

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

***Successful Wales Rally GB debut for the MICHELIN LTX
Force M6 and MICHELIN LTX Force S6***

After making their maiden competitive appearance in July, in Finland, the new MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and MICHELIN LTX Force S6 were the nominated choice for Wales Rally GB for the first time. Their compounds (medium and soft) proved ideally suited to the British round's highly specific conditions which forced competitors to carefully plan their respective tyre strategies for the weekend, backed by advice from the expert Michelin technicians delegated to work with each team, although the final choice is always down to the drivers.

This year's Wales Rally GB was brought forward three weeks compared with 2017 which meant the weather was slightly different. With the exception of Day 1, there was effectively little rain and the temperature varied from 7 to 14°C, while the sun made numerous appearances over the three days. Even the usually omnipresent morning fog was rare this time around.

As a result, crews were able to count on the consistency of the MICHELIN LTX Force M6 which was ideal for the longer competitive loops. A combination of the two compounds was a frequent option, however, even though Michelin's WRC partners took care to keep back a stock of the softer option for Sunday morning's tests. The last day's menu included the Power Stage which, for the first time this season, wasn't the last competitive section of the rally but scheduled four tests from the end.

"These two tyres, which were available together for Wales Rally GB for the very first time, were partly developed with this event in mind," notes **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "We consequently weren't surprised by their performance but we were still eager to see how they fared in anger despite all the pre-event testing we carried out. The weather proved milder than expected, with less rain than usual, so a variety of strategies were possible and we learned a great deal about these two new tyres over the three days. Everything went very well overall and our partners were able to adapt their choices to the conditions of the moment, without having to take any risks in terms of either durability or performance. We couldn't have asked more of our tyres."

M-Sport's Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC) concluded the week's showdown in the muddy Welsh forests at the top of the order, ahead of Jari-Matti Latvala / Miikka Anttila (Toyota Yaris WRC) and Esapekka Lappi / Janne Ferm (Toyota Yaris WRC) who made it an all-Michelin podium.

The WRC2 battle was won by Finns Rovaniemi/Halttunen (Skoda Fabia R5), ahead of Swedes Tidemand/Andersson (Skoda Fabia R5) and the Anglo-American pairing of Greensmith/Gelsomino (Ford Fiesta R5). The result produced another all-Michelin top three, despite the fierce competition between tyre manufacturers that is a hallmark of this class.



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The next round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship will take teams to Spain on October 25-28.



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