



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 3 – 2022

RALLYNUTS STAGES

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

HIRST'S FIRST 1ST!...

Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) set a blistering pace on the opening stage of the Rallynuts Stages Rally (15s quicker than anyone else in 10.7 miles of Myherin!) to put themselves into a lead they maintained through to the finish and, in so doing, add their names to the illustrious list of MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series event winners over the years. Three more FTDs (+ one shared) during the day saw the pair arrive back at the Builth Wells finish half-a-minute ahead of runners-up (and 2021 Rallynuts winners) Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2)



Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear 1st Overall

The second round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series had, once again, attracted an excellent entry of 139 cars and, in BTRDA Gold Star® Championship terms, the burning question was 'would Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson be able to capitalise on their early advantage gained by winning the Malcolm Wilson Rally?' Well, no – unfortunately not, as it turned out. Their Fiesta drifted wide on the opener and slid into a Myherin ditch and it was fully ten minutes before crew and car were on their way again. Although they completed SS2 (Hafren Sweet Lamb), the erstwhile Gold Star leaders were OTL...



Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 2nd overall

Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen (Fiesta R5) put in another workmanlike performance to claim 3rd BTRDA points for the second event in a row and, with a quarter of the season already behind them, are just one point adrift of Gold Star leaders Hirst/Dear. Ian Bainbridge (Fabia) was holding 3rd overall with just the final stage to go, but hitting a rock in Cwmysgawen saw him lose 80s to the leaders which, in turn, dropped him behind both Gardener and Russ Thompson/Steve Link whose Lancer EVO9 took Class B13 on the day. Nevertheless, Bainbridge is 3rd in the table, one point behind Gardener and one ahead of Richard Hill/Pat Cooper whose own Lancer had to settle for 2nd B13. However, with a 1st & 2nd place apiece, Thompson/Link and Hill/Cooper are tied at the top of the B13 table.



Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen 3rd Overall

Tom Llewelin/Ross Whittock's Mirage recorded its second consecutive Top Ten finish and is handily placed to keep a watching brief on those ahead of it. It's perhaps worth noting that such is the competitive nature of the Gold Star Championship this year that Petch/ Wilkinson's misfortune has seen them drop from 1st to 10th place at a stroke. At the same time, in classic 'snakes-and-

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ladders' mode, the narrow margins between competitors also allow for the possibility of dramatic improvement – subject, of course, to suitable results being obtained on forthcoming events!...

B13 protagonists Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) and Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence (Lancer EVO9) both failed to make the finish on this occasion, while Eddie Lewis' Fiesta R5 retired in service.

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

IRISH JIG!....



Michael McDaid/Declan Casey 1st Silver Star & Historic

For the second event in a row, maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points were awarded to competitors hailing from across the Irish Sea – but it was a different crew who reigned supreme in mid Wales! Having not contested the season-opening Malcolm Wilson Rally, Michael McDaid/Declan Casey's Historic spec. Escort MkII breezed in to claim the laurels in both the Silver Star Championship and Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup on the Rallynuts Stages.



Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham 2nd Silver Star

Erstwhile Silver Star leader David Crossen was heading for the ferry earlier than planned after his Escort retired in Hafren Sweet Lamb, leaving a returning Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham (Escort) to take the battle to McDaid/Casey. By the finish, the difference was just 15s.... Mat Jackson/Sasha Heriot's R2 Fiesta had an excellent run to earn 3rd Silver Star points and, unsurprisingly, top BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup points into the bargain.

Silver Star front-runners Andy Davison/Tom Murphy's day came to a premature halt when their Talbot Sunbeam VXR lost a wheel in Hafren, while another satisfactory 'day at the office' sees Nick Dobson (Escort) leading the table prior to the Border Counties Rally. However, the Escorts of Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm & Rob Wright/Mark Fisher have also seen two finish lines and, points-wise, are uncomfortably close to the leader....

2015 Silver Star Champion Boyd Kershaw, a.k.a. the 'Flying Kiwi', returned to the BTRDA Series after a gap of several seasons and, with Keegan Rees to accompany him, showed that he'd still 'got it' by taking his Escort to a B11 class win by almost a minute.



Mat Jackson/Sasha Heriot 3rd Silver Star & 1st R2 Cup

Inglis/Chisholm lead the BTRDA Historic Cup but, after another troubled day in Wales, at least James Lepley/Arwel Jenkins (Escort) managed to post a finish and, with it, earn some valuable points. We say it every year but, at this early stage of the season, there's still plenty of time to turn things around – everyone's best six scores count and there are still six events to go...

As previously mentioned, Mat Jackson/Sasha Heriot came up trumps in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, with Tony

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Simpson/Ian Bevan (Fiesta) also recording their first finish of the season, just a quarter of a minute in arrears. Jonathan Jones/Jez Rogers were 3rd on the day while, although relegated to 4th place on the Rallynuts Stages, Yaniv Bar/Osian Owen (Fiesta) maintain their lead in the series from the Peugeot 208 of Scott & David Sloan. Providing further variety to the eligible vehicles in this particular category, Lucy Wigley/Emma Cooper's Citroen C2 also featured in the points table for the first time.

Having failed to open his BTRDA Rallye R2 Junior Cup account on the Malcolm Wilson Rally, Billy Grew's perseverance paid off at the second attempt and he returned home to Stafford with a maximum score under his belt...

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

PETE CREATES PLENTY OF HEAT!...



Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname 1st Bronze Star

Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname (Nova) took the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship by storm on the Rallynuts Stages not only to record a 'win', but also to lay to rest the ghost of the Malcolm Wilson Rally when they were forced to retire after only two stages. Lewis Hooper continued his giant-killing antics from Round 1 to bring his Rally First-spec. Nissan Micra back home in 2nd place and, following the maximum gained in Cumbria, maintains his lead in the 1400 Series.



Lewis Hooper 2nd Bronze Star

Ed James/Charlie Mason's Micra Kit Car was 3rd, 3s clear of Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt whose 1400C version earned a class win. Paddy & Tom Homan's Ford Puma was another 3s in arrears while, having secured their Ka's power unit following the breakage of an engine mounting which caused their premature exit from the Malcolm Wilson, Adrian & Matt Walk earned 2nd in class behind Garnett/Arndt.



Ed James/Charlie Mason 3rd Bronze Star

At various points during the day, the rally had lost Dave & Freddy Brick (Nova), Gary Scott/James Hedges (Proton Satria) and Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort), in addition to the 1400C Micras of Gethin Price/Andrew Baddeley and Alfie Hammond.

So, Lewis Hooper retains his domination of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First[®] Cup but, following the Rallynuts Stages, needs to keep a wary eye out for Jacob Neal/Tom Bishop whose Micra took top honours in the 1.4 class.

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

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CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Rallynuts Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com

These points will become final on Saturday 23 April.

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 Rallynuts were: -

1. £250 Michael McDaid
2. £150 Grant Inglis
3. £100 Jonathan Brace

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 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Details of these specially designed Motorsport Spare Wheel Kits, which include a battery impact wrench, can be found on this YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dq9F9Gglywc&ab_channel=KielderWTLtd

On the Rallynuts the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class 1400S Pete Gorst**
On the Border Counties Rally the award will go to the highest placed driver in class 1400C.

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

1. £150 Billy Grew

VITAL FUEL PRIZE

Premier competition fuel suppliers Vital Equipment Ltd and Carless Racing Fuels continue their initiative to support Britain's most popular national rally series. On every round of the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel**.

On the Rallynuts the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup** Billy Grew
- **The winning driver in class 1400C** Richard Garnett

The two awards on the Border Counties will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class B10

At the end of the 2022 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a fuel deal

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Malcolm Wilson Rally, 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**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Robert Wilson**

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**.

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motorsport UK

English Rally
Championship



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Border Counties Rally – 14th May

Returning to the Championship for the first time since the 1990s, the event will be based in the picturesque Scottish Borders town of Jedburgh and use the classic forests in the renowned and little used Tweed Valley and Wauchope Forest complexes. Entries are open bordercountiesrally.co.uk

Kielder Forest Rally – 18th June

Based at Hexham Auction Mart the event will use the classic stages in Kielder. Entries **open at 18:00 on Monday 18 April**, keep an eye in their website for further details kielderforestrally.co.uk

Nicky Grist Stages – 9 July

The event will return to the centre of Built Wells with Service in the Town and using the classic stages up on the Military Ranges and Crychan Forest. The Rally Guide will be released on 1st May and entries will open on 16 May further details can be found at nickygriststages.co.uk

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. 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!

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

Decals are available from the BTRDA Championship Co-ordinator Ian Arden Tel: 07917 355169 at each of the qualifying events.

TYRES

Please note that in the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup** 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 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

SPECIAL STAGE filming

The **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** by 'Special Stage' will feature extensive live event coverage from all rounds of the championship and will air on the Special Stage Facebook page. Special Stage will include coverage of all the categories / classes, where it is practical to do so, to tell the story of the event. Some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately after each event and this can be found on the BTRDA Facebook Page and Website.

Look out for the live coverage schedule announcements across social media @SpecialStageUK @BTRDarally

The BTRDA Rally Series website has videos from the BTRDA Rally Series events since 2014.

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