



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 6 – 2021

TRACKROD FOREST STAGES

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

BLACK & JACK PLAY ANOTHER ACE!...

Having retired from their last two MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship outings, Callum Black/Jack Morton are faced with the prospect of requiring finishes from each of the remaining rounds if they're to end the season with a fighting chance of the title. So, taking their Fiesta to an outright win on the Trackrod Forest Stages – a position which they inherited on the final stage of the event – keeps them in contention as the BTRDA Series moves remorselessly on towards its conclusion.



Callum Black/Jack Morton 1st Gold Star

2nd on the day were George Lepley/Tom Woodburn who put up their customary storming performance in their Lancer EVOX. Loss of the rear diff. on SS4 slowed them until it could be replaced at service but, from then on, normal service was resumed. This result not only moves Lepley/Woodburn to the top of the Gold Star points table but also gives them their fourth consecutive maximum in Class B13 and, as such, it becomes the first 'result' of the season as, with just two rounds remaining, they can no longer be caught.



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 2nd Gold Star

Missing from the Woodpecker line-up, Tom Llewellyn returned to take 3rd overall, a mere three seconds adrift of Lepley, in his Mitsubishi Mirage while early leaders Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins brought their Fabia back to Filey in 4th place. Fastest on three of the five stages, they'd lost 15s in Staindale with an overshoot and then another 45s in Dalby when they hit a bank and thought they'd damaged the radiator. Bainbridge was quite candid in admitting that he felt nervous leading a BTRDA event for the first time and was 'over-driving' ... No matter – a point has been made that will not have gone unnoticed among the opposition...



Tom Llewellyn 3rd Gold Star

Erstwhile Gold Star leaders Garry Pearson/Niall Burns (Fabia) have had better days, losing more than two minutes to the leaders over the closing stages. Although they already have two maximums to their credit, they currently find themselves trailing Lepley/Woodburn by a couple of points. Consequently, from now until the conclusion of the Rallynuts Stages in mid-November will be a nerve-wracking time for all concerned!

As mentioned above, B13 has now been won but that hasn't dimmed the competitive edge shown by the

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remaining pretenders to the crown!... The Lancers of Richard Hill, Russ Thompson and Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear finished line astern on the Trackrod, with Hugh Brunton's Fiesta R5 (B14) sandwiched between them and Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) and Ian Baumgart/Dave Robson (Impreza).



Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence Production Cup Winners

Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence's Group N Lancer was just outside the Top Ten but those not classified as finishers included a trio of Fiestas – Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (sensor), Phil & Simon Pickard (alternator) and Trevor Gamble/Ron Roughead (stopped after TC2).

After a busy September, contenders now have the luxury of a five-week break before their attendance in North Wales will be required for the Cambrian Rally.

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

OWEN COMES INTO HIS OWN!....



Owen McMackin 1st Silver Star

Owen McMackin became the fourth different driver in four events to take maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points on the Trackrod Forest Rally

and, in a break from current tradition, his Escort wasn't eligible for BTRDA Historic Cup points! Even so, it was a close-run thing with Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham's similar car arriving back at the finish a mere 1.1s in arrears after 45 miles of stages. Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams (Peugeot 208 R2) were 3rd and, naturally enough, took maximum BTRDA Rallye R2 and Junior Rallye R2 Cup points, ahead of Sam Bilham who posted his best result of the season to date.



Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham 2nd Silver Star

Paul Street/Ian Jones maintain their lead in the Silver Star Championship but, when their Escort suffered a puncture in Staindale, they had to stop and change the offending wheel which did nothing for either their stage or total time for the day! Barry Jordan/Arwel Jenkins are just one point behind them after a good run over the Moors which saw their Avenger take maximum Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup® points. So, with two rounds still to run, Baz is one point ahead of Paul Street in the Drivers' table while Ian Jones is a similar margin in front of Arwel as they duck and dive on their way to eventual Historic Cup glory...



Barry Jordan/Arwel Jenkins 1st Historic Cup

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Robert Gough and Simon & Alistair Crook also muscled in on the Historic action on the Trackrod by bringing their Escorts home to good advantage.

Rob Wright/Mark Fisher's Escort suffered a snapped propshaft on SS5 while the Historic spec. Escorts of David Dobson/Steve Pugh, Terry Pankhurst/Jamie Sparks and Mike East all had their personal tales of woe to impart – but, unfortunately, not at the finish!



Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams 3rd Silver Star 1st R2 Cup

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP!...
FAMILY TIES!...



Steve Black/Paul Morris 1st Bronze Star

So far this season, 2019 BTRDA Bronze Star Champion Callum Black has taken two maximum scores and suffered two retirements as he battles for Gold Star glory while, concurrently, Steve Black has done exactly the same – and on the same events! – as he seeks to make the 2021 Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship® his own! On the Trackrod, Steve and co-driver Paul Morris guided their Suzuki Swift to a category victory from Dave Brick's Vauxhall Nova and the MG ZR of

Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith – all three finishing within half-a-minute of each other!



Dave Brick 2nd Bronze Star

In the points, Jordan/Gratton-Smith hold sway by dint of their three finishes to the others' two. However, Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort) and 1400C winners Edward Wain/Noel Murphy (MG ZR) are also three-time finishers and their dogged determination is bound to see them there, or thereabouts, come Judgement Day!...

Both tackling their first event of the season, Paddy Homan's Puma returned home having opened its account in fine style while, on the other side of the coin, Chris Bush's Corsa arrived back in Derbyshire without visiting the finish after its gearbox cried 'enough' in Gale Rigg!....



Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith 3rd Bronze Star

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Tom Naylor/Tom Bishop 1st Rally First

In the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First® Championship, the Fiesta ST of Tom Naylor/Tom Bishop once again triumphed over Simon Double/Jessica Mitchell’s MG ZR but, even so, it’s still too close for comfort! Two points between 1st and 2nd is all very well but one slip from either party on the Cambrian or Rallynuts could significantly alter the eventual outcome!...

MOTORSPORT UK 2021 ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

FIRST AMONG EQUALS!....

Following the Trackrod Forest Stages, George Lepley (Lancer EVOX) is the stand-alone leader of the Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK, having maintained a ‘full house’ with three maximum scores from the three events so far. With just the Grizedale Stages at the

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Trackrod Forest Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise the **Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with SEACON UK** can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk These points will become final on **11th October**. Please note that from the Cambrian Rally onwards, dropped scores will come into play!

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 3 prize winners on the Trackrod were all covered by just 8 seconds and were: -

- **Barry Jordan** **£250**
- **Robert Gough** **£150**
- **Simon Crook** **£100**

beginning of December to go, each competitor’s three best scores will count but, should this result in a tie, any fourth scores will be taken into consideration. Iain Lloyd (Peugeot 208 R2), Owen McMackin (Escort) and defending champion Steve Black (Suzuki Swift) have each scored two maximums so far and success on Grizedale could elevate them into the reckoning for the title. Interesting times ahead!...

As a class-based series, it’s always interesting – as an outsider, that is! – to monitor competitors’ progress as they pit their skills against others in cars of similar power outputs. Hence, it’s not necessarily the most powerful or fastest car that comes out on top, as exemplified by Steve Black’s 1400cc Suzuki that beat all before it last time.



Ian Joel 1st Senior Driver

All photos courtesy of Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

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 **motorsport UK**
2021 English Rally
Championship



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 Trackrod the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in the BTRDA Historic Cup: Barry Jordan**

On the Cambrian Rally the Kielder Power Award will go to the highest placed driver in the **BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup**

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The Trackrod Forest Stages was the fourth round of the BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 Cup and as part of this initiative the leading Junior R2 1600 Cup drivers receive cash awards on each event.

- **Ioan Lloyd** **£150**
- **Sam Bilham** **£125**

CARLESS RACING FUELS PRIZE

Carless Racing Fuels in conjunction with the premier competition fuel suppliers **Vital Equipment Ltd** 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 Trackrod Forest Stages the prizes are awarded to: -

- **The highest placed BTRDA Junior R2 1600 Cup driver: Ioan Lloyd**
- **The highest placed BTRDA Rally First driver: Tom Naylor**

The two awards on the Cambrian Rally will be for the highest placed BTRDA Junior driver and the highest placed BTRDA driver in Class 1400C.

In addition, the highest placed Junior Driver in the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a free fuel package from Vital Equipment on all the 2022 BTRDA Rally Series events! If you do not already use this excellent service (and why not?) then this is another reason to start now. See ON EVENT FUEL

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400’s/Rally First: **Paddy Homan** - Ford Puma (Class 1400S)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **John Gribbins** - Ford Escort RS (Class B11)

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:

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY – SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER

The penultimate rally in the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series is the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally. The event will, once again, be based around Llandudno with Rally HQ relocated to nearby Coleg Llandrillo. It will include some of the best forest stages in North Wales, and finish with a new 6 mile asphalt stage!

There has been a huge demand for entries and there are now just 10 places remaining. Entries at www.rallies.info/webentry/2021/cambrian/webentry.php

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 **motorsport UK**
2021 English Rally
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**SEACON UK**
SPECIALIST LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS

RALLYNUTS STAGES RALLY – SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER

After postponing from April, the organisers of the Rallynuts Stages Rally are delighted to confirm that the event will run on 13th November and will be the 7th and final round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Based in Built Wells, the 44-mile gravel event will use some of the most iconic forests that British rallying can offer. The competitive action will centre on Hafren, Sweet Lamb and Myherin forests to test competitors to the limit.

Event regulations are available on <http://rallynutsrally.co.uk> with entries opening at 7pm on Monday 4th October. This will be the BTRDA Rally Series season finale and certainly an event not to be missed.

GRIZEDALE STAGES – FRIDAY 3rd / SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER

This event, which is the final round of the Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship has a new timetable this year taking advantage of the shorter days by running a 5-mile stage on Friday evening. Then on Saturday it is the famous Grizedale stages! Regulations are now available at www.grizedalestages.co.uk and entries open at 9am on Saturday 2nd October.

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.

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

TYRES: **MRF Tyres / Service and Sport** will be at all events to provide tyre support to competitors. See www.serviceandsport.com for more information about the extensive range of MRF competition 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.

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.

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 on recent events was watched by thousands of viewers from around the world.

ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATIVES

On the Cambrian Rally the BTRDA will be represented by Ian Arden and Norman Robertson, Geoff Doe will be in attendance as BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer and the BTRDA Rallies Committee Chair, Neil Cross, will also be around on the Friday – you don't want to meet him on Saturday as he's out on a Recovery Unit!

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