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Lydden Hill, one of the UK's smallest circuits, was playing host to the first ever rallycross event and, now in its 50th year, the discipline is arguably stronger than ever.

The concept for the mixed-surface competition was created by ABC TV's *World of Sport* director Robert Reed, who formed the idea while working on a weather-hit Harewood hillclimb in November 1966.

"The hillclimb was the first event that we laid on live. It was terribly wet and slippery and cars trying to get up the hill were all over the bloody place," says Reed. "To get back to the paddock, they had to slide their way down a cart track. I was watching from the London

control room, and enjoyed watching the cars struggling to move about. I said afterwards that I thought it had been better than if the conditions had been fine and all they'd done was go up the hill. By pure coincidence, the next week the phone rang, and it was Bud Smith from the 750 Motor Club, and he asked if we would like to televise trials. I said, 'No, but I've got another idea...'"

Reed's idea was to reproduce the RAC rally in a single afternoon. All he needed was a circuit with tarmac, loose surfaces and grass. Smith liked the idea too, and an outside broadcast unit was acquired from ABC with a date - February 4, at Lydden Hill in Kent. Smith roped in friends to help,