



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 5 – 2023

KIELDER FOREST RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MATTHEW MAKES HIS MARK!...

As outright winners of more events in the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series than anyone else, this season has started in a more sedate fashion for Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear – until now, that is! Absent from the Kielder Forest Stages last year as MH was attending DD's wedding, they could be excused for expressing a degree of unfamiliarity with the stages, but any thoughts on that score were soon dispelled when their Fiesta R5 set FTD on the opener and then immediately did likewise on SS2! Never lower than 3rd on any of the six stages, Hirst/Dear arrived back at the finish in Hexham 14s to the good of Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards (Fabia R5) who, in turn, were another 9s in front of MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Championship leaders – albeit by a slightly depleted margin – Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta Rally2).



Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear 1st Gold Star

Returning after an absence from the Border Counties, Al Ginley/Craig Thorley (Fiesta Rally2) were a fine 4th, narrowly eclipsing another giant-killing performance from Russ Thompson/Steve Link in their Lancer EVO9. The Class B13 leaders were 3rd fastest on SS1, gamely hanging on to 5th from SS2 and finishing ahead of Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson whose Fabia Rally2 Evo had – in BTRDA terms, at least – its best run of the year by far!



Arron Newby/Jamie Edward 2nd Gold Star

Kielder also witnessed the recording of the highest scores to date by both Eddie Lewis/Sion Cunniff (Fiesta R5) and Trevor Gamble/Phil Kenny (Fiesta Rally2) which, as the season moves into its second half, should serve as confidence boosters for their respective campaigns.

As far as B13 is concerned, Thompson/Link have, so far, accrued a full-house of victories but, on this occasion, it was Daniel Sigurdarson/Asta Sigurdardottir's EVO9 that took 2nd in class. Jonathan Lightbody's Impreza was 3rd but Thompson's nearest challengers last time out, Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier (Lancer EVO7), only completed the opening stage before succumbing to a lack of brakes after the fluid escaped through a damaged line.



Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn 3rd Gold Star

Four events down and four to go with just five points currently separating 1st from 4th places in the battle – and it will be! – for Gold Star honours. Next stop Bult Wells for the Nicky Grist Stages which saw Hirst eclipse Payne for top spot in 2022 – so, another interesting day in prospect!...

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MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

THE FRUITS OF KIWI'S LABOURS!....



Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees 1st Silver Star

Although they were already leading the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship prior to the start of the Kielder Forest Stages, 'Flying Kiwi' Boyd Kershaw and co-driver Keegan Rees (Escort MkII) have become the third different crew to take maximum points so far this season and, unsurprisingly, extend their lead in the table. An excellent 8th overall saw them finish ahead of Robert Gough/Paul Morris whose Historic spec. Escort had seen off all-comers on the previous two encounters, while defending Silver Star Champions Rob Wright/ Mark Fisher made it a 1-2-3 for the Blue Oval!



Robert Gough/Paul Morris 2nd Silver Star

Having succumbed to electrical gremlins on the Border Counties – a problem which was still affecting their Opel Adam prior to the start of the Kielder Forest Rally – Robert Proudlock/ Steven Brown managed to get it sorted in time, going on to finish one place behind

Wright/ Fisher and reclaim their lead in both the BTRDA Rallye R2 and Junior Rallye R2 Cups.

Neil Andrew/Dom Adams (Escort) took a Top Twenty finish to elevate themselves into runners-up spot in the Silver Star table at the expense of a non-finishing Andy Davison/Tom Murphy whose Sunbeam VXR retired after SS1.

Gough/Morris maintain their lead in the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup but, after another class win in Kielder, the Escort RS1600 of Ernie & Karen Graham is still far too close for comfort. Steve Ward/Phil Sandham (Escort MkII) and Ernie & Patricia Lee (BMW 325i) both had useful points-gathering outings but Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins' attempts to join them ended when their Escort cried enough on the first run through Shepherdshield.



Rob Wright/Mark Fisher 3rd Gold Star

It wasn't a good day for R2 Fiestas as both Alfie Hammond/Phil Boyle and Liam Clark/Ben Wild were on their way home before the event had reached half-distance. However, on the positive side, the top three crews in the table have each now registered one DNF and, with only seven points between them and four events to go, all bets are off!

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FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

FAMILY VALUES!...



Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 1st Bronze Star

Which, in this particular case, is 30 - a maximum score in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship! Husband-and-wife Nigel & Kaz Jenkins took their Nova to yet another 'win' – their third so far – on the Kielder Forest Rally to maintain their domination of this year's 1400 Series. For the second event in a row, their nearest rivals were Chris & James Greenall (Nova) while, brushing aside their retirement from the Border Counties and also having altered their Micra's transmission rendering it ineligible for Rally First, Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards were 3rd, one place ahead of Paddy & Tom Homan's Puma.



Chris & James Greenall 2nd Bronze Star

Ashley Francis-Adams/Lucy Wilding (Micra) took their maiden victory in Class 1400C, ahead of the MG ZR of Luke Watts/Matt Rogers with Dylan Fowler-Bishop, in another Micra, claiming 3rd on the day.



Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards 3rd Bronze Star

Unfortunately Will Banks, whose Nova had been 3rd 1400 on the Border Counties, was unable to consolidate his position when the car stopped on the penultimate stage in Kielder....

MRF TYRES MOTORSPORT TROPHY

GAME ON FOR MINTON!....

Following the Kielder Forest Rally, Colin Minton (Fiesta R5) is the only person to have scored points in the MRF Tyres Motorsport Trophy on each of the events so far and his consistency – not to mention three maximum scores! - places him at the top of the table at the halfway point of the season.

Ian Joel (Escort Cosworth) was absent from the Kielder line-up and drops to 2nd, marginally ahead of Lewis Hooper (Micra) who, himself, has Alfie Hammond (Fiesta R2) breathing down his neck.

Other drivers to score well in Kielder were Nigel Jenkins (Nova), Wil Armitage (Peugeot 306 S16), Daniel Sigurdarson (Lancer EVO9) and Chris Greenall (Nova) but they'll all be only too acutely aware that there's still plenty of time for the current 'movers and shakers' to be moved and shaken out of any award winning positions by the end of October!...

MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

TAKING IT TO THE MAX!....

The Kielder Forest Rally was the third round of the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK, and, of those who set foot into the largest man-made forest in Europe, Matthew

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Hirst (Fiesta R5), Boyd Kershaw (Escort MkII) and Ernie Graham (Escort RS1600) each emerged with maximum class scores. Notwithstanding, the overall lead of the series still remains with Elliot Payne (Fiesta Rally2) who is a solitary point ahead of Nigel Jenkins (Nova), with Kershaw a similar margin in arrears in 3rd place.

Contenders looking for the chance to succeed Nick Dobson as MSUK English Rally Champion now have a **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 Likewise a list of **Motorsport UK English Rally Championship** points can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk

These points will become final on Saturday 1 July 2023.

MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY

The 2023 MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY is open to all BTRDA Rally Series drivers and will be contested on all rounds of the 2023 MRF TYRES BTRDA Rally Series.

To be eligible to score points in the MRF TROPHY the rally car must be fitted with MRF branded tyres throughout the event, but the tread pattern and profile are free. Cars must carry the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series decals. Checks will be made to ensure compliance with the Tyre and Decal requirements. Failure to comply will automatically result in zero points being scored.

For more info about MRF Motorsport Tyres at www.serviceandsport.com Contact: Jerry@Serviceandsport.com Tel 07789 392080.

Trophy standings after round 4

	DRIVER	Car	Class	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
1	Colin Minton	Fiesta R5	7	18	20	20	20					78
2	Ian Joel	Escort Cosworth	6	20	22	20	-					62
3	Lewis Hooper	Nissan Micra	1/2	21	21	1	18					61
4	Alfie Hammond	Fiesta R2	3	21	18	18	1					58
5	Tony Simpson	Fiesta R2	3	-	21	21	-					42
6	Edward James	Micra Kit Car	2	19	21	-	-					40
7	Daniel Sigurdarson	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	19	-	20					39
8	Will Banks	Vauxhall Nova	2	17	1	20	1					39
9	Martin Beech	Peugeot 205 GTi	4	-	20	-	18					38
10	Nigel Jenkins	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	23					23
11	Andrew Wheatley	Ford Puma	2	22	-	-	-					22
12=	Ian Bainbridge	Fiesta R5	7	21	-	-	-					21
12=	Wil Armitage	Peugeot 306 S16	4	-	-	-	21					21
14=	Daniel Shalev	Ford Fiesta ST	1	-	-	20	-					20
14=	Chris Greenall	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	20					20
16	Giles Armitage	Peugeot 205 GTi	1	18	1	1	-					20
17	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	17	-	-					17
18=	Liam Clark	Fiesta R2	3	-	-	-	1					1
18=	Michael Jenkins	Fiesta R2	3	1	-	-	-					1

Best 6 scores to count.

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KIELDER POWER AWARDS

Thanks to generous support from KIELDER Works Team, they will be awarding one of their valuable "Impact Wrench Kit" as a prize on each round of the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series.

Further details of the kit Kielder provide please visit <https://www.kielder.co>

On the Kielder Forest Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B11: Boyd Kershaw**

On the Nicky Grist Stages the award will go the highest placed driver in class B12.

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The top three Junior R2 Cup crews on the Kielder Forest Rally are:

1 st £150	Robert Proudlock
2 nd £100	no award
3 rd £50	no award

CARLESS RACING FUELS & VITAL EQUIPMENT 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 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel** to be redeemed on the next round of the championship.

On the Kielder Forest Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Robert Proudlock**
- **The winning driver in the B10 class: Lucy Wigley**

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

At the end of the 2023 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2024 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a fuel deal for each round they enter.

Elliot Payne is the recipient of the 2022 end of season prize for the 2023 championship

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: Bronze Star 1400's/Rally First: **Luke Watts**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Neil Andrew**

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.**

ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATION

On the Nicky Grist Stages it will be Ian Arden, Nic Quinlan-Hull, the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Nicky Grist Stages – 8th July

Entries are still open the event returns to the centre of Built Wells with Service in the Town, using the classic stages up on the Military Ranges and Crychan Forest. The seeded entry list will be published on Monday 3rd July with entries finally closing on Wednesday 5th July. Further details can be found at nickygriststages.co.uk

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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 and the Motorsport UK 2023 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.

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 or the Championship representatives at each of the qualifying events in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series.

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 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.

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