



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 5 – 2022

KIELDER FOREST RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

PAYNE ON FIRE!...

Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh became the first crew to win more than one round of the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series when they took their Fiesta Rally2 to a flag-to-flag victory on the Kielder Forest Rally. However, fastest times on each of the first three stages gave no hint of the fact that the pace wasn't the only thing that was red hot! A damaged exhaust manifold was causing the transmission tunnel and foot well to heat up to such an extent that not only were the crew worried that the car might catch fire but Elliot also burned his foot on the accelerator, leading to some left-foot accelerating at times – a technique certainly not invented by the Finns! Respite – and repair – came in the form of service and the car and crew were able to continue to their second maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Championship points tally.

Unbowed by their off while leading the Border Counties Rally, Tom Llewellyn/Ross Whittock were back in another Fiesta Rally2 and, with three FTDs of their own (each stage of the second loop), arrived back at the finish in Hexham to claim 2nd spot, 18s off the leaders. Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson (Fiesta) occupied the final podium spot on their 'home' event – they freely admitted they could easily have gone home on the Friday night, but chose not to!...



1st overall Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh

Arriving in the north-east as Gold Star Championship leaders, Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen set about defending their advantage and another business-like performance in their Fiesta R5 netted a solid 4th place which actually increased their lead in the table slightly as the mid-season point beckoned.

Following two consecutive retirements, a storming run by Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) to 5th

overall and maximum Class B13 points, allied to an early bath for erstwhile class leaders Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Lancer EVO9), has opened this particular battle up somewhat and sees Richard Hill/Pat Cooper assume top spot with a fourth consecutive finish.



2nd overall Tom Llewellyn/Ross Whittock

David Crossen's Ford Escort rounded off the Top Six in Kielder – more of the 2WD brigade anon. – while Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence were a solitary second behind the Irishman in their Lancer EVO9 to keep them in the mix to succeed George Lepley to the B13 title.

Having absented themselves from the Border Counties, Bob Morgan/Ade Williams' 9th in their Fabia R5 was their best result of the season so far, with Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier's Lancer EVO7 one place behind and bagging itself another haul of B13 points into the bargain.

Eddie Lewis (Fiesta R5) withdrew after SS1 while Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta Rally2) were lying 6th

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overall following the opener, but it all went wrong over a crest on SS2, Bewshaugh, leading to a panel-bending (including the roof!) off which saw them 'over and out' - literally!...



3rd overall Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

CROSSEN LINES UP ANOTHER MAXIMUM!....

Contesting his first MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship event since he 'won' the Malcolm Wilson, David Crossen (Escort MkII) returned for the Kielder Forest Rally and put up a repeat performance which netted a Top Ten finish and first 2WD car by just over a minute! Obviously, with only two scores on the board - even if they are both maximums! – there is considerable room for improvement in terms of the Lisbane driver's Championship position but an entry for the Nicky Grist Stages may set alarm bells ringing among the opposition!...



1st Silver Star driver David Crossen



Silver Star 2nd drive, 1st codriver Andy Davison/Tom Murphy

Andy Davison/Tom Murphy's Sunbeam VXR produced its best result of the season, moving both crew members in a northerly direction in the Silver Star tables (Davison 5th/Murphy 3rd) but it was Nick Dobson (Escort MkII) who returned home as Championship leader. A Top Twenty finish, at the expense of 'Kings of the Castle' after the Border Counties, Rob Wright/Mark Fisher, whose own Escort retired during the second loop of stages, saw Nick 'nick' top spot for himself. Paul Thompson/Josh Davison (Escort) finished 2nd in class, behind Dobson, with John Gribbins/Colin Blunt's 3rd in class moving them up to 2nd & 1st respectively in the Silver Star points. 'What car?' you ask. Well, an Escort, of course!...



3rd Silver Star Driver Nick Dobson

Tom Naylor/Tom Bishop's quest to put a front-wheel drive car into Silver Star contention took another knock when their Fiesta ST developed an unhealthy liking for a ditch in Falstone! On the plus side, it was also good to see a returning Allan McDowall (Escort MkII), the 2011 BTRDA Silver Star Champion, in amongst the action – aided, in no small way, by Mark Casey!...

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1st Historic Cup Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm

Having retired from the Border Counties but still managing to hang on to their Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup lead, Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm (Escort) were back 'on it' in Kielder. Maximum points for Inglis and 2nd, behind Callum Atkinson, for Chisholm served to restore their advantage, while Ernie & Patricia Lee (BMW325i) remain in contention with another healthy points score. Non-finishers on this occasion included James Lepley/Arwel Jenkins (Escort) and Kris Hopkins (Triumph TR7 V8), both of whom disappeared on the first run through Falstone.



R2 Cup Jonathan Jones/Jez Rogers

Jonathan Jones/Jez Rogers (Fiesta R2) took their first BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup victory which, with previous leaders Yaniv Bar/Osian Owen not making it past the opening stage, sees them move ahead in the rankings. Scott & David Sloan's Peugeot 208 was next with Billy Grew/Simon Rogers earning their third consecutive BTRDA Junior Rallye R2 Cup maximum. Cup 'winners' last time out, Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan, made it through the

first loop and back to service but retired on the first stage of the second.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

PETE'S A TOPPING DRIVER!...



1st Bronze Star Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname

With their ex-Justin Lawson Nova restored to full health once more following the finish-line dramas in Jedburgh, Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname took their third consecutive Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship maximum points score on the Kielder Forest Rally. The day wasn't without its dramas, however, but a puncture and some wiring that had come adrift and got mixed up with the pedals didn't cause enough grief to alter the eventual result...



2nd Bronze Star Lewis Hooper

The ubiquitous Lewis Hooper was next up in his Rally First Nissan Micra, maintaining his overall Bronze Star lead and, having taken his fourth consecutive MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First® Cup win, even at this stage of the season, cannot be beaten. However, in the event of someone else taking maximum points on the remaining

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four events, he could possibly be equalled. Likely? No – but, nevertheless, the champagne must remain on ice for the time being!...



3rd Bronze star Gary Scott/James Bailey

Gary Scott/James Bailey's Proton Satria was 3rd on the day, one place and a handful of seconds behind Hooper. The Micra Kit Car of Edward James/Charlie Mason took fourth-place points which was more than enough to maintain their 2nd & 1st places in their respective Bronze Star categories. Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt have also kept clean sheets thus far and they remain one place behind James/Mason as we look to the Nicky Grist Stages for the next opportunity for the order to change – maybe!...

Alfie Hammond/Peter Williams and Adrian & Matt Walk finished line astern, with the Micra crew one second to the good of the Ka while, unfortunately, it was Paddy & Tom Homan's Puma that took its turn to record a DNF after sliding into a ditch in Bewshaugh.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Kielder Forest Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com and on the Sportity app

A full list of all the **Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK** points after the Kielder Forest Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk and on the Sportity app

These points will become final on Sunday 3 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 Kielder Forest Rally were: -

1. £250 Grant Inglis
2. £150 Ernie Lee

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MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

CLASS WILL ALWAYS SHOW THROUGH!....

Having had three months since the Malcolm Wilson Rally to recharge their batteries – and to fettle their cars, if necessary! – contenders for the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK, reconvened in Hexham for the second of their six-round series.

History shows us that, with a class-based series, the half-dozen joint leaders after the first round are usually whittled down as the season progresses. So, after just two events, Nick Dobson (Escort) must be well pleased with himself to see that he is currently *the* Championship leader. OK, David Crossen (Escort) is only one point behind, Richard Hill (Lancer EVO9), two and Ian Joel (Escort Cosworth) and Stephen Petch (Fiesta) three but, no matter what the margin may be, they appear below Dobson in the table and, if they don't like it, the ball is firmly in their court to do something to alter the situation!...

The next round of the English Championship takes all interested parties to Ludlow Racecourse at the start of September for the Woodpecker Stages – so Nick Dobson has at least two months to dine out on his new-found status and, if he's got anything to do with it, for considerably longer than that!...

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond





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=dg9F9Gglywc&ab_channel=KielderWTLtd

On the Kielder Forest Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B11 Nick Dobson**
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 Kielder Forest Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup** Billy Grew
- **The winning driver in class 1400S** Peter Gorst

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

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: **Richard Garnett**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Paul Thompson**

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:

Nicky Grist Stages – 9th July

Entries close for seeding on Friday 1 July and finally close on Wednesday 6 July.

Up to date results during the day can be found at <https://results.btrdarallyresults.co.uk/results/?e=641&simple>

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

BTRDA ON EVENT TEAM – Nicky Grist Stages

Your on-event team for the Nicky Grist Stages will be:

Ian Arden (Saturday only) Nic Quinlan-Hull and Geoff Doe

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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.

Sportity Channel

Keep up to date with all things championship on our Sportity channel



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