.

Scrutineering is scheduled to take place at the forestry offices in Minnigaff, with signing-on and Rally HQ at the College campus at the Riverside car park.

Once again, servicing will take place at the purpose-built central service area close to the Glentool Forest complex.

For the first time, the rally will start and finish in Newton Stewart town centre, with the main thoroughfare closed off to normal traffic to allow spectators a close-up view of the cars and crews.

The after-rally prize-giving will again take place at the local cinema, having proved such a successful venue last year.

The “Merrick” is the penultimate round of the County Saab MSA Scottish Championship and the Beatsons Scottish Borders Rally Championship.

The Glentool Mini Rally will run in conjunction with the main event, and offers competitors a reduced mileage event of approximately 30 stage miles, which forms the counter in the Palmerston Furniture Five of Clubs Championship.

In addition this year, the event will also count as a round of the Motoscope Northern Historic Championship - providing a much needed boost to the historic section of the event which, as in 2007, will start ahead of the main field.

There will also be a Trophy Rally for those competitors who retire early, giving them the opportunity of a run through the final stage of the renowned Glentool forest.

The “Merrick” is jointly organised by the Machars Car Club and the Scottish Sporting Car Club, and once again has the support of local rally competitor Ian Bendall, as well as a number of other businesses from the area.

Full details of the regulations and other forms can be found at [www.merrickstages.co.uk](http://www.merrickstages.co.uk)

For news and updates of all Scottish Championship rounds, go to [www.scottishrallychampionship.co.uk](http://www.scottishrallychampionship.co.uk)