

## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 5 - 2019

### PLAINS RALLY

#### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

IT'S NOT OVER YET!...

Setting fastest times on all five stages, Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton (Focus WRC) came away with a convincing win on the Plains Rally, the latest round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship. It was the pair's third win on this particular event and their fourth straight victory - from four starts - in their quest for a second Gold Star crown. With three rounds still to go, on the one hand, the Scots duo still have some work to do if they are to achieve their goal but, on the other, one more good result should put the matter beyond doubt.



Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton 1<sup>st</sup> Overall

After a disastrous start to the season, Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson's rehabilitation continued with 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the Plains. After setting five second-fastest stage times in their Fiesta WRC, it was only fitting that the runners-up spot should be theirs! The result has also improved their standing in the Gold Star table but, following their two DNFs, they now approach the remainder of the season from the opposite perspective to that of the series leaders, i.e. they *must* deliver on each of the remaining events....

Scott Faulkner/Gareth Parry took their Group N Mitsubishi to the final podium spot in Oswestry, finishing one place ahead of the similar car of Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy while, not to be outdone, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence featured in the Top Six as well!

It was Richard Sykes/Simon Taylor's turn to take top Class B13 honours on the Plains - their EVO9 arrived back at the finish ten seconds ahead of Richard Hill's Impreza which, in turn, was a similar distance in front of Petr Krizan/Lukas Sintal's Lancer, now restored to its original shape following its Rallynuts roll!... Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear's season is now beginning to gather

pace after a less than satisfactory start - their EVO9 was 9<sup>th</sup> overall on the Plains.

Making their first appearance of the season, BTRDA stalwarts Theo Bengry/Les Forsbrook were having an outing in a Proton Iriz R5, bringing it home in 13<sup>th</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> in class.

So, who's missing from the above synopsis? Let's start with Sam Bilham/Patrick Walsh who were lying equal 4<sup>th</sup> after two stages and on course for their highest BTRDA Series finish yet in their Fiesta R5 before a puncture on SS3 not only saw them drop to 6<sup>th</sup> but also caused issues that led to their subsequent retirement. Ian Bainbridge's Fiesta was 4<sup>th</sup>, one place ahead of Bilham, after the opening stage in Dyfnant but then steering damage saw to it that it didn't reach the finish of SS2.



Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall

Ian Joel/Graeme Wood's pursuit of B13 and English Championship (of which the Plains was Round 3) honours took another knock - their Escort Cosworth was 7<sup>th</sup> after SS1 and out after SS2!...

## BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP

SCOTT'S GAP INCREASES!..



Scott Faulkner/Gareth Parry 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall & 1<sup>st</sup> Production Cup

As mentioned above, Scott Faulkner/Gareth Parry were 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on the Plains and, unsurprisingly, came away with maximum BTRDA Production Cup<sup>®</sup> points - for the third time in a row! Putting aside its upside down moment on the Rallynuts, the EVO9 of Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy was next, with Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence a handful of seconds adrift in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

So, 'new kids on the block' Faulkner/Parry lead the Production Cup table by an increased margin but, while their fellow Lancer crews are maintaining the pressure, Zak Hughes/Tom Wood used the Plains as an opportunity to take their fourth consecutive MRF Fiesta ST Trophy victory and, thus, remain the closest challengers for top spot.

Bobby Mitchell/Shannon Turnbull's ST was 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day, with Alex Hawkins and Wesley Gilford/Mark Townson being the other scorers. Unfortunately, David Kelly/Kenny Bustard's trip across from Ireland came to nought when their car suffered a broken driveshaft on the opening stage.



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star & Historic

## JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR<sup>®</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP

NEVER MIND DRAGONS, GEORGE SLAYS ALL-COMERS!..

George Lepley's remorseless pursuit of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star<sup>®</sup> Rally Championship crown shows no sign of abating! Taking Barry Jordan's Avenger to 10<sup>th</sup> overall, first 2WD and top Historic Cup scorer on the Plains moves the Newark driver closer to his avowed intent. Oh! And just for good measure, George was - and is - top Junior Driver as well!... Co-driver Tom Woodburn took his 3<sup>rd</sup> maximum with George but, having missed the Cambrian at the start of the season, still has a bit of catching up to do. Nevertheless, on current form, you'll not be betting against it!



Perry Gardener/Keaton Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup

Perry Gardener/Keaton Williams were next in their R2 Fiesta, with the Escort of Rob Wright/ Terry Mallin taking an up to 2-litre class win and third-place Silver Star points.

Among those who could reasonably have been expected to produce a result on the Plains Rally, but didn't, we find Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons whose Escort sustained sump damage serious enough to warrant its withdrawal. Owen McMackin/Lee Taylor's Escort ended its challenge in a Llangower ditch and Colin Griffiths/Mike Wilding's BMW Compact went out with engine failure.

## BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP

PERRY'S CUP IS NEARLY FULL!..

Perry Gardener/Keaton Williams have only finished lower than first in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup once this season - and it wasn't on the Plains Rally! Their run of success continued in Wales and, while it gave them the opportunity to consolidate their lead, they'll be

mindful of the fact that the two crews behind them, Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan and Mat & Tim Tordoff, have also maintained clean sheets so far...

James Giddings was 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day, finishing a mere two seconds in front of Simpson/Bevan after 42 miles of competition. Phew! That was close...

Ed Fossey's trip across from Jersey unfortunately came to nought when, with Rhys Stoneman to guide him, his Peugeot 208 went out with power steering failure on the opening stage. Tommi Meadows also filed his first non-finish of the season when his Fiesta stopped on the second run through Dyfnant.

### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

CALLUM CALLS THE TUNE!...



Callum Black/Michael Gilbey 1<sup>st</sup> 1400

Having been absent from the season-opening Cambrian Rally, Callum Black/Michael Gilbey entered the race for the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400<sup>®</sup> Championship on Round 2 and haven't been headed since! Their MG ZR was 11<sup>th</sup> overall on the Plains to take its third maximum score on the spin. However, at this point - i.e. before dropped scores come into play - each of the four crews in front of them have finished all four events to date.

Top scorers on the Plains for the past couple of years, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis (Talbot Sunbeam) had to give best to the flying MG this time, but 2<sup>nd</sup> place - their third so far - sees them maintain their lead of the series. Steve Black/Paul Morris (Suzuki Swift) are nothing if not consistent! Four consecutive third-place point scores see them as Powell/Lewis' main threat, while Dominic Hodge/Stefan Arndt's Micra and the Escort of Noel Lappin/Will Atkins were keeping a very close eye on each other throughout the Plains!



Chris Powell/James Lewis 2<sup>nd</sup> 1400

Mat & Dan Evans' run of 1400C class wins was brought to a halt on the Plains by the ever-present Richard Garnett whose Micra completed the route just 15s quicker than the Peugeot 205. However, the brothers from Tamworth still lead the class and could possibly put the matter to bed next time out on the Nicky Grist Stages...

In the BTRDA Rally First<sup>®</sup> Championship Joseph Keen's MG ZR and the Fiesta ST of Wesley Gilford/Mark Townson were classified as finishers while the luckless Sam & Liam Johnson were not after their Seat Arosa departed the fray in Dyfnant.



Steve Black/Paul Morris 3<sup>rd</sup> 1400

### MAXXIS MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

GEORGE FLIES THE FLAG FOR ENGLAND!....

For the first time, the MAXXIS Motorsport UK English Rally Championship ventured into Shropshire for the Plains Rally and it was that man Lepley who stamped his authority on the proceedings to claim top spot for himself! George's efforts in his Hillman Avenger see him move into the series lead by a single point from Euan Thorburn (Focus WRC) who, in turn, is one in front of Callum Black's MG ZR. Perry Gardener (Fiesta R2) and Andy Davison (Talbot Sunbeam VXR) are tied



for 4<sup>th</sup> place, with the Escort MkII of Geoff Phelps rounding off the Top Six. However, with only five points separating first from tenth place at present, there's still plenty of room for manoeuvre as the season moves remorselessly on towards its conclusion!

2018 MAXXIS English Rally Champions Ian Joel/Graeme Wood are having a torrid time as they mount a defence of their title. Their Escort Cosworth was among the leaders after the opening encounter in the Lake District but, such is the closeness of the competition that retirement on the Plains Rally now sees them struggling to maintain a place in the Top Thirty! However, with four events still to go, they'll take some comfort in the knowledge that there's still time to rescue the situation.

The Tyneside Stages, held on the Otterburn Military Ranges, in early August is the next port of call for the ERC contenders, before moving on to Ludlow a month later for the Woodpecker Stages. The North York Moors are on the agenda at the end of September before a grandstand finish in the Forest of Dean in 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 Plains Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) Likewise, a full list of all the MAXXIS Motorsport UK 2019 English Rally Championship points can be found at [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) These points will become final on Monday 27th May.

#### **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 Garnett** – Nissan Micra (Class 1400C)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Rupert Flynn** – Ford Fiesta R2 (Class 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.

#### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:**

The BTRDA is very pleased to confirm an exciting new incentive for Junior Drivers contesting the **JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series** donated by **Adam Kent**, the 1998 BTRDA Gold Star Rally Champion.

Adam's company, **Install Automation Ltd**, will provide a £2,500 prize fund for a leading BTRDA Junior Driver to be used for entries to events in the 2020 BTRDA Rally Series.

The winner will be chosen by the BTRDA Rallies Committee from a short-list of the three drivers with the highest total points score on the remaining 4 rounds of the 2019 BTRDA Junior Championship, starting with the Plains Rally. The prize will be presented by Adam at the 2019 BTRDA Rally Series Awards Evening in January.

#### **TCS JUNIORS**

THE RESULTS ARE POSITIVE!....

As Tynemouth Computer Services continues to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, at the same time, its association with the BTRDA Rally Series, the cash awards for Junior Drivers & Co-drivers are proving very popular with the recipients! Those whose efforts on the Plains Rally are deemed worthy of reward are :

Drivers : George Lepley / Matthew Hirst / Zak Hughes

Co-drivers : Keaton Williams / Gareth Parry / Tom Murphy

Congratulations to all - and thank you, TCS!

#### **BTRDA Historic Cup prize:**

George Lepley's remarkable result on the Plains Rally (we said that on the last round and the round before!), highlighted elsewhere in this Newsletter, also won him the £500 prize for the highest placed Historic Cup driver once again.





“It’s 21 years since I won the BTRDA Gold Star Rally Championship said Adam, and it’s great to be able to put something back into the sport and provide some support to talented young drivers who were born around that time

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

#### NICKY GRIST STAGES – 13<sup>th</sup> July Builth Wells

Round 5 of the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series is the Nicky Grist Stages which has a new Rally HQ and Service Area in the centre of Builth Wells. HQ moves to the Strand Building, Strand Street while Service moves to the Groe Street Car Park and adjacent rugby pitch. The event will feature the classic stages of Crychan, Halfway and Monument while the popular new addition last year of Llyn Login has been revamped with most of the asphalt taken out.

Entries are now open and you can enter by going to [www.nickygriststages.co.uk](http://www.nickygriststages.co.uk)

#### MAXXIS Tyres Motorsport UK 2019 ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

For the 2019 MAXXIS English Rally Championship the calendar includes seven of the best Nat B ‘English’ based stage rallies. Best 5 scores to count. The Championship is open to all cars that comply with Motorsport UK Safety and Technical Regulations.

Event	Date	Location
Malcolm Wilson Rally	9 <sup>th</sup> March	Lake District
Tendingr Clacton Rally	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Clacton, Essex
Plains Rally	11 <sup>th</sup> May	Oswestry
Tyneside Stages	4 <sup>th</sup> August	Otterburn
Woodpecker Stages	31 <sup>st</sup> August	Shropshire
Trackrod Forest Rally	28 <sup>th</sup> September	North Yorkshire
Wyedean Stages Rally	9 <sup>th</sup> November	Forest of Dean

The Championship will be split into 7 championship classes with the scoring system reflecting achievement against other competitors in the same class.

- Class E7 - All WRC with a sequential gearbox, RRC, R5 and S2000 cars & all derivatives
- Class E6 - Over 2000cc 4WD cars not eligible for class E7
- Class E5 - Over 2000cc 2WD cars including all FIA R3T cars
- Class E4 - Over 1600cc up to 2000cc plus Historic category 3 cars with multi cam engines over 1600cc, category 4a cars over 1600cc and 4b cars up to 1600cc
- Class E3 - Cars over 1400cc up to 1600cc plus current & former FIA Group N3 cars and all FIA R2 cars.
- Class E2 - Cars up to 1400cc not eligible for Class E1, plus Historic category 1 & 2, category 3 with single cam engines and category 4a up to 1600cc
- Class E1 - All BTRDA Rally First cars.

All forced induction engines (except Diesel engines) are subject to an additional capacity coefficient of 1.7:1 (except when FIA Appendix J, Art 260 applies).

NB: The MAXXIS Tyres Motorsport UK 2019 English Rally Championship registration is part of the 2019 BTRDA Rally Series and BTRDA membership package. More information about the English Rally Championship can be found at [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk)

#### 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.





## DECALS

Competitors are reminded that **they must display the 2019 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 Motorsport UK 2019 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 car from any film coverage. Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car.

## 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 events. They supply both a Motorsport UK 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/pages/btrda-rally-series-fuell-order-form](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/pages/btrda-rally-series-fuell-order-form)

## 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. Previous BTRDA Rally Series videos can be found in the Video section of the 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 to 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)

## CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Ian Arden is the Competitor Liaison Officer and will be out on each round of the Championship supported by other members of the BTRDA Rally Committee. Norman and Howard will be out on selected events along with Andrew Hail. Below is the current list of BTRDA attendees at events, although this is subject to change:

Event	BTRDA Rep	BTRDA Rep	BTRDA Rep	Eligibility Scrutineer
Nicky Grist Stages	Ian Arden	Andrew Hail		Geoff Doe
Woodpecker	Ian Arden	Howard Wilcock		Geoff Doe
Trackrod	Ian Arden	Howard Wilcock		John Cooper

Other committee members will be out on selected events supporting the above

Ian Arden:	Email: <a href="mailto:ian@btrdarally.com">ian@btrdarally.com</a>	Mob: 07917 355169
Neil Cross:	Email: <a href="mailto:trec1.nec@btinternet.com">trec1.nec@btinternet.com</a>	Mob: 07767 773862
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