



# CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No.2/11



## ONE AND ALL

Unless you've been on Mars for the past couple of years, it won't have escaped your notice that 'austerity' is the watchword in the UK at the moment, with an ever-increasing number of people wondering just what the future holds for them. At the same time, past history tells us that the Wydean Forest Rally is one of the most popular in the calendar but, with the facility of running a 180-car entry, even the event's staunchest supporters could have been forgiven for suffering anxiety attacks. Well, they needn't have worried – having received more than the maximum number of requests for a place in the line-up, Forest of Dean Motor Club actually flagged 179 cars away from the start and, with BTRDA registrations already above the 2010 levels, expectations are understandably high for the rest of the season. Thank you, we are very grateful for your support.

## SIX OF THE BEST

Andy Burton kicked off his 2011 BTRDA Championship efforts by taking a record breaking sixth win and maximum points on the GMF Motor Factors Wydean Forest Rally. At the wheel of his Peugeot Cosworth and partnered by Robin Kellard, Andy arrived back at the Chepstow Racecourse finish 19 seconds ahead of the Ford Focus WRC of runners-up Paul Bird/Kirsty Riddick.

Meanwhile, for Cumbrian Paul Bird, a first visit to the area proved to be a worthwhile experience with a good haul of BTRDA Rally Series points ahead of his 'local' Malcolm Wilson Rally has set his season off to a promising start. Having set fastest time on the opening stage of the day, 2007 Wydean winners Hugh Hunter/Andy Marchbank were 3<sup>rd</sup> after a minor 'off' caused slight damage to their Ford Focus WRC. Adding to the variety of vehicles taking top honours, the Mitsubishi Lancer EVO9 of David Wright/Michael Wilkinson was fourth and Roger Chilman/Andrew Sankey took a good fifth while they got used to their recently-acquired Subaru Impreza WRC.





Meanwhile the Group N title chase is already looking good with sixteen drivers registered after the first round. Tom Cave (left) took the big points with Alex Allingham picking up second place and the 2009 Group N Champion Tom Naughton taking third.

Silver Star seemed to be the toughie with seven crews retiring during the day, however **Allan McDowall** (right) made sure he kept out of trouble and made a good start to the year by taking the lead in the series, before he moves a little closer to his Ayrshire home on the Malcolm Wilson.



In the Millers Oils 1400 category 2008 1400 BTRDA Champion Darren Pinchin (left) with co-driver Karen Watts, trailed Justin Lawson/Paul Hargreaves until the penultimate stage and in the end just managed to climb past to take the points by just 7 seconds. With Clive Anstey/Tim Currie only a further minute behind, who was in turn closely followed by a whole gaggle of other contenders, the 1400 Millers Oils series has the potential to be one of the most open for some years.

## SWISHER MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2011 SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship began on the Wyedean with 55 championship crews amongst the maximum entry of 180 cars



Darren Pinchin / Karen Watts came out ahead of the 20 cars competing in Class E2 by just 7 seconds from Justin Lawson / Paul Hargreaves (Vauxhall Nova), whilst Allan McDowall / Gavin Heseltine (Opel Kadett) triumphed in the 2 litre rear wheel drive class over a gaggle of well driven Mk 2 Ford Escorts. Matt Beebe / George Gwynne took maximum points in class E4 with Sean Edwards / Gavin Haycock winning class E3.

However probably the best performance came from 18 year olds Ashley Slights / Thomas Hughes (Toyota Yaris) who won Class E1 for standard cars up to 1400cc and finished ahead of many more powerful cars on the event. 2009 Junior F1000 Champion > 2010 BTRDA Rally First Champions; and after their performance on the Wyedean they have started the year as one of the favourites for the MSA English Championship in 2011.

More information about the SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship can be found on the new championship website [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) which is currently in the process of being rebuilt.

### DEFENCE OF THE REALM

One of the few 2010 BTRDA Rally Series champions to be defending their crown this year, Ashley Slights/Tom Hughes began the new Rally First season in fine style with a commanding victory on the Wyedean. Their Toyota Yaris arrived back at the Chepstow Racecourse finish with a two-minute lead over it's nearest rivals to not only take maximum class points but also 5<sup>th</sup> in the overall 1400 category!

### CHAMPIONSHIP DECALS

We sincerely apologise that we ran out of decals during the Wyedean rally and that a number of competitors were not able to carry the decals. We aim to have stocks replenished in time for the Malcolm Wilson but if you are not attending that event, but would like to have the decals before the next event, please send an email or give me a ring and a set will be sent to you in the post. [steve@btrdarally.com](mailto:steve@btrdarally.com), Tel 01746 765368.

### "RUN TO THE SUN" JUNIOR DRIVERS AWARD - VITAL EQUIPMENT LTD

We are please to confirm that Vital Equipment Ltd will again be attending all the BTRDA events in 2011 and will provide both Carless turbo and super unleaded fuels, both compliant with MSA regulations and which will ensure that fuel is dispensed to competitors under strictly controlled and safe conditions.

In recognition of their involvement Vital Equipment have put up a superb award for the winning Junior



driver of a trip for two to the WRC RACC Rally of Espana in October 2011. This has been titled the **Run to the Sun** and following the Wyedean **Tom Cave** has taken the early lead. It is not required that Junior competitors use Vital Equipment fuel, (although we can't think why you wouldn't want to do so anyway), but competitors must carry two **Run to the Sun** decals as shown here. They are available at the BTRDA signing on desk or from Vital Equipment Fuelling unit.

For more information on obtaining fuel through Vital Equipment contact them on 01981 241169 or Email: [orders@vitalequipment.co.uk](mailto:orders@vitalequipment.co.uk). Website: [www.vitalequipment.co.uk](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk).

## BTRDA / VITAL EQUIPMENT £30 FUEL VOUCHERS

As a further incentive to use the Vital Equipment refuelling facility on all eight events this year BTRDA will be giving away eight fuel vouchers per event, each worth £30, which can be offset against the cost of obtaining fuel from Vital Equipment. On every event two drivers will be randomly selected from each Championship category, Gold Star, Silver Star, 1400's and Rally First, making a total prize fund of nearly £2000.

VITAL  
EQUIPMENT >>

The winners on the Wyedean were **Tristan Bailey, Matthew Robinson, Nick Cristofaro, Laura Kenny, Rob Shipp, Kieran Darrington, Harry Morgan and Stuart Clarke** and the vouchers have been posted out to them ready to be used on a future event.

## SUPPLY OF SILVERSTONE TYRES

This is just a further reminder regarding the suspension of the requirement to use Silverstone Tyres for 1400cc cars on the first two rounds of the Championship.

**Regulation No 4, Page 7 of the 2011 Championship regulations, which requires all registered 1400 drivers to use only Silverstone Competition Tyres, is to be suspended for the first two rounds of the Championship, i.e. the Wyedean Rally and the Malcolm Wilson Rally. The full range of Silverstone Competition Tyres will be available by mid March and so the requirement to use Silverstone Tyres in the Millers Oils BTRDA 1400 Rally Series will be reinstated from Round 3 [Somerset Stages] onwards.**

To reiterate this means that Millers Oils 1400 drivers are free to use any make of tyre they so choose for the first two rounds of the 2011 Championship.

## MILLERS OILS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

Millers Oils support for the 1400 championship will be shared with all the drivers competing in the 1400 Millers Oils BTRDA Championship, who will each receive a **£50 Millers**



**Oils voucher** when they sign on for their first event. This can be immediately exchanged for 5 litres of Synthetic Competition Engine Oil or Synthetic Competition Transmission Oil, or 10 CVL bottles. There will then be further £50 Millers Oils vouchers given to each driver at the start of their 4th and their 6th Championship event, making a total of £150 of Millers Oils products available during the year.

**Millers Oils** products however are not just for the 1400 competitors and on-event support man Simon Morton is there for everyone needing Millers Oils products and advice. Simon can be contacted on: Tel: 01925 752 819 (w), 07711 483828 (m), E-mail: [moilsltd@aol.com](mailto:moilsltd@aol.com). Details of all the Millers specialist Motorsport lubricants can be found at [www.milleroils.net](http://www.milleroils.net).

## MG ZR CHALLENGE

The **MG ZR CHALLENGE** got off to a competitive start and resulted in the unusual situation of 3 crews sharing maximum points after the first round! Just to confirm the points scoring on the MG ZR Challenge is:- ***On each event 20 points are awarded to the highest placed registered driver / co-driver, 18 points for the second placed registered driver/co-driver, 17 points to the third and so on. An additional 2 bonus points will then be added to the score for cars in Class 1400L and 4 bonus points will be added to cars in Class RF 1.4. The maximum possible score is 20 points per event.***

So, Marcel Freling was first MG ZR driver on the Wyedean and scored 20 points, Dominic Scott was second and scored 18 points, Chris Hellings was 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 17 + 4 bonus points but is limited to a maximum of 20 points and finally Dave Town was 4<sup>th</sup> and scored 16 + 4 bonus points so is also on 20, which gives a 3 way tie.

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Wyedean Forest Rally, each of whom receive a set of FREE competition brake pads from Questmead Ltd were:-

Best Improvement on Start Number in GS / SS Championships: **Allan McDowall (Opel Kadett)**  
Best Improvement on Start Number in Millers 1400 / MG / RF: **Dan Gray (Peugeot 106)**

### **AGX TEAM CHALLENGE**

The AGX Team Challenge is FREE to enter and has a prize fund of £1,050, with £600 going to the first team, £300 to the second and £150 to the third. All drivers are encouraged to join in a three-car team.

The rules are simple:-

Teams consist of 3 drivers. Teams must include one driver with a car up to 1400cc and only include one four-wheel drive car. Drivers cannot be in more than one team.

There is still time for any driver to be part of a team [best 6 scores to count]. Just find a couple of other drivers and a 'suitable' name and we will do the rest. A list of the 2011 teams will be published after the Malcolm Wilson Rally so submit a team at the BTRDA desk or by e-mail to [howard@btrdarally.com](mailto:howard@btrdarally.com)



### **CHAMPIONSHIP SIGNING ON**

Please can we remind competitors to come and find us at the BTRDA desk during the pre-event signing on process. A number of competitors did not do so on the Wyedean which subsequently made it difficult for us to confirm championship classes etc. While we accept we may not be the most attractive people you will meet we do offer bribes to attend, such as a very nice selection of biscuits - judging by the speed they all disappeared!



### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

The **Malcolm Wilson Rally** is almost upon us but there are still entries available. If you still intend to enter please do so as soon as possible. On-line entries are available at [www.malcolmwilson.co.uk](http://www.malcolmwilson.co.uk), or contact the Entries Secretary Ian Wright on Tel: 01524 824626 or email, [wright516@btinternet.com](mailto:wright516@btinternet.com)

### **SOMERSET STAGES - NOT AT BUTLINS, BUT VERY NEARBY!**

For the past few years, the Butlins Resort in Minehead has been Rally HQ for the Somerset Stages but due to a major festival commitment, Butlins is not available, forcing a temporary move within the town. Following negotiations with the relevant bodies, the organisers have succeeded in obtaining the use of the Minehead seafront promenade and car parks for use as the Service Area throughout the rally.

The rally itself will utilise much of the usual Forestry Commission stages on Exmoor, plus the Porlock Toll Road, and the organisers look forward to welcoming competitors on Saturday 16th April.

Regulations will shortly be available at the event website [www.somersetstagesrally.com](http://www.somersetstagesrally.com) and the Entries Secretary is Katie House - Tel : 0845 0951381.E-mail : [entries@somersetstagesrally.com](mailto:entries@somersetstagesrally.com)

## CHANGE OF BASE FOR THE QUINTON STAGES - BEST BTRDA EVENT 2010

The organisers of the Quinton Stages Rally, which won the BTRDA Best Event Award in 2010, have decided to make a change to their rally base for 2011. They are moving from their long-time location of Llandovery to the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells. The event, which takes place on the 9th July and uses the very quick Epynt and Crychan gravel roads, is promising a very low road mileage and central servicing. The photograph shows (l to r) Ian and Sue Butcher, Deputy Clerk of the Course and Secretary, Neil Cross, Clerk of the Course, receiving the award from Rallies Committee Chairman Norman Robertson.



Photo Mark Writtle Photography

## CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS ROUND-UP

When you enter a Championship it is always worth knowing what you could win besides a much sort after Championship title. Our current prize fund is already exceeding £13,500 of prize money, rewards and products which will be available to competitors and provided by our sponsors, events and BTRDA. To summarise these include:

- **Rally First Winners** – Free Rally First Entries to all eight events in 2012 – **Value £3,200 app'**
- **Rally First F1000 Winner** – Free Rally First entries to 2 events in 2012 – **Value £800 app'**
- **AGX Team Challenge** – Cash prizes to the first three teams – **Value £1,050**
- **Millers Oils Product Vouchers** – All 1400 competitors – **Value £2,500**
- **Vital Equipment Fuel Vouchers** - £30 vouchers to eight competitors on each event – **Value £1,920**
- **Free tickets to Dinner & Awards Evening** - All major and class award winners – **Value £3,000 app'**
- **Vital Equipment Trip for two to WRC Rally Spain** – Winning Junior driver and guest – **Value £??**
- **Mintex** - Leading BTRDA and Swisher English Juniors - **£500**
- **Mintex** - Best Improvement on Seeding - Product vouchers - **£800 app'**

**This is the largest prize fund of any Club Championship in the country.**

## **ALISTAIR JOINS THE BTRDA TEAM FOR 2011**

Those of you on the Wyedean may have been quizzed by a new face in the BTRDA team. Joining us in 2011 is Alistair Douglas who has considerable rallying experience to bring to the Championship. Alistair started as a driver in 1979 winning various regional stage rally championships in a Ford Escort. In 1986 he swapped seats and competed in the European Championship until 1989. In '96 and '97 he did the Monte Carlo Rally co-driving for Tony Dron in a works entered Gp A Mini Cooper and also competed on the Network Q Rally between 1996 and 2002. In amongst these milestones he has been a regular competitor on the BRC, ANCRO National Gravel Championship, Tour of Mull and more recently, co-driving for Jon Ballinger in the BTRDA Series, when he won the Silver Star Championship in 2008 and English Rally Champion co-driver in 2009. And in complete contrast he can often be heard commentating at race meetings at various circuits

around the country. Other members of the BTRDA Rallies Committee are, Norman Robertson (Chairman), Gill Cotton (Secretary), Howard Wilcock, Steve Gregg, Jon Ballinger, Tim Hobbs, Matt Edwards, Chris Wright, Graham Hopewell and Andrew Hail.

## **SILVERSTONE TYRES BTRDA RALLY SERIES & SWISHER MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

The new Championship websites were launched just before the Wyedean and are already proving very popular with over 15,300 visitors and 75,000 page views on the Wyedean weekend!! There is still some finishing off to be done, such as the results archive, competitors section, gallery and videos. However its hoped these will be finished soon and will continue to provide lots of useful information to assist you through the year, such as live rally results, championship points, championship regulations, links to Championship events, news items and bulletins and Championship contacts. The web addresses are:

[www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) and [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk).

## **CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND POST EVENT SCRUTINEERING**

It is worthy of noting that six cars were selected for post event scrutineering after the Wyedean and all were found to be fully compliant with the regulations.

We believe it is an important part of the Championship to ensure competing cars meet their eligibility requirements as set down in the Championship regulations and the MSA Competitors Yearbook (Blue Book). To do this cars will be randomly selected at the end of every event for checks to be carried out by the Championship Eligibility Scrutineers. No-one should be concerned if they are asked to attend such checks as we would much prefer to confirm your car is correct than find a problem, however it is important that you know what regulations your car is required to comply with. If you have any doubts please contact the Championship Eligibility Scrutineers, whose details are below.

## **EVENT RESULTS AND SMS TEXT RESULTS**

All BTRDA Championship events use Tynemouth Computer Services (TCS) to provide event results. TCS has one of the most comprehensive results systems currently operating and enables competitors, spectators and many others to follow events through either the live online web results service or by SMS Text results.

For SMS text results you can either sign up on an event-by-event basis or at a discounted cost for all eight events. To book direct with TCS go to the following webpage, [http://www.nersresults.co.uk/sms/html/events\\_index.html](http://www.nersresults.co.uk/sms/html/events_index.html). Subscription forms are also available at the BTRDA signing on desk on each event. Live online results can be found through the BTRDA website [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com).

Photographs courtesy of:



## Remaining Championship Events

Event	Date	Rally HQ	Classic stages include
Malcolm Wilson Rally	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Cockermouth	Grizedale, Greystoke, Comb
Somerset Stages	16 <sup>th</sup> April	Minehead	Croydon Hill, Porlock
Plains	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Welshpool	Dyfi, Garthieniog, Hafren
Dukeries	11 <sup>th</sup> June	Southwell	Sherwood Forest, Clipstone
Quinton	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Builth Wells	Crychan, Halfway, Route 60
Woodpecker	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Ludlow	Haye Park, Radnor
Cambrian	8 <sup>th</sup> October	Llandudno	Clocaenog, Penmachno

## The Swisher MSA English Rally Championship 2011

Event	Date	Rally HQ	Location
Malcolm Wilson Rally	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Cockermouth	Lake District
Somerset Stages	16 <sup>th</sup> April	Minehead	West Somerset
Dukeries	11 <sup>th</sup> June	Southwell	Sherwood Forest
Woodpecker	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Ludlow	Shropshire
Trackrod Clubman Rally	24 <sup>th</sup> September	Scarborough	North Yorkshire
Tempest 2 Rally	5 <sup>th</sup> November	Aldershot	Hampshire

## CHAMPIONSHIP CONTACT DETAILS

BTRDA values any communications from competitors and therefore if you have any news, comments, questions or simply require advice we would like to hear from you.

### Championship Contacts

Steve Gregg: Tel: 01746 765368, Mob 07813 838149, Email: [steve@btrdarally.com](mailto:steve@btrdarally.com)

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### Championship Eligibility Scrutineers

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## CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



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