



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 4 – 2022

BRICK & STEEL BORDER COUNTIES RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MORE GLASSWARE FOR PAYNE!...

Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh became the third different crew to win a round of the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series when their Fiesta Rally2 led the field back into Jedburgh for the finish of the Brick & Steel Border Counties Rally. In BTRDA Gold Star® Championship terms, they were 17s and 18s respectively in front of the Fiestas of Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson and Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen who now top the points table. So, with two points separating the top three drivers, from the BTRDA's point of view there's plenty of mileage – both actual and print! – left to cover before this one shows any signs of reaching its conclusion...

For the first half of the rally, however, it was Tom Llewellyn/Ross Whittock who were showing everyone else a clean pair of heels as the pair experienced their first taste of competition in a Fiesta Rally2. Fastest on two stages and second, by a second, on a third saw them leading the event as it headed for the fourth one in Craik. Sliding off into a ditch, in full view of the assembled ranks of photographers, signalled the end of what, up to that point, had been a very promising day! Nevertheless, if it wasn't before, the opposition is certainly taking notice now....



Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 1st Gold Star & Junior driver

Gold Star leaders when they arrived in the Scottish Borders, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) had what, by their standards, were mixed fortunes. They limped through the first two stages with only front wheel drive, with a hand brake release issue, putting them in 18th place and over a minute off the lead. Hirst commented "It was still the fastest front wheel drive car I have ever driven" However fastest or equal fastest on the final three stages times brought them back into contention and take away 24 valuable championship

points. To use an old Fleet Street adage, this one 'will run and run' between now and the end of October...



Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson 2nd Gold Star

Russ Thompson/Steve Link took a second consecutive maximum in Class B13, bringing their Lancer EVO9 home to a Top Six finish, closely followed by the similar car of Richard Hill/Pat Cooper. These two crews, who are seasoned B13 campaigners, have made it three out of three when it comes to finishes so far this season, whereas class 'newbies' Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence scored nil points on the Rallynuts Stages but were back in harness in Scotland. Darren Craig/Harry Stubbs' consistency ensures that Lancers occupy the first four places in the table prior to next month's Kielder Forest Rally.

Ian Joel/Graeme Wood's season is in dire need of a reboot as, most unusually, their Escort Cosworth let them down for the second event in a row – the gearbox being cited as the culprit on this occasion.

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Also gracing the List of Retirements on the Border Counties was the Fiesta Rally2 of Trevor Gamble/Phil Kenny that stopped in the penultimate stage of the day.



Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen 3rd Gold Star

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

THE WRIGHT STUFF!....

In a situation similar to that experienced in Gold Star, Rob Wright/Mark Fisher became the third beneficiaries of maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points this season by bringing their Escort into top two-wheel drive spot on the Border Counties. After an off-day on the Rallynuts Stages, this result sees both members of the Cumbrian crew restored to full speed and leading their respective categories.



Rob Wright/Mark Fisher 1st Silver Star

Second place on the day went to Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan whose Fiesta, unsurprisingly, racked up maximum BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup points in the process. Third-placed Nick Dobson (Escort) was unceremoniously ousted from top Silver Star spot but is only a couple of points off the

lead and has plenty of scope to reverse the situation once more in the next few months.



Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan 2nd Silver Star & 1st R2 Cup

Having left the scene of the Rallynuts Stages early with just three wheels on their wagon, Andy Davison/Tom Murphy returned in the hope of regaining some of the lost ground. However, the best laid plans etc!... With just one stage to go, their Talbot Sunbeam VXR was lying in 16th place, almost within touching distance of the Silver Star leaders, but then a stage maximum in Riccarton saw them lose more than 12 minutes, eventually emerging in 54th place. Onwards and upwards, chaps!...



Nick Dobson 3rd Silver Star

Thanks to their efforts on the first two rounds of the series, Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm's retirement from the Border Counties did not affect their position at the head of the BTRDA Historic Cup. Their Escort left the road in Lime Kiln Edge and took no further part in the proceedings, leaving Ernie & Patricia Lee (BMW325i) and Kris Hopkins (Triumph TR7V8) to clean up in their respective categories. Having missed the previous round, Alex Waterman/ Glyn Thomas returned to the

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fray in their Datsun 1600 SSS but, unfortunately, the outing proved to be pointless – literally! The car stopped down a bank in Craik, leaving the crew to mull over what had happened during their very long journey home to the south of England!



Ernie & Pam Lee 1st Historic Cup

Continuing something of a trend, Simpson/Bevan were the third crew to take top marks in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, from Jonathan Jones/Jez Rogers and, while Yaniv Bar/Osian Owen could only manage third place this time, it was sufficient to retain their overall lead. Billy Grew/Simon Rogers were next which proved to be more than enough to maintain their advantage in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Junior Cup and, breaking the Fiesta monopoly, Lucy Wigley/Emma Cooper's Citroen C2 also made it two finishes from two starts.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

PETE ALL PUMPED UP!...



Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname 1st Bronze Star

Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname had a superb run through the stages on the Border Counties in their Vauxhall Nova to comfortably win the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship category on the day, only for the car's fuel pump to fail on the way into the finish. The TV cameras caught a very emotional – not to mention knackered! – Pete pushing the car across the line to take his and Mark's second consecutive maximum score in the 1400s. And relax!...



Lewis Hooper 2nd Bronze Star

Lewis Hooper's Rally First Nissan Micra was next – again! That's one 1st and two 2nd places so far – no wonder he leads the Bronze Star category at this stage!... Paddy & Tom Homan's Ford Puma was next with Alfie Hammond/Peter Williams' 1400C Micra taking top class points and 4th in the category. Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt (Micra) did more than enough to keep themselves in the lead of Class 1400C while, having a day to forget, Edward James/Charlie Mason (Micra Kit Car) will, hopefully, take some consolation in that the points they did manage to amass keep them in runners-up spot in the overall Bronze Star points table...



Paddy & Tom Homan 3rd Bronze Star

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Dale Glover/Sean Ward's second attempt to put their Alfasud TI in among the points scorers this season ended in disappointment when its suspension failed on the penultimate stage. Third time lucky?...

From the above it goes without saying – but we will anyway! – that Lewis Hooper remains unbeaten in the

MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup. Three maximums on the board already and, thus, anyone with designs on denying him overall glory better look lively – and, more importantly, soon!...

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

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

These points will become final on Sunday 29 May.

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 Brick & Steel Border Counties Stages were: -

1. £250 Ernie Lee
2. £150 Kris Hopkins
3. £100 No award

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 Brick & Steel Border Counties Stages the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class 1400C Alfie Hammond**
On the Nicky Grist Stages the award will go the highest placed driver in class B12

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 B10** **Charlie Wright**

The two awards on the Nicky Grist Stages will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class H3

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

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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: **Peter Gorst**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Rob Wright**

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:

Kielder Forest Rally – 18th June

Based at Hexham Auction Mart the event will use the classic stages in Kielder. Entries have been open for a while now and finally close at 22:00 on 8 June, keep an eye in their website for further details kielderforestrally.co.uk

Nicky Grist Stages – 9th July

The event will return to the centre of Builth 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 open** to championship registered contenders at **18:00 on 23 May**. Further details can be found at nickygriststages.co.uk

Woodpecker Stages – 3rd September

Returning to its traditional base at Ludlow Racecourse, the 2022 event will be using classic stages long associated with the “Woody”. Check out their website, woodpecker-rally.co.uk and social media platforms for more details

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

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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.

BTRDA On Event Team – Kielder Rally

Your on-event team for the Kielder Rally will be:

Ian Arden, Sarah Morris, Andrew Hail and Geoff Doe

Sportity Channel

We are pleased to launch our new Sportity Channel, this isn't replacing any of our usual channels of communication but enhancing it in line with lots of other events and championships using this brilliant platform

For direct event information please download the Sportity app and insert this password:

MRFBTRDA2022

Sportity app is available in

Available on the App Store

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www.sportity.com

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