

## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 5 - 2018

### PLAINS RALLY

#### GET WELL SOON....

There were a couple of major incidents on the Plains Rally involving Tom Naughton/Will Rogers and Jack Leese/Michael Gilbey. We're pleased to hear that their vehicles' safety equipment did what it was supposed to do but, nevertheless, Tom is nursing some broken ribs and Jack has had to have an operation to reset a broken femur. They are keen to thank all those involved in their rescue and, for our part, we wish them speedy recoveries and look forward to welcoming them back very soon.

### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

#### DEFLATION TURNS TO ELATION FOR EDWARDS!...



*Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod 1<sup>st</sup> Overall*

A puncture on the opening stage of the fourth round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship, the Plains Rally, not only cost Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod about half-a-minute on the leaders, but also saw their Fiesta completing the test on three wheels! However, from then on it was business as usual - fastest times on each of the seven remaining stages saw them arrive back at the finish in Welshpool to take victory by 20s.

Indeed, the Top Three finishers on the Plains were exactly the same as had lined up a month previously after the Rallynuts Stages, i.e. runners-up were Luke Francis/John H Roberts in another Fiesta with the Focus WRC of Paul Bird/Jack Morton third. Francis led the event for the first five stages but eventually had to give best to the charging Edwards and Bird didn't have things all his own way either.... 'We had a bit of an overshoot which broke the bonnet pins and, as a result, the bonnet flew up and smashed the windscreen which wasn't ideal!...' commented the Gold Star Championship leader afterwards.



*Paul Bird/Jack Morton 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall & Championship Leader*



*Luke Francis/John H Roberts 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall*

Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson's bid for a second consecutive Gold Star title remains on course - 4<sup>th</sup> overall on the Plains keeps their Fiesta in runner-up spot in the points and, more importantly, within touching distance of the leaders. Having opted to miss the Rallynuts Stages, Sacha Kakad/James Aldridge will be relieved to have introduced their Fiesta to the finish of a BTRDA Rally Series event. A consistently quick run saw them rewarded with 5<sup>th</sup> place and a good haul of points to open their account!

Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy rounded off the Top Six, half a minute in front of Pat Naylor/ Ian Lawrence, with the two Group N Lancer EVOs separated by the Escort of Ieuan Rowlands/Emyr Hall. Steve Simpson/Mark Glennerster (Fiesta S2000) finished just outside the Top Ten while, on this occasion, Class B13 had something of a different look to it. Leaders Dylan Davies/Llion Williams were on the Isle of Man, while Ian Joel/ Graeme Wood put their Escort Cosworth off the road on SS3 and were praised in despatches for their part in the rescue of Jack Leese following his accident. Richard Hill/Steffan Evans (Impreza) kept their heads while all around etc. to take maximum points, from the EVO9 of Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear.

Having forsaken their Citroen DS3 R3T after two consecutive DNFs, Richard Sykes/Simon Taylor appeared in Welshpool with a Lancer EVO9 but, unfortunately, that didn't get beyond SS2 - back to the drawing board, lads!...

#### **BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP®**

**RUSS' RUTHLESS APPROACH!...**

Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy's domination of this year's BTRDA Production Cup® continued on the Plains Rally. 6<sup>th</sup> overall gave them their third consecutive maximum, while their nearest rivals on the day, Naylor/Lawrence, have already posted a retirement and are, consequently, further down the table. Jon Ross/Martin Auskerin (Impreza) took 3<sup>rd</sup> place points to maintain their 100% finishing record and it's also worth mentioning that Tom Naughton/Will Rogers set the fastest Group N time overall on the opening stage by one second from Thompson/Murphy!



*Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> Production Cup*

Kalvin Green/Osian Owen took their first maximum score in the MRF Fiesta ST Trophy, holding off series leaders James Giddings/Sion Cunniff by a margin of 7s for the win! On his first-ever forest rally 17-year old Ewan Tindall, co-driven by Paul Hudson, came home in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 12s behind the victors - now there's one to watch! Having led the Trophy after the Cambrian Rally, Zak Hughes/Tom Wood recorded their second successive DNF which is, obviously, reflected in their position in the table. However, with four rounds to go, there is still time to rectify the situation.



*Kalvin Green/Osian Owen 1<sup>st</sup> MRF Fiesta ST Trophy*

#### **JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ROWLANDS RULES THE ROOST!**

Ieuan Rowlands/Emyr Hall's Top Ten finish on the Plains in their Escort gave them a class win and top billing in the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Rally Championship. However, having missed the Rallynuts Stages, they find themselves down in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the points, behind six cars that have started - and finished! - all three events in the series so far. Next up on the latest round were Max Utting/Mike Ainsworth whose 2.0 Fiesta ST Max also took a class win, beating the Escort MkII of Silver Star Championship leader Rob Dennis into 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Owen McMackin's over 2-litre engined Escort finished behind Rowlands in B12 and he remains Dennis' closest rival.



leuan Rowlands/Emyr Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

Dennis actually finished 22<sup>nd</sup> but, in terms of the Silver Star Championship, he was involved in a hell of a battle. The difference between 22<sup>nd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> places was just 19s and the others were Chris Powell/Jim Lewis (1400cc Talbot Sunbeam), Andy Davison/Tom Murphy (Sunbeam VXR), George Lepley/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta R2) and Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine (Escort MkII) respectively.

With Dennis' regular co-driver Andy Boswell absent on this occasion, the top of Co-drivers' table bears little resemblance to that of the Drivers, in that Toms Woodburn & Murphy and Gavin Heseltine currently occupy the podium spots.

All good things come to an end, so they say, and having seen off all-comers prior to the Plains, both BTRDA Historic Cup leaders Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard's Escort RS and Class H4 hot-shoe Tom Coughtrie's Mitsubishi Galant VR4 were destined for the proverbial early bath this time. However, such was their previous dominance that they've each retained their coveted spots at the top of their individual tables. After a solid run on the Plains in the gorgeous Rally Sport Developments Fiat 131, Barry Jordan/Paul Wakely are now pestering Graham/Kellard, but it was Steve Ward/Mike Crawford's Escort that took the overall Historic laurels on the day.

#### BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP

LEPLEY'S CUP RUNNETH OVER!...

George Lepley/Tom Woodburn maintained their dominance of the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, taking their Fiesta to yet another maximum score on the Plains Rally. That's three out of three now as 'Judgement Day'

- when the leaders of the inaugural competition at the time of the Woodpecker Stages are awarded the Road to Wales free entry on Wales Rally GB - gets ever nearer!

Having moved up from his 1400 Championship campaign in time for the Plains, 'new kid on the block' Tommi Meadows, with Emma Morrison sitting - we hope - comfortably in the co-driver's seat in his Fiesta, was Lepley's nearest challenger. Richard Wells/Calvin Houldsworth also claimed their first R2 Cup points, bringing their Fiesta home in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, four seconds in front of the similar car of Will Graham/Steven Davy.

In spite of their retirements, Jack Leese and Robert Vardy retain 3<sup>rd</sup>= places in the table.



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup

#### BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

POWELL MAKES A POINT ON THE PLAINS!...

Well, 30 actually!... For the second year running, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis have come out on top in the BTRDA 1400<sup>®</sup> Championship on the Plains Rally. For much of the event their Sunbeam was being kept honest by Dave & Toby Brick's Nova but the challenge faded significantly over the last two stages following a problem with the rear beam. The rear left wheel had come adrift and was only held on with a ratchet strap with made right-hand corners very interesting! The wheel destroyed the shocker and some body work and, consequently, the father-and-son team were very pleased to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, albeit two minutes behind Powell/Lewis.



Chris Powell/Jim Lewis 1<sup>st</sup> 1400

Third place went to returnees Nigel & Kaz Jenkins whose Nova arrived back in Welshpool a mere 2s ahead of Richard Cole's Escort, while Kieran Darrington's rehabilitation into the 1400 Championship continued with 5<sup>th</sup> in his Corsa.

Perry Gardener (Nova) finished a bit further down the order than he would have liked, but still maintains his series lead, while the only raspberry of the day from this category was blown by Chris Bush/Robert Smith whose Corsa went OTL.

### BTRDA RALLY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

THE CAR BEHIND IS A TOYOTA!....

Having been the 'maximum man' in his Toyota Corolla for the first couple of events in the BTRDA Rally First®

*All photos courtesy of Kevin Money and Malcom Almond, Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series official photographers*

### CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series points after the Plains Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) These points will become final on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May**.

NB: Following the unfortunate cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally in March due to the exceptional weather conditions, the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series will now consist of SEVEN rounds with the best FIVE scores to count and the 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship will now consist of FIVE events with the best FOUR scores to count.

### MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Richard Cole** - Ford Escort Mk2 (1400S)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Tommi Meadows** - Ford Fiesta R2 (B10/R2)

Steve or Alan Brown from Questmead can be found in the Service Area at most events but to **claim your reward, please contact them in advance on 01706 363939.**

Championship 2.0 litre class, Matthew Baddeley's progress was rudely interrupted on the Plains by the MG ZR of Richard Ingleby/Alex Booth who were also celebrating their first finish of the year. And just to add insult to injury, Baddeley's team-mate, Guy Butler (Corolla) also snuck in front of him this time. However, all was not lost as Baddeley was able to take comfort from the fact that, as the only driver to have finished all three events to date, he moves into the overall lead of the Rally First Championship. Now all he has to do is keep it that way....



Richard Ingleby/Alex Booth 1<sup>st</sup> Rally First

Sam & Liam Johnson, the leaders after the first round, missed the Rallynuts Stages and then failed to persuade their Seat Arosa to complete SS2 on the Plains. Hence, they'll now be playing catch up on the next few events.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

### ATL CARLISLE STAGES – 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE

The ATL Carlisle Stages is designed to be a great day's sport in some classic forests with a compact route. The route contains 44 stage miles in Kershope and Newcastleton forests on the western side of Kielder with just 110 road miles. The event will be based at the premises of the H & H Auctions, at Carlisle just off junction 43 of the M6 which will host documentation, scrutineering, overnight parking, main service area and the finish. Online entries are now open at <http://racrmc.org/carlisle-stages/home>

This event is hoping to be the first in the UK to benefit from the recent relaxation of the MSA requirements concerning running order. Subject to final approval, they plan to use a split field with Historic Category 1, Historic Category 2/3 up to 1600cc, all BTRDA Rally First crews and all modern cars up to 1400cc in the first field, running in a reverse seeding order. There will be a small gap followed by the main field seeded as normal.

### NICKY GRIST STAGES – 14<sup>th</sup> JULY

Entries are now open for the Nicky Grist Stages with the official event Regulations and Entry forms published on-line at [nickygriststages.co.uk](http://nickygriststages.co.uk). This year's Quinton MC organised event will be the only rally to use Halfway and Route 60 this year – while the famous Crychan stage will be in prime condition, as will a **brand new smooth, fast and flowing stage, which will be used for rallying for the very first time.**

The event will be based at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanelwedd, and this year's event will offer competitors a full 45 miles of outstanding forest stages in a compact, all-action and no-nonsense route.

The 2018 Nicky Grist Stages will also be the first event in Wales to run under the new seeding guidelines, which sees a relaxation of the current ruling on seeding in the order of anticipated performance. The new ruling, which comes into force on July 1, will allow lower-powered cars like the BTRDA 1400 class and the Rally First Championship competitors to once again run at the front of the field – giving them improved road conditions and quite literally a level playing field on which to compete on. The classes running at the front of the field will be 1400S, 1400C, RF1.4, RF1.6, RF2.0 and H1/2. This seeding system has in previous years, attracted a large number of competitors, right across the classes.

Although still a long way off, the organisers of the **Trackrod Forest Rally** which will be the final event of the BTRDA Rally Series on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> September, have confirmed that they will be providing a full 45 stage miles of all single use Yorkshire Forest stages.

The **2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship** makes a rather belated start this year due to the unfortunate cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally due to the extreme weather back in March. Seriously, the 'Beast from the East' has necessitated a re-jig of the calendar and we're now looking at a **five-round championship**, with everyone's **four best scores to count.**

Starting in Carlisle for the **ATL Carlisle Stages**, the action in an all-gravel format then moves to the Quinton Motor Club promoted **Nicky Grist Stages** six weeks later. After a similar gap, the **Woodpecker Stages** will welcome contenders to Ludlow Racecourse for some of the famous Marches special stages. The North York Moors play host to the penultimate round, the **Trackrod Forest Rally**, at the end of September before the finale, a welcome return to the **Wyedean Stages**, in the picturesque Forest of Dean on 10th November.

### Revised 2018 Calendar

• ATL Carlisle Stages Rally	9th June	Kielder Forest West
• Nicky Grist Stages	14th July	Mid Wales Forests
• Woodpecker Stages	1st September	Shropshire and the Welsh Borders
• Trackrod Forest Rally	29th September	North Yorkshire
• Wyedean Stages Rally	10th November	Forest of Dean

So, this could be a second bite at the cherry so to speak, especially for those that have had a 'difficult start to the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series.

The Championship is split into 8 championship classes with the scoring system reflecting achievement against other competitors in the same class.

- Class 1 BTRDA Rally First cars up to and including 1400cc and FIA R1A and N1
- Class 2 All cars up to 1400cc not eligible for class 1 and RF1.6 cars
- Class 3 Over 1400cc and up to and including 1600cc, including all FIA R2B cars
- Class 4 Over 1600cc and up and including to 2000cc
- Class 5 Over 2000cc 2 Wheel Drive
- Class 6 Current and former FIA Group N / NR4 cars over 2000cc
- Class 7 Over 2000cc 4 Wheel Drive
- Class 8 All WRC, RRC, R5 and S2000 cars and all derivatives

NB: The MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship registration is part of the 2018 BTRDA Rally Series and BTRDA membership package. More information about the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship can be found at [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk)

**ON EVENT FUEL:** Vital Equipment are the recommended fuel supplier for the BTRDA Rally Series and will be providing a re-fuel service at all the BTRDA Rally Series events. They supply both a MSA compliant Super Unleaded fuel and a FIA spec Carless turbo fuel. We strongly emphasise the convenience, safety and organisational benefits that using the Vital Equipment facility brings to competitors.

To order your fuel please use the on-line order facility listed in the Competitors section of the BTRDA Rally Series website. [www.vitalequipment.co.uk/btrda-fuel-order-form-30-w.asp](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/btrda-fuel-order-form-30-w.asp)

**DECALS:** Competitors are reminded that they **must** display the BTRDA Rally Series decals on every qualifying event to be eligible to score points in the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship. These include a sponsor panel on each side of the car and a championship screen strip which must be displayed on the windscreen, not on the roof. Decals are available from the BTRDA desk at event signing on. NB: Not carrying a screen strip will also exclude the competitor from any film coverage. (Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car)

**LIVE RESULTS:** All events in the BTRDA Rally Series use the excellent Tynemouth Computer Services (TCS) to provide live event results. This is the most comprehensive and detailed results system currently operating and enables competitors, supporters and spectators to follow events via the live online web results service.

**SPECIAL STAGE filming:** The popular coverage of the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series by 'Special Stage' from all rounds of the championship will be shared on various platforms including Frontrunner TV and our BTRDA Rally Facebook page and BTRDA Rally Series website.

The coverage will try to include all categories / classes where it is practical to do so, in order to tell the story of the event and some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately.

In order to help Special Stage produce more informed programmes we encourage competitors to send information about their exploits to Special Stage ASAP after each event. This should be done online via the driver info page at [www.specialstage.co.uk/driver-info](http://www.specialstage.co.uk/driver-info)



Baz Jordan Championship Sponsor

**ON-EVENT TEAM:**

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