



SQUARE LEFT

NEWS

Yates switches to Skoda power for 2018



Chesterfield driver Rhys Yates has traded in his Ford Fiesta R5 for a Skoda Fabia R5 ahead of the 2018 season.

Yates campaigned the M-Sport built Fiesta for two seasons in the British Rally Championship, taking a maiden podium last year on the Nicky Grist Stages on route to fourth overall in the championship.

He has also impressed on international events such as Wales Rally GB, Rally Spain and the Monza Rally Show. He will enter a new chapter of his career with Skoda power beneath his right foot.

“My time with M-Sport and the Fiesta has been fantastic, and I would like to extend my thanks to everyone in Cumbria for their help and support over the past few years,” Yates said.

“The Skoda is a different beast and I felt like I needed to make the transition for my own personal progression in the sport.

“I’ve had a drive of the car and it feels very nimble and has bags of driveability. There is a real buzz when you get in the driver’s’ seat.

“I’ve yet to put it onto gravel but we know the car is capable on all surfaces.

“We have had a great welcome from the Skoda Motorsport team, they have been great with us in every step of the process.

“I haven’t been this excited about the season ahead in a long time.”

The Skoda Fabia R5 has been a global success since it was first introduced to the stages back in 2015.

It has won 25 rounds of the WRC-2 support category and eight rounds of the European Rally Championship as well as the WRC-2 title with Esapekka Lappi in 2016 and Pontus Tidemand in 2017.

The car is yet to win a title in Britain however, but that will be Yates' aim for the season. He will dovetail his BRC campaign with sporadic World and European Rally Championship outings, most likely WRC Spain and GB and the Rally di Roma Capitale in the ERC.

"I think there is plenty more to come from me in terms of pace and results and I hope the Skoda will help me realise those goals this year," he said.