

CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No.9 - 2018

TRACKROD FOREST STAGES

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

PAYNE'S MAXIMUM RELIEF!...

Prevented from taking a fourth consecutive victory by the narrowest of margins on the Trackrod Forest Stages, the final round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship, Charlie Payne & Carl Williamson (Fiesta WRC) still ended the season with a maximum points score on the driver's 'home' event. They'd been leading right up until the final stage, only to be pipped at the post by 2014 BTRDA 1400 Champions Mat Smith/Giles Dykes who were having their first taste of Fiesta WRC power in the very car that's taken Matt Edwards to this year's Gold Star title!



1st Overall Charlie Payne & Carl Williamson

Already assured of runners-up spot in the Gold Star table, outgoing champions Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson put in yet another solid performance in their Fiesta WRC to arrive back in Filey less than a minute adrift of Payne. They'd set their sights on back-to-back titles but, in a season dominated by maximums (the GS winners claimed four!), it was not to be....



2nd Overall Steve Petch & Michael Wilkinson

Following retirement last time out on the Woodpecker Stages, Ian Joel/Graeme Wood had some catching up to do if their season was to conclude satisfactorily. 5th overall, 3rd Gold Star points scorers and a B13 class win in their Escort Cosworth banished any doubts they may have had in no uncertain terms, such that George Lepley (absent on this occasion) isn't the only one who'll need a van for all his trophies at the end-of-season Awards Presentation!



3rd Overall & 1st MSA English Crew Ian Joel & Graeme Wood

Having surrendered their claim to the BTRDA Production Cup quite some time ago, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence have picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and finished their season in fine style! Putting aside the knowledge that the North York Moors stages are some of the fastest in the Championship, they brought their Group N Lancer home in 6th place overall to take a class win and secure the final podium spot in the 2018 BTRDA Gold Star Championship. Not a bad day's work eh, boys?...

Having helped so many others - especially recently - in their bids to progress in the sport, the Trackrod gave

Peter Smith a chance to shine in his own right. At the wheel of a Fiesta R5, and with the vastly experienced John Millington to guide him, he just missed out on a Top Six finish - seeded at 16, six and a bit seconds quicker would have seen him overhaul Pat Naylor for the place but, nevertheless, an excellent result!

Richard Hill was Joel/Wood's nearest challenger in B13 - his Impreza was 8th overall, while 3rd on the day was the similar car of fellow Chesterfield residents Lee & Craig Burgess.

Among those who had long since lost interest in the final results were Hugh Hunter/Rob Fagg whose Fiesta had stopped in Langdale to register its second consecutive DNF. Likewise, Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy (GpN Lancer) retired for the second time in a row with a couple of stages still to complete. Having taken 2nd place B13 for the last four events in a row, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear's Lancer threw in the towel on the final stage of the day.

BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP

PAT ON THE BACK STRAIGHT!...



1st Production Cup Pat Naylor & Ian Lawrence

As detailed above, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence had a very successful outing on the Trackrod Forest Stages - having taken a maximum score on the Woodpecker Stages, they were already safe in runners-up spot in the BTRDA Production Cup but 6th overall in Yorkshire sees them finish their season on a high and inspires confidence in any future campaign.

However, for their part, Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy must be thanking their lucky stars that the first half of their season was so successful. Having secured the Production Cup title on the Nicky Grist Stages back in

July, their Lancer breathed a sigh of relief and hasn't finished an event since - phew!...



1st ST Trophy Crew James Giddings & Sion Cunniff

The top two Fiesta ST Trophy crews this season finished in that order in Yorkshire. Champions James Giddings/Sion Cunniff claimed their third maximum of the season, bringing their car home 10s ahead of that of the Tordoffs, Mat & Tim. Neil Fewlass/Stephen Varey were also able to join the party a bit later on!

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

ALLAN FINDS THE KEY!....

Allan McDowall has had to wait right until the end of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Championship season to record his best result - a 'win' on the Trackrod Forest Stages. He and Gavin Heseltine (Escort Mk2) managed to fend off the advances of Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams (Fiesta R2) to take maximum points for the first time, while series sponsor Barry Jordan and Paul Wakely (Hillman Avenger) also left the best till last with 3rd in the category, one place behind the Fiesta.



1st Silver Star Allan McDowall & Gavin Heseltine

Andy Davison/Tom Murphy (Talbot Sunbeam VXR) had, by their standards, an off day but still managed to get to the finish and guarantee their runners-up spot in Silver Star, sandwiched between George Lepley and Allan McDowall.

The inaugural BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup had already been claimed but, notwithstanding, Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams took their first maximum of the season, with Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan's similar Fiesta keeping a close eye on the winners throughout the day.



1st R2 Cup & 2nd Silver Star Bob Vardy & Keaton Williams

As far as competition in the BTRDA Historic Cup was concerned, Barry Jordan/Paul Wakely's Top Twenty finish on the Trackrod moved them up to within one point of this year's winners, Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard - their five maximum scores were almost matched by Jordan's four + a second. Now, that's what you call a close finish!...



1st Historic Cup Barry Jordan & Paul Wakely

Although previously confirmed as victor in the new H4 class, Tom Coughtrie's Mitsubishi Galant threw its toys out on the second stage, and that was that. Fortunately, it didn't matter!

BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

POWELL UP AGAINST A BRICK WALL!...



1st 1400 Chris Powell & Jim Lewis

As they journeyed up to Filey, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis knew that, for them to lift the BTRDA 1400 Championship, not only would they need to take a maximum but, even then, leader Dave Brick mustn't finish higher than 4th in the category. Well, the first part of the plan was executed in fine style - their Sunbeam forced its way into the Top Twenty to take what was its fourth maximum of the season. However, what let them down was totally out of their control - Dave Brick brought his Nova home in 3rd place to maintain his place at the top when it mattered most! However, as Brick used different co-drivers during the year (mostly family members!), Jim Lewis emerges as the winner of his category - well done to all concerned!

Steve Black plonked his Suzuki Swift marginally ahead of the Brick Nova to take his second 2nd of the season, while Kieran Darrington/Simon Jones bounced back from a non-finish last time out on the Woodpecker to claim 4th in their Corsa.

Tommi Meadows/Emma Morrison's day ended when their Ka left the road in Gale Rigg, while Chris Bush/Robert Smith's Corsa waited for a couple more stages before performing a similar manoeuvre in Staindale.

BTRDA RALLY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

GOOD FOR BADDELEY!....

Team-mates they may have been but, for Matthew Baddeley and Guy Butler, the trip up to Yorkshire was going to end in tears for one of them! With just the final round to go, their Toyotas' battle for supremacy in the BTRDA Rally First Championship could have gone either way, but the expression 'to finish first, you must first finish' will be ringing loud and clear in Butler's ears. Baddeley did, on both counts, and he didn't - on either!...



1st Rally First Matthew Baddeley & Phil Kenny

What will probably be making Butler smart still more is that Mark Cox' Lupo finished one place and a minute behind Baddeley, leaving him as the only RF retiree on the day!

MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

A FUNNY OLD GAME!

Contenders for the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship headed up to Filey for the Trackrod Forest Stages, believing the event to be the

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

penultimate round of the series. However, when news broke on the Friday evening regarding the unexpected cancellation of the forthcoming Wydean Forest Rally, it became obvious that they were about to start the final encounter of 2018.

So, no time to lose - especially for the likes of Ian Joel who had been leading the charge prior to the previous outing, the Woodpecker Stages, but such was the closeness of the competition that an unscheduled early bath had seen him drop ten places in the overall table! As it turned out, he needn't have worried - an exceptional drive on the Trackrod served to restore him to the top of the points table to finish with a 'full house' - three maximums. His closest rivals - George Lepley (Fiesta R2) and Matt Edwards (Fiesta) - were absent from the ERC round in Yorkshire, but their hard work earlier in the season paid dividends later on.

However, before we move on to the Trackrod itself, it's worth pointing out once more that, as a class-based series, the MSA English Rally Championship winners could conceivably come from any one of the eight capacity classes. Indeed, Ian Joel and co-driver Graeme Wood's Escort Cosworth is from Class 7 - whereas Class 8 is where the most powerful vehicles will be found....

So, from the day on the North York Moors, the main beneficiaries included Chris Powell/Jim Lewis (Sunbeam), Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams (Fiesta R2), Barry Jordan/Paul Wakely (Hillman Avenger), Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine (Escort Mk2) and Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta WRC).

While the 2018 ERC season was, unfortunately, curtailed - both at the start (Malcolm Wilson Rally lost to severe weather) and the finish! - there's been some serious competition in between times and all the award winners are to be applauded for their efforts.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS - Competitors to check!

A full list of all the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series points after the Trackrod Forest Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise, a full list of all the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship points after the Trackrod Forest Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk

These points will become final on **Sunday 21st October**. A list of all the 2018 Championship Awards Winners will be published on the respective websites after the championship points become final.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Stuart Spyer - Vauxhall Corsa (1400S)**

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

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

2018 AWARDS PRESENTATIONS - Date for your diary!

The Awards Presentations for both 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 and ticket application forms will be circulated to registered competitors and published on the championship websites in due course.

BTRDA Rally in 2019 - The 66th year of Serious Fun!

The BTRDA is very pleased to confirm the calendar for the **2019 BTRDA Rally Series** which will continue to be sponsored by **JORDAN Road Surfacing**.

It includes a great selection of one-day forest events, starting with the Cambrian Rally in North Wales in February and finishing at the end of September with the Trackrod Forest Stages in North Yorkshire. The final points table will be based on each competitor's best 5 scores, providing some flexibility to fit around family or business commitments.

2019 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series

- Cambrian Rally 16th February
- Malcolm Wilson Rally 9th March
- Rallynuts Stages Rally 13th April
- Plains Rally 11th May
- Nicky Grist Stages 13th July
- Woodpecker Stages 31st August
- Trackrod Forest Stages 28th September

The BTRDA Rally Series is open to all stage rally cars compliant with current MSA Technical Regulations and, in addition to the Gold Star and Silver Star Rally Championships, includes the BTRDA 1400 Championship, BTRDA Rally First, the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, Historic Cup and Production Cup and the Fiesta ST Trophy. The 2019 BTRDA Rally Series will be taking advantage of flexible running order now permitted by the MSA.

We are grateful for the wholehearted commitment of the event organisers and the support of our title sponsor without which we could not promote such a successful Rally Series.

Maintaining the ethos of the BTRDA, you can be sure that the 2019 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series will continue to provide competitors and followers with some Serious Fun!

Details of the 2019 MSA English Rally Championship will be announced shortly.

The BTRDA Rally Series needs your help!

If you have an interest in helping to drive the future of the biggest, most successful Rally Championship in the UK then we would love to hear from you. Some of the activities for which we need help include: -

- Championship co-ordination - shaping the future of your Rally Championships
- Sponsorship acquisition and maintenance
- The on-event team - the face of the BTRDA Rally Championship
- Publicity - Social media, website update, Newsletter production etc

Please contact any of the BTRDA team for more information. Thank you

ON-EVENT TEAM:

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