



## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 3 – 2021

### MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

AS FOREST RALLYING RESUMES, PAYNE EASES....

Into the lead of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship!... Elliot, son of 2016 Gold Star Champion Charlie Payne, and co-driver Cameron Fair contested the BRC National category of the Nicky Grist Stages and having elected to forego the opportunity of a recce of the route, were also eligible for BTRDA points – an opportunity they grasped with both hands as their Fiesta completed the route just nine seconds quicker than the similar car of Callum Black who won the Interclub event on the day. In fact, the Black family were well represented as Steve came out on top of the 1400 'Bronze Star' contenders...



Elliot Payne & Cameron Fair 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star

Next up were Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins whose Skoda Fabia took fastest time on the second stage of the day, Monument 1, to lead Black by a solitary second at this point. However, the Fiesta driver was three seconds quicker on SS3 to re-establish a lead which he maintained through to the finish in Builth Wells.



Callum Black 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star 1<sup>st</sup> Interclub

George Lepley/Tom Woodburn are back in their giant-killing Lancer EVOX – they were 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Interclub

event, a mere one second ahead of Tom Llewellyn on his first competitive outing in his Mitsubishi Mirage. It's worth pointing out that, prior to the final run through Crychan, the gap had been nine seconds but, now coping with a gearbox issue, Lepley could only manage 6<sup>th</sup> fastest here – his slowest time of the day – to scrape home ahead of the young Welshman by the skin of his teeth!



Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star

Gareth Sayers/Gareth Gilchrist rounded off the Top Six in their Fiesta while Richard Hill (Lancer) was 'Best of the Rest' behind Lepley in Class B13. Ian Joel/Graeme Wood's Escort Cosworth finished a handful of seconds ahead of Matthew Hirst's EVO9 while Martyn & Dawn England's re-acquaintance with an EVOX saw them end the day just inside the Top 20.

Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence's return in their former BTRDA Production Cup-winning Lancer EVO9 came to an end following the first run through Crychan. Never mind, family honour was upheld by son Tom Naylor – more of whom anon!...

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**MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**  
HOME WIN FOR PRITCHARD!....



Jason Pritchard 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star & Historic

Builth Wells resident Jason Pritchard brought his Historic spec. Escort home in 11<sup>th</sup> place overall to claim a class win and the lead in both the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship and BTRDA Historic Cup. Following the retirement of the previously successful Talbot Sunbeam VRX of Andrew Davison/Tom Murphy, the two-wheel drive category in mid-Wales turned into something of an Escort benefit with a definite Irish flavour to it! Dungannon's Frank & Lauren Kelly and Owen McMackin, who hails from Omagh, finished one place apart, while Londoner Ashley Davies, the 2017 Silver Star Champion, and co-driver Sam Fordham were right behind them. Rob Wright/Mark Fisher continued the Blue Oval rout with 5<sup>th</sup> in class, half-a-minute behind Davies.



Sean Bannister 1<sup>st</sup> B10

In Historic Cup terms, Paul Street/Ian Jones (Escort) were Pritchard's nearest rivals, with Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins next in their Avenger. It's perhaps worth noting that Baz maintained the 'Bragging Rights' in the Jordan household by finishing three seconds ahead of son Richard's 1400 MG ZR!...

Meanwhile, 2019 Historic Championship runner-up David Gathercole suffered an inauspicious start to his current campaign when his Ford Escort developed electrical problems prior to leaving Builth Wells – and, consequently, didn't!...

**BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP**

LLOYD BANKS MAXIMUM POINTS!...



Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup & Junior R2

Notwithstanding the prevalence of Fiestas in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams took their Peugeot 208 R2 (naturally!) to a convincing win in both the main and Junior categories on the Nicky Grist Stages. Apart from a spin in Monument, the West Wales Rally Spares-backed duo endured an untroubled run to a class win and a brace of maximum point scores. Jonathan Jones, another driver to contest the BRC National event, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place points in his Fiesta, with Connor Tolson/Dylan Thomas also opening their account at the earliest opportunity.

On the other side of the coin, Jonathan Lee Jones/Lewis Griffiths' bid for glory ended on Stage 3 while the Fiestas of the Tordoffs, Mathew & Tim, and Rob Wilson/Martin Haggett both waited until the last stage of the day, Crychan 2, before throwing in the towel....



**FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP**

SWIFT BY NAME!...



Steve Black/Paul Morris 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

Sixteen months it might be since they last contested a BTRDA event, but the pace of the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship front-runners is still formidable, with the Top Three finishing within 41 seconds of each other after 44 miles of stages. Steve Black/Paul Morris took their Suzuki Swift to victory from the MG ZR of Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith, five seconds in front of Dave & Toby Brick's Nova.

Staying well out of the way of the aforementioned flying trio, Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock claimed 4<sup>th</sup> place points in their Ford Escort.

Edward Wain/Noel Murphy won Class 1400C in their MG ZR, but Gethin Price/Andrew Baddeley were on their way home earlier than expected following their Nissan Micra's retirement on SS4.



Edward Wain/Noel Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> Class 1400C

Simon & Alex Stanbury's MG ZR took maximum class points in the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Championship** and so did Tom Naylor – Pat's son, but we promise not to mention that again! – in his Nissan Micra, with a little help from co-driver Tom Bishop, obviously!



Tom Naylor & Tom Bishop 1<sup>st</sup> Rally First

**MOTORSPORT UK 2021 ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP** in association with **SEACON UK**



George Lepley & Tom Woodburn

The Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK also began on the Nicky Grist Stages and we say this every year – basically because, in a class-based series such as this, it happens every year! - following the season-opener there is currently a six-way tie for the lead. Defending champion Steve Black (Suzuki Swift), George Lepley (Lancer EVOX), Jason Pritchard (Escort), Frank Kelly (Escort), Elliot Payne (Fiesta) and Ioan Lloyd (Peugeot 208) earned 25 points each for their efforts in mid Wales.

As is also always the case, their pursuers – of whom there are also six – are just two points behind and everyone

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now has until the beginning of September to regroup prior to round 2, the Woodpecker Stages. From then on, each competitor's success will begin to pay dividends as it will allow them to pull clear of their rivals - or not, depending on their luck!

**MRF TYRES MIXED-SURFACE RALLY CHALLENGE**



*Ian Joel & Graham Wood*

In what is already a necessarily re-jigged calendar, the Nicky Grist Stages played host to contenders for the MRF Tyres Mixed-Surface Rally Challenge. Four gravel events – or three after last weekend! – and three rounds on asphalt lie in wait for those eager to test their skills on both types of rally stages and, as crews now ready

themselves for a trip to the Scottish Rally, it is Appleby's Jonny Sproat (Fiesta) who holds sway by a single point from the Escort Cosworth of Ian Joel who lives not a million miles away from the leader in Carnforth.



*Jonny Sproat 1st Production Cup & N3*

Simon Stanbury's MG ZR is 3<sup>rd</sup>, ahead of Brendan Wellman (Fiesta) and Edward Wain (MG ZR) who are currently 4<sup>th</sup> equal.

Further down the list, it's interesting to note that two Manxmen, Steven Ormond-Smith and Maxx Bradshaw (both Mitsubishi EVOs) are getting some points on the board prior to their 'home' event, the Pokerstars Rally, a double-header on the Isle of Man at the beginning of October!

**CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!**

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Nicky Grist Stages can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) Likewise a list of **Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship** points can be found in the Competitor section of [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) The **MRF Mixed Surface Challenge** points after the Nicky Grist Stages can be found in the MRF Challenge section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com)

These points will become final on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**JORDAN Road Surfacing HISTORIC CUP**

On each round of the BTRDA Rally Series there will be a **prize fund of £500** with the highest placed BTRDA Historic Cup driver receiving £250, the 2nd placed driver £150 and the 3rd £100. At the end of the year the overall BTRDA Historic Champion will be presented with the prestigious AC de Monaco Trophy at the BTRDA awards ceremony. The prize winners on the Nicky Grist Stages were: -

- **Jason Pritchard**                **£250**
- **Paul Street**                     **£150**
- **Barry Jordan**                  **£100**

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 **motorsport UK**  
2021 English Rally  
Championship

  
SPECIALIST LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS

#### KIELDER POWER AWARDS

Thanks to generous support from KIELDER Works Team, they will be awarding one of their valuable “Layer Cake Spare Wheel Kits” as a prize on each round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Details of these specially designed Motorsport Spare Wheel Kits, which include a battery impact wrench, can be viewed in the News item on the btrdarally.com website.

On the Nicky Grist Stages the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in the BTRDA Bronze Star: Steve Black**  
On the 75<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rally the award will go the highest placed driver in the BTRDA Silver Star Championship.

#### BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The Nicky Grist Stages was the first event in the BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 Cup and as part of this initiative the leading Junior R2 1600 drivers receive cash awards on each event.

- **Ioan Lloyd**                      **£150**
- **Connor Tolson**                **£125**

#### VITAL FUEL PRIZE

Premier competition fuel suppliers Vital Equipment Ltd and Carless Racing Fuels have a new initiative to support Britain’s most popular national rally series. On every round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel**.

On the opening round of the Championship, the Nicky Grist Stages the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA registered Junior Driver on the event: Elliott Payne.**
- **The winning driver in the 1400C class: Edward Wain.**

The two awards on the Scottish Rally will be for Highest placed Junior Driver & Class B10 winner

#### 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: **Tom Naylor** – Nissan Micra (RF1.4)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Brendan Wellman** – Ford Fiesta ST (Class 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:

##### 75<sup>th</sup> SCOTTISH Rally - 24<sup>th</sup> JULY

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Scottish Rally is Round 2 of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. [www.scottishrally.co.uk](http://www.scottishrally.co.uk) By the time you read this the seeded entry list will have been published and it will be a very competitive field with competitors from both the BTRDA Rally Series and the Scottish Rally Championship. Like all other motorsport events at present, the Scottish Rally will follow the Covid-19 requirements and guidelines issued by Motorsport UK and the Scottish Government. This includes No Spectators and no Auxiliary Support crews.

##### WOODPECKER STAGES - 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Due to the restrictions on the use of English Forests in 2021, the event will have a much-revised format. It will be based at Kinnerton, near Presteigne and offer 44 stage miles all within the Radnor Forest Complex, linked by just 20 road miles. Regulations will be published later this month with **entries scheduled to open at 7pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July**. This very compact format means there are just 120 places available. There will be priority given to registered championship crews for a couple of days, but **please ensure you submit your entry as soon as entries open.**

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### BTRDA Rallye R5 CUP

Since the BTRDA Rally Series Regulation relating to the Rallye R5 Cup was published it has become clear that it is no longer compatible with the vast majority of 'R5' rally cars in use on UK stage rallying. **Therefore, the BTRDA Rally Committee have decided that the best course of action is to suspend the BTRDA Rallye R5 Cup for 2021 and conduct a review of practical options for 2022.**

### DECALS

Competitors are reminded that they **must** display the BTRDA Rally Series decals on each qualifying event to be eligible to score points in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, MRF Mixed Surface Challenge and the Motorsport UK 2020 English Rally Challenge supported by SEACON UK. 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. Checks will be carried out to ensure compliance with this! Decals were sent to registered drivers before the Nicky Grist Stages and are available from the BTRDA Co-ordinator Ian Arden Tel: 07917 355169 at each event.

Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car.

### TYRES

Please note that in the **MRF Rally Challenge** and the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Championship** it is a requirement that MRF tyres are used throughout the event and checks will be made to ensure compliance with this requirement. **MRF Tyres / Service and Sport** will be at all events to provide tyre support to competitors. See [www.serviceandsport.com](http://www.serviceandsport.com) for more information about the extensive range of MRF competition tyres.

### 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 **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** by 'Special Stage' from all rounds of the championship will be shared on various platforms including the Special Stage Facebook page, the BTRDA Rally Facebook page and BTRDA Rally Series website. It will try to include coverage of all the categories / classes where it is practical to do so, in order to tell the story of the event. Some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately. The BTRDA Rally Series website also has videos from all the BTRDA Rally Series events since 2014.

In addition, on some events where there is no spectator access, Special Stage will try to provide live streaming direct from the stages. Certainly, the live coverage of the recent Nicky Grist Stages was excellent and was watched by thousands of viewers from around the world.

### ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATIVES

On the 75<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rally the BTRDA will be represented by Ian ARDEN as Championship Coordinator and Rab McDONALD will be in attendance as BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer

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