



# SQUARE LEFT

OPINION

## Are rally organisers under-appreciated?



When you think about it, this is an extremely open-ended question. Because ultimately this can be judged on a case by case basis rather than just a straight yes or no.

I may have just reeled you in here, because the purpose of this column isn't to closely examine whether certain rallies across the UK are underappreciated, mainly because

most of what I would be telling you would be considered assumptions and not cold, hard facts.

Cold is a clue as to where we are going though.

The so-called 'Beast From The East' has wreaked havoc in the United Kingdom and beyond. Several rallies up and down the country have been either postponed or outright cancelled.

Right now I should've been down in Cockermonth for the Malcolm Wilson Rally, looking to bring you some behind the scenes social media content both on these channels and with Prestone UK as the hype builds towards the start of the Prestone MSA British Rally Championship.

The hype has been somewhat quashed, as now we don't know when the start of the BRC will be. The NCS Border Counties Rally was definitely the highest profile event to fall in the wake of the savage weather the country has been experiencing.

To a certain degree it was the most surprising announcement too. All of the other events that were called off were taking place this weekend whereas as the Jedburgh-based rally was to be run next weekend.

Hasty decision? Not a chance. Don't believe me? Have a scroll down.



This photo was taken earlier this week along the B6460, which used to form part of the Fogo stage on the Jim Clark Rally, around 20 miles from the Border Counties' HQ in Jedburgh.

Bear in mind this is a main road rather than a private access road, it's not hard to see why Clayton Lackenby and his team decided it best to ensure everyone's safety and call the event off.

With conditions like this, accessing the stages for set-up was impossible. Will they have improved in time for the rally? It's debatable. But safety must always come first.

Given the distance competitors and officials would be travelling to reach Jedburgh as well it really was a no-brainer.

Of course there will be some that will jump up and down with their arms in the air if the weather does improve come next weekend and the stages turn out to be perfectly accessible, but that would be a risk.

The Border Counties organisers really need to be commended for this. They've stuck their head above the parapet in making such a brave move, because they are sure to come under some criticism for making the call so early.

But if you stop and think about it, it is the only thing they could have done.

My woolly hat has well and truly been tipped to you.