

CHAMPIONSHIP BULLETIN No. 7

(Earlier Bulletins are available on the Championship website)

QUINTON STAGES RALLY



Steve Perez "Catch me if you can"

Steve Perez and **Andy Burton**'s ongoing battle for Silverstone Tyres BTRDA Gold Star Championship honours moved to the Quinton Stages Rally in early July. After a promising start on the first stage, 11.5 miles over 'Dixies', they stopped the clock a mere one second apart and then swapped times on the next three. Then, just as the contest was moving into overdrive, Burton's Peugeot Cosworth again suffered engine problems and had to retire. **Steve Perez & Paul Spooner** went on to take the event win and, with it, maximum championship points.

The most notable retirement of the day and, no doubt, most painful as it occurred at virtually the end of the very last stage, was that of long-time Championship leaders **Roger Chilman & Andrew Sankey** who had inherited 2nd place following Burton's demise, only for their Subaru Impreza to suffer fuel pump failure literally on the last corner. No-one said it was going to be easy!..

As a result of their Quinton Rally win, **Perez/Spooner** now lead the Silverstone Tyres

BTRDA Rally Series by three points with just two events to go...

The **Silver Star Championship** saw some new names come to the fore, while a number of retirements on the first stage badly affected the hopes of some other leading contenders. **Boyd Kershaw & Bryan Hull** took the B11 class win and the BTRDA goblets, achieving an excellent result ahead of **Jon Ballinger & Gordon Davies**.

It was all the more impressive as Boyd was on only his third event and had to withdraw his entry from the Dukeries after breaking his arm!

Matt Edwards & Sam Collis were the winners of the 1400 Championship goblets on the Quinton, posting a very impressive 11th overall in the process. This has allowed Matt to eke out a slender 2-point lead over main rival **Darren Pinchin**, but it's not over yet!...



Boyd Kershaw fully armed



Ashley Slight on a hat-trick

17-year olds **Ashley Slight & Thomas Hughes** continue their run of success in the BTRDA Rally First category by taking another maximum

points haul in their Toyota Yaris.

Scoring in the BTRDA Rally Series is best 6 from 8 so the leaders will now start to drop their worst scores - and other competitors have the opportunity to catch up. Well, that's the plan!...

MARTYN LEWIS

The Quinton Rally was the first BTRDA Rally Series event since the tragic loss of Martyn Lewis. The organisers left the No. 201 spot vacant as following his 1400 category victory on the 2009 Quinton it would have been his start number this time. They had also arranged a very respectful one minute's silence at the actual start time of car 201 which was attended by members of Martyn's family, as well as a considerable number of fellow competitors. It was also good to see the family out during the event, especially brothers Richard and Paul who were encouraging all the 1400 competitors!

A collection taken on the event in Martyn's memory raised £500 for the Welsh Air Ambulance – the charity chosen by the family. A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone for your generosity.

SILVER STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

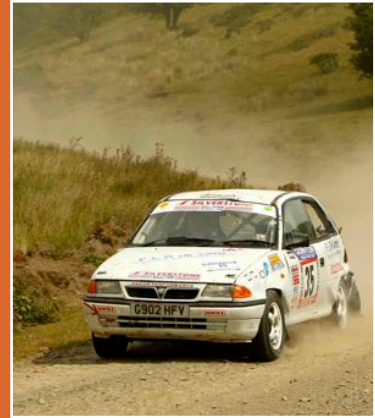
Twice former Silver Star Champion **Jon Ballinger** finds himself again in the running for the title, moving into the last two rounds, having benefitted significantly from the retirements of **Dale Owen**, **Owen Le-Roy** and **Pete Elkins** on the Quinton. Having ensured consistency throughout the year, he certainly needs one more good score and a third title could be his. Mind you, if he does get there he will probably need a fleet of cars to bring all the various co-drivers he has used this year to the awards 'do' in December!

JB's three main rivals all went out on the opening stage of the Quinton, with two rolls and a lost wheel accounting for the rapidly lengthening list of retirements. They joined the eight others who also departed on the long opener. Dale's roll looked particularly hard on his immaculate car and we can only hope he will be able to rejoin us before the end of the year. Owen (Le-Roy that is)

had never been over the stage before and got caught on the fast second part. There is a video clip available which shows he and Charlotte were hardly taking it easy prior to the accident! As they were able to drive it out hopefully, they will be out again soon. Mind you check out the pics - is that Owen not giving way to a lady!

Pete's retirement with a lost wheel is probably as frustrating as it is possible to be. Co-driver Andrew Joll's first realisation that they were in trouble was when he saw the brake disc flying past the window! Two maximum scores were bringing them into contention, but now they have their work cut out to challenge for the title.

Chelmsford's **John Taylor** is also in there fighting. Having only scored on four rounds, he can count all his remaining scores and could, therefore, come from behind and spoil the party for everyone – apart from him!



Owen Le-Roy a bit battered



"I was holding the door for her - honest"



Dale Owen in better shape



John Taylor "I'm behind you!"



Jon Ballinger

RALLY FIRST

The *Rally First* battle continues to match those between Perez & Burton and Edwards & Pinchin and is probably even closer, with just one point now separating **Mick Smith** and **Stephen Brown**, both whom are in F1000 Nissan Micras.



Mick Smith

On the Somerset, they finished 2 seconds apart and, on the Plains, it was down to just one. So, by the time we get to Llandudno, we might need to be working in tenths, or they'll need to make the bumpers bigger to trigger the timing beams sooner.

Looking to spoil their party is **Ashley Slights** who is coming up on the radar, having now taken three maximums in a row. He still has another score

to count, whereas Messrs Smith and Brown are now dropping scores....

Rally First "Appearance Money"

Thanks to the generous support of **Holfeld Pumps** the BTRDA *Rally First* Crews have already earned £1,000 in **finishers'** bonus money this year - or "appearance money" as the RF competitors prefer to call the £20 cash awards.

The best bit for competitors is that the finishing rate for *Rally First* cars on the events this year stands at 84%, which is much higher than the average for any other category. It would be higher still but for Joe Evett's penchant for dramatic exits!...

The occurrence of retirement due to mechanical issues is even rarer, with only five reported so far this year. With minimum tyre usage, one tank of super-unleaded fuel per event and discounted entry fees surely makes BTRDA *Rally First* the best value forest rallying in the UK...

PRODUCTION CUP BATTLE

The BTRDA Production Cup chase is also boiling up to a tight conclusion. **Roger Chilman's** late retirement hit not only his overall championship hopes but also dragged him back into the clutches of the Gp N chasing pack. Fortunately for Roger, **Tristan Bailey** had already retired on Stage 4 with gearbox issues – so, his nearest challenger was not going to be able to take advantage on this occasion.

The other main loser was **Glyn Jarman** whose retirement with suspension woes on SS5 prevented him closing in on the leaders. In the meantime, challengers **Patrick Naylor** and **Paul Davy** were able to make hay by picking up big points after a real ding-dong battle throughout the day. They finished just 8 seconds apart and an excellent 3rd and 4th overall respectively. This is definitely one that won't be over until the fat lady sings!

THE DILEMMAS OF A COMPETITOR

As if rallying isn't tough enough, there are lots of other pressures to manage in trying to fit in a days rallying. At the end of the Quinton we came across three competitors under severe pressure from wives / partners to head off home, one even being told his clothes had been taken to his mothers! Phone calls, text messages, what's a man going to do, stay, have a drink and talk over the day with his mates and pick up his trophies, or head off home to face the music and keep the peace? Well, it's pleasing to report they all stayed – and, if anyone has any spare rooms (with garages) to help them out, it will be much appreciated.



EDWARDS 'TOP MAN'

Such tender years, but **Matt Edwards** has already been recognised as one of the North Wales' 'Top Ten Greatest Motorsport Stars' ever! The selection has been made by a local newspaper and the list includes such iconic competitors as **Tom Pryce**, the first and only Welshman to win a Formula 1 Grand Prix, World Champion co-driver **Phil Mills** and father-and-son **Gwyndaf** and **Elfyn Evans**. To be included in such fine company is worthy recognition of Matt's achievements over the past few years and is well deserved. Next target must be the '**BBC Sports Personality of the Year**' but, in the meantime, he will

simply remain to us, his friends, as, "that bloke from Llandudno" – Darren has other names for him, which we don't intend to publish here!



Matt the Great

FORTHCOMING CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

The penultimate round of the BTRDA Rally Series is the **Woodpecker Stages** on Saturday 4th September. The event is always one of the most popular rounds in the calendar and there will be a high demand for entries. **Please note only the Woodpecker Rally (Nat B) is the qualifying round for scoring points in the BTRDA and MSA English Championships.**

The regulations and entries are now available to download from the event website www.woodpecker-rally.co.uk and the Entries Secretary is Roger Allan can be contacted on Tel: 01905 424987, Email: entries@woodpecker-rally.co.uk

Before we know it, we will be on to the **Cambrian Rally** (16th October), the traditional final round of the Silverstone Tyres BTRDA Championship, which once again will be based in Llandudno. The event currently provides the only opportunity to compete in the very challenging Clocaenog and Penmachno forests and, with the 'Best Event' winning organisers from 2008, you will be guaranteed a fitting finale to the

Championship. Regulations will be available on the event website in early August – so, keep an eye out on www.cambrianrally.com The Entries Secretary can be contacted through Tel No. 01926 410321. E-mail: helen.jackson@fsmail.net

However, this is not the end of the season for MSA English Rally Championship contenders who have two other events to go this year. Firstly, the **Trackrod Clubman Rally** (25th September) is based in Scarborough and uses classic Yorkshire stages such as Dalby, Staindale and Langdale. Regulations will be available shortly and the website to follow is www.trackrodmotorclub.co.uk

As a final flourish, the English Championship heads south to the **Tempest 2 Rally** (6th November) – no jokes about 'fireworks in Surrey' then! This is the annual opportunity to sample forest stages in the Thames Valley area, just 30 miles from London with its base in Farnham. Regs will be out in a couple of months but, for further information, the event website is www.tempestrally.org.uk

The **AGX TEAM CHALLENGE** has a prize fund of £1,050. A full list of the 15 participating teams is on the Championship web site. After the Quinton Rally the leaders are:-



Rally Stars	Roger Chilman / Dave Bennett / Malcolm Hague	160
High Flyers	John Lloyd / John Taylor / Kieran Darrington	148
Friends of the M5	Tristan Bailey / Paul Bonner / Darren Pinchin	148

The best 6 event scores count so teams will now start to drop their worst scores.

CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY SCRUTINEERING

In order to assist with the possible sealing of an engine or gearbox competitors are requested to make provision for scrutineers wire seals to be applied. Every engine/gearbox should have available predrilled 1/16" diameter holes in accessible locations to ensure they can be effectively sealed. If wire sealing holes are not available then the engine or gearbox may be checked forthwith.

(a) Sump - cross drilled holes through retaining screws, bolts or studs

(b) Head - cross drilled holes through two adjoining head bolt / studs or rocker / cam cover bolts or studs.

(c) Gearbox - end plate bolts or screws or any gear access plate bolts or screws. The Championship Scrutineer may seal or mark components and assemblies for conformity checking. Any seals or marks applied may only be removed with the Scrutineer's written permission.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Plains 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: Adrian Allen (Class B11)

Best Improvement on Start Number in Millers1400 / MG / RF: Dave Town (Class RF1.4)

**MILLERS OILS 1400
CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVER TO
WIN TRIP TO MALAYSIAN
GRAND PRIX**

One of the prizes in the Millers Oils BTRDA 1400 Championship crews is a trip for two people to the 2011 Malaysian Grand Prix as guests of Silverstone Tyres and Service & Sport Ltd.

The prize will be awarded to the driver who has made the most outstanding contribution to the Millers Oils BTRDA 1400 Championship during the season and, uniquely, the winner will be decided by the votes of all the registered drivers in the Millers Oils BTRDA 1400 Championship.

A secret postal ballot will take place immediately after the last round of the 2010 championship and the prize-winning driver will be announced at the BTRDA Rally Championship Awards presentation on 4th December.

More details will follow in due course. The prize will be for a driver + 1 guest. (The prize is as described and there is no cash alternative).



MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Meanwhile, the MSA English Rally Championship resumes on the Woodpecker Stages, with **Matt Edwards** currently leading the Drivers' table by just 4 points from **Darren Pinchin**. **Marcel Freling** isn't quite out of the running in third place but the 19 point gap is going to be hard to overcome.

65 drivers have already scored points and the full table can be found on www.englishrally.co.uk

Karen Watts is top co-driver, with a healthy 20 point lead over **Sam Collis**, but has scored on four rounds compared to Sam's three, so Karen will need to ensure a good score on the Woodpecker to hold Sam off as we move into dropped scores. **Neil Copcutt** is loitering a further 2 points behind ready to snatch second place if Sam falters.

In the classes **Martin Copcutt** holds a good 9 point lead over **Mick Smith** in E1 while **Matt Edwards** and **Darren Pinchin** have the E2 class to go for if the overall title disappears. **Dale Owen** and **Owen Le-Roy's** early departure on the Quinton has not impacted on their chase for the E3 and E4 titles. In E5 however **Jon Ballinger** can probably feel the hot exhaust of **John Taylor** on his neck with a narrow 6 point gap. In the Junior Driver chase **Stephen Brown** needs to keep his head as a whole host of other 'young uns' are on his tail.

MOTORSPORT PETITION FOR CLOSED ROADS

It was recently highlighted that, although this petition has now been running for some months, only about 5000 people have put their name to it. Given there were nearly 8400 rally licences issued in 2009 (with a further 24000 from other disciplines) there are still plenty more names out there which could be added to the petition and which will be needed to maximise its impact. So, if you are yet to sign, or know someone who hasn't, please go to <http://www.petition.co.uk/msa> It will only take a minute of your time.

Championship Standings

[For full list visit www.btrdarally.com]

Points after the Quinton Rally can be viewed on the Championship website above. Any queries should be addressed to the Championship Co-ordinators within seven days of this bulletin date.

We have received a query concerning the co-drivers points in the Millers Oils 1400 Championship and these will therefore remain provisional.

GOLD STAR			SILVER STAR			1400s			RALLY FIRST		
1	Steve Perez	146	1	Jon Ballinger	139	1	Matt Edwards	147	1	Mick Smith	125
2	Roger Chilman	143	2	John Taylor	101	2	Darren Pinchin	145	2	Stephen Brown	124
3	Tristan Bailey	123	3	Dale Owen	100	3	Roy Gravestock	129	3	Ashley Slights	116
4	Paul Davy	119	4	Owen Le-Roy	96	4	Kieran Darrington	119	4	Martin Copcutt	109
5	Patrick Naylor	104	5	Robert Wheeler	95	5	Malcolm Hague	117	5	Julian Cardew	96

Thought for the day

If your parents didn't have children chances are you won't either

ON EVENT FUEL SUPPLIER / REFUEL ZONES

Have you ever thought how good it would be to not have to worry about carrying fuel around, having to make sure the cans are full before you leave home, or carry wads of cash around to buy it later, having to ensure the fuel cans are then properly fastened down in the van or auxiliary vehicle, not being able to maximise your service time because you have to stop work to safely refuel, ensuring you are fully compliant with MSA regulations and most importantly, knowing that you are not breaking the law by the amount of fuel you have got on board?



Well, **Vital Equipment** can take all these concerns away from you as they provide the on-event refuel service at all BTRDA Rally Series events in 2010. They supply both Carless FIA spec, 102 octane race fuel (Carless Turbo Ultimate) and a quality Super-Unleaded fuel (MSA compliant) in a refuel zone before and during each event. They are a friendly bunch - so give **Phil Roberts** a ring on the Equipment Fuel Order Line of 01981 241169 or visit their website www.vitalequipment.co.uk There is not much we can guarantee these days but, with Vital Equipment's help, we can guarantee your rallying will be made a good deal easier – and safer.

Remaining Championship Calendar

4th September 2010
Woodpecker Stages
Ludlow

16th October 2010
Cambrian Rally
Llandudno

Additional MSA English Championship Events

25th September 2010
Trackrod Clubmans Rally
Scarborough

6th November 2010
South of England Tempest Rally
Farnham

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4th December 2010
Championship Awards
Moor Hall Sutton Coldfield

CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



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Photographs courtesy of:

