

*2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 11: Dayinsure Wales Rally GB*

***The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and S6 nominated together
for the first time to tackle the year's wettest
and muddiest challenge***

With three rounds of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship remaining, and with everything still to play for in both the Drivers' and Manufacturers' title chases, Michelin's WRC partners will be able to choose between the M6 (medium) and S6 (soft) versions of the MICHELIN LTX Force for Britain's round of the series for the first time. These two options joined the list of compounds available for the championship's gravel rounds ahead of July's Rally Finland and face a specific challenge at Wales Rally GB.

Although the British round has been brought forward in the calendar compared with 2017 when it took place on October 26-29, the weather could still prove delicate in North and Mid Wales where rain and fog can never be ruled out. Mud is another traditional feature of the local forest tracks and the deceptively unaggressive-looking stages can be tough on tyres due to the frequent sharp stones and slate which is common in the region near Deeside, home of the service park once again.

The total length of the 2018 Wales Rally GB is 1,419.06 kilometres which includes 318.13km divided into 23 special stages. Although this is close to last year's figures, three tests are new this time round, while others have been revised. Friday's Brenig and Alwen have been combined to form a single 29.13km stage, making it the longest of the rally. For once, the Power Stage will not provide the weekend's last competitive action since it will be contested ahead of the final 8.03km stage, an all-asphalt affair.

"Following the extremely rough ride everyone had in Turkey, we return to more familiar territory in Wales," notes **Arnaud Rémy**, manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "That doesn't mean it will be any easier, though, because the weather tends to be changeable and rarely mild. If it rains, our WRC partners will be able to fit the new soft-compound MICHELIN LTX Force S6 which was developed partly with Wales Rally GB in mind. The way the teams adapt their respective tyre strategies to the conditions promises to play a decisive role."

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and S6 (WRC crews)

Number of tyres available in Wales: **600**

Allocation per WRC driver: 28 tyres (plus four for shakedown) from a total allocation of 28 mediums (M6) and 16 softs (S6).



Didier Laurent – didier@autopressclub.com – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90 and S80 (WRC2 crews)

Number of tyres available in Wales: **700**

Allocation per WRC2 driver: 26 tyres (plus four for shakedown) from a total allocation of 26 hards (H90) and 16 softs (S80).

Michelin staff for the 2018 Wales Rally GB

Michelin's partners at the 2018 Wales rally GB will be backed by a total staff of 16:

- **Arnaud Rémy** (Rally Programme Manager)
- 4 team advisors
- 2 coordinators
- 8 fitters
- 1 press officer

