

CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 7 - 2018

NICKY GRIST STAGES

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MATT'S GLOSS FINISH!...

After a steady start on the latest round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series, the Nicky Grist Stages, Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod settled into a rhythm that saw them go on to post five FTDs from the eight stages on offer and ultimately taking their Fiesta to its third outright victory of the season so far. Getting caught in someone else's dust on SS4 cost a few seconds, but the absence of erstwhile BTRDA Gold Star® Championship leaders, Paul Bird/Jack Morton, also saw Edwards assume pole position for himself, while Garrod is 2nd in his particular category, a couple of points off top spot.

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP



Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod 1st Overall

2016 Nicky Grist winners Luke Francis/John H Roberts (Fiesta WRC) took the runners-up spot, arriving back at the Royal Welsh Showground, in Builth Wells, almost exactly a minute adrift of the winners but, more importantly, with another excellent points haul to their credit. Meanwhile, Scotsman Rory Young was 3rd in his Fiesta R5 on his first Rally Series outing of the season, finishing a handful of seconds ahead of defending Gold Star Champions Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson. Completing a Fiesta Top Six were Martyn & Dawn England, who couldn't quite match last year's 4th place, and Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson whose car had been restored to the shape Ford originally intended after its inversion on the Carlisle Stages!

The bragging rights in Class B13 once again went to Ian Joel/Graeme Wood whose Escort Cosworth finished an excellent 7th. Their nearest rival on the day was the Lancer EVO9 of Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear, with the

similar car of Peter Baylis/Anthony Blyth 3rd. Lee & Craig Burgess (Impreza) are currently 3rd in the points but there'll be plenty more jockeying for position between now and the end of the season before this one is put to bed!

Just when they thought it was safe!... Sacha Kakad/James Aldridge had been quietly continuing with the acclimatisation process to their Fiesta and had posted very respectable finishes on both the Plains & Carlisle Stages. However, having worked their way up to 5th on the Nicky Grist, their progress was rudely interrupted in Crychan when they rolled... Dylan Davies/Llion Williams' return to the Series after a prolonged absence was also curtailed when their Impreza suffered a broken ball joint on the penultimate stage.



Luke Francis/John H Roberts 2nd Overall

BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP®

THOMPSON'S CUP RUNNETH OVER!

Finishing 8th overall on the Nicky Grist to take their fourth maximum score of the season has sealed the BTRDA Production Cup® for Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy. Their Lancer EVO9 had been 3s quicker than their main rivals, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence, through the opening stage but then it all started to go wrong for the Midlanders.



Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy 1st Production Cup

On SS2, Route 60, they took a big cut on the left-hander before the bridge and ended up on a bank on the other side of the road. Counting themselves lucky not to have rolled, they realised shortly afterwards that the Lancer had sustained a front puncture. It was too far to continue and stopping to change the offending wheel gained them a maximum - game over!... Nevertheless, they continued but another puncture on the second run through Route 60 just added insult to injury....

So, the battle is now on for runners-up spot - over the final two rounds, Naylor/Lawrence must fend off the advances of Jon Ross/Martin Auskerin (Impreza) and any number of Fiesta STs!...

Zak Hughes/Tom Wood claimed the spoils in the MRF Fiesta ST Trophy, bringing their car back to Builth Wells almost a minute ahead of Carlisle Stages winners Ewan Tindall/Paul Hudson, with Mathew & Tim Tordoff third.



Zak Hughes/Tom Wood 1st MRF ST Trophy

James Giddings/Sion Cunniff posted their first retirement of the season but still managed to hang on to their series lead. However, with just the Woodpecker and Trackrod to go, the Top Six drivers are separated by a mere 22 points - and there are 20 on offer for a 'win' on both occasions - brace yourselves!...

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

UTTING TAKES IT TO THE MAX!....



Max Utting/ Mike Ainsworth 1st Silver Star

Providing us with a fifth different winner from the five events so far this season, Max Utting/ Mike Ainsworth brought their Fiesta ST Max home in 15th place overall and first 2WD car to claim maximum Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points on the Nicky Grist.

Next up were George Lepley/Tom Woodburn in their Fiesta R2 which, following their category maximum on the Carlisle Stages, moves them into the overall Silver

Star Championship lead at this point. Not only that, but their fifth consecutive victory in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup confirms them as inaugural victors and in line for the prize drive on Wales Rally GB through the 'Road to Wales' scheme. So, congratulations to them from all of us at the BTRDA!



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn Rallye R2 Cup winners

Mixing it with the 'big boys' again, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis took their 1400cc Talbot Sunbeam to a Top Twenty finish, claiming 3rd overall in the Silver Star Championship at the same time. Dave & Toby Brick's Nova wasn't far behind, a matter of seconds ahead of the Escorts of Class B12 winners Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine and Historic Cup leaders Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard. Although they now have four maximums to their credit, they can still be caught by Barry Jordan/Paul Wakely who, having given their Avenger a damn good talking-to following its retirement from the Carlisle Stages, returned to take a class win of their own in mid Wales.



Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard Historic Cup Winners

Peter Smith's first BTRDA Series outing in his 'Historic' Fiat 131 netted a good haul of points in Class H3 while, for this event, David Auden/Chris Row had forsaken their Lancer EVO6 in favour of an MGB Roadster which also came up trumps in H1/2!

However, it wasn't such a good day for several other Silver Star front-runners.... Championship leader prior to the start Rob Dennis, co-driven by Andy Boswell, put his Escort off the road on the penultimate stage, but Owen McMackin/Lee Taylor (Escort) had already thrown the towel in after taking a maximum on SS6 and Andy Davison/Tom Murphy completed all the stages before retiring their Talbot Sunbeam VXR.

BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP®

POWELL'S POLE POSITION - JUST!...

Taking his Talbot Sunbeam to its third maximum of the season on the Nicky Grist Stages sees Chris Powell assume the lead in the BTRDA 1400 Championship by a single point from runner-up on the day, Dave Brick. Powell and Jim Lewis, who finds himself in 2nd place in the Co-drivers' table, had to give best to the Corsa of Brick and son Toby on the opening stage but then went on to set the fastest 1400 times on each of the other seven, arriving back in Builth Wells almost half-a-minute to the good of their rivals.



Chris Powell/Jim Lewis 1st 1400 Championship

Tommi Meadows/Ian Oakey were a distant 3rd in their Ka but their attention was focussed on the Corsa of Kieran Darrington/Simon Jones that finished the event a mere 3s behind them. Fellow Championship returnees Nigel & Kaz Jenkins weren't far adrift either - their Nova was just two places and 22s behind Darrington by close of play....

Early season leader Perry Gardener took no further part in the proceedings after his Nova's engine cried enough on SS5, while Steve Black was to suffer the same indignity on the next one when his Suzuki Swift did likewise.

BTRDA RALLY FIRST® CHAMPIONSHIP

JOHNSON'S POLISHED PERFORMANCE!....



Sam & Liam Johnson 1st Rally First

Having been absent from a couple of events recently - and retiring from one they did contest - Sam & Liam Johnson's first finish since the season-opening Cambrian Rally saw their Seat Arosa take its second maximum in the BTRDA Rally First® Championship.

Guy Butler's second place in his 2.0 Toyota Corolla moves him up to just one point behind team-mate and Championship leader Matthew Baddeley whose day was over almost before it started. A fuel leak at the start of the opening stage saw to it that any thoughts he may have had in regards to consolidating his position at the top were put on hold....



Garry Butler/James Mactavish 1st RF 2.0

As the day wore on, Matt would be joined on the list of Rally First retirements by Mark Cox/Clive Jones (VW Lupo - clutch), Richard Ingleby/Alex Booth (MG ZR - electrical) and Steffan Williams (Micra - went off). Unfortunately, Emma Morrison/Jon Quintrell's delight at being the first car away from the start was short-

lived as their Lupo snapped a wishbone on the opening stage....

MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

JOEL'S JOY!...

Well, that didn't take long! We've spoken before about the class-based MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship always having joint leaders after the opening round and then, as the season progresses, further success serves to bring individuals to the fore. Although the Quinton Motor Club-organised Nicky Grist Stages Rally was only Round 2 of the 2018 Championship, Ian Joel/Graeme Wood have already stamped their authority on the proceedings by taking their Escort Cosworth to the top of the table! Now all they've got to do is keep it there....



Ian Joel/Graeme Wood 1st MSA English Crew

Breathing down their necks, in joint 2nd place, George Lepley/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta R2), Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod (Fiesta) and Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard (Escort MkII) must attempt to curb their enthusiasm until the next event in the Championship, the Ludlow-based Woodpecker Stages on 1st September. Other class leaders, who'll be dining out on their success over the next few weeks, include Sam Johnson (Seat Arosa), Tommi Meadows (Ford Ka), Damian Pratts (Ford Escort) and Russ Thompson (Lancer EVO9).

With the loss of the Malcolm Wilson Rally at the start of the season, the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship features a five-round calendar which reaches its conclusion on the Wydean Rally on 10th November.

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 Nicky Grist Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise the latest points in the 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk These points will become final on Monday 30th July.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to

George Lepley and **Tom Woodburn** who with another excellent performance on the NG Stages have won the inaugural **BTRDA Rallye R2Cup** in the best possible fashion, with 5 maximum scores. This means they also win a free entry in the Wales Rally GB National Rally.

Also **Russ Thompson** and **Andy Murphy** who have won the **BTRDA Production Cup** title this year with a series of exceptional performances such that they are currently lying second overall Gold Star Championship with the same point total as the leaders.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Nigel Jenkins - Vauxhall Nova (1400S)**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Euan Tindall - Ford Fiesta ST (N3)**

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.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

WOODPECKER STAGES - 1st SEPTEMBER

Entries are now open for the Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages. The event will again be based at Ludlow Racecourse for all pre and post event activities and for service during the event, with seven special stages on offer in the Marches and in Radnor. The organisers are making full use of Radnor Forest which is in excellent condition after full maintenance by Rally4Wales. Awards will be presented at the final control as crews arrive back at Ludlow Racecourse. The Woodpecker was voted by competitors as the best BTRDA forest event of 2017 and it is sure to be popular.

TRACKROD FOREST STAGES - 29th SEPTEMBER

The **Trackrod Forest Rally** will be the finale to the 2018 BTRDA Rally Series. The Rally HQ will again be based in Filey with Scrutineering and Documentation on the Friday and the Finish on the seafront on Saturday afternoon. The Start and the central Service Area will be within the forest complex, thus ensuring low road mileage and the organisers have confirmed that they will be providing a full 45 stage miles of **all single use stages** in the Yorkshire Forests.

2018 AWARDS PRESENTATIONS - Date for your diary.

We can now confirm that the Awards Presentations for the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship will be held on **Saturday 12th January 2019** in the function suite at the Drayton Manor Hotel near Tamworth. More details in due course.

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

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

ON-EVENT TEAM:

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