



# CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 9/11

## THE 2011 GOLD STAR FINALE

Now, where were we? Oh, yes - North Wales and the Cambrian Rally.



Apart from Andy Burton/Robin Kellard, only Hugh Hunter/Andy Marchbank and Charlie Payne/Craig Thorley have achieved maximum Gold Star scores so far this year, and both took the start in their respective Focus WRCs in Llandudno. Past Cambrian winner Hunter was out in a left-hooker for the first time for a number of years but FTD on the third stage of the day was ample proof that he was already back in the groove. Unfortunately, all the effort was undone on the very next stage when contact with a stout gatepost put the former Gold Star Champions on the list of retirements. David Wright / Michael Wilkinson did not even that far when a broken driveshaft on SS1 spelt the end of their event.

Meanwhile, Payne/Thorley started on the wrong tyres and paid the price in terms of relatively disappointing early stage times by their high standards. In contrast they set the FTDs on each of the two Great Orme stages which saw them climb back to 3rd overall on the day, a result which moved them into the final podium spot in the Gold Star Championship behind the absent Roger Chilman/Andrew Sankey and at the expense of Jamie Anderson/Ella Flynn who were 5th overall in North Wales and the highest placed



Shaun Gardener

N4 car. This result was the culmination of an excellent season for Jamie and Ella who were the only crew in the final Gold Star Top Ten to have finished all eight events.

The battle for the event was another nail biting affair reminiscent of many Gold Star events this year. Stage 1 on the Cambrian was 7.1 miles of Penmachno South and Gardener, Cave & Burton all set a time of 7m.24s! With the departure of Burton on SS2, the battle for the Cambrian Rally win and maximum Gold Star points was between Shaun Gardener/Ben Innes in their Lancer Evo 5.9 and Tom Cave / Craig Parry in a rarely seen Lancer WRC car. Gardener was faster on SS2 and SS4, Cave faster on SS3 and SS5 leaving Shaun with a slender 6 second lead to defend. They were tied again on SS6, both with a time of 5.18sec and also on SS7 with a time of 2.49. So going into the final stage round the Great Orme, Shaun still held a 6 second lead which he managed to extend by a further 3 seconds to take the victory.... This was Shaun and Bens first BTRDA win since the Woodpecker back in 2008 and at the finish Gardener announced his intention to mount a full attack on the 2012 Gold Star Championship - bring it on!...

#### BURTON GOES OUT WITH A BANG - LITERALLY!

Although Andy Burton's last season in his Peugeot Cosworth had brought him and co-driver Robin Kellard the Silverstone Tyres BTRDA Gold Star Rally Championship title with two rounds to spare, the crew had vowed to support the series through to the finale in North Wales on the Cambrian Rally. Now Burton's run of results - five maximums and two third places - had not been without their problems. The car's clutch, gearbox and, indeed, the engine itself had been the source of intense scrutiny at various service areas around the UK as the season progressed. However, 'all good things....' as the saying goes - and come to an end they did on the second stage of the Cambrian in Penmachno when a broken crankshaft created havoc in the Cosworth engine. Nevertheless it's worked hard this year so we think it can be forgiven.



Jamie Anderson

### END of an ERA - THANKS to SILVERSTONE TYRES and SERVICE & SPORT



Silverstone Competition Tyres of Malaysia and their UK distributor Service & Sport have been generous sponsors of the BTRDA Rally Series for the past seven years. To have received such long term supporter has been extremely valuable and provided the financial stability that has enabled the BTRDA Rally Series Championship to develop and flourish. We are extremely grateful to them.

*Service  
Sport &*

## SILVER STAR - WARREN HANGS ON TO SECOND - JUST

Having led the Silverstone Tyres BTRDA Silver Star Championship for several months during the season, Warren Philliskirk/Matt Whattam not only had to swallow the bitter pill of being relegated by Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine who claimed the title on the Woodpecker, but they were also left sweating on second place which could have been taken from them by Terry Brown. In the event, they hung on to the runners-up spot but, as both Philliskirk and Brown finished on exactly the same scores, the tie-break rules had to be invoked. Warren's two second-place scores at the beginning of the season gave him the nod, with Terry 3rd place. Even then, following his maximum score on the Cambrian, the final analysis showed Boyd Kershaw only one point adrift of the pair of them. Nail-biting stuff!

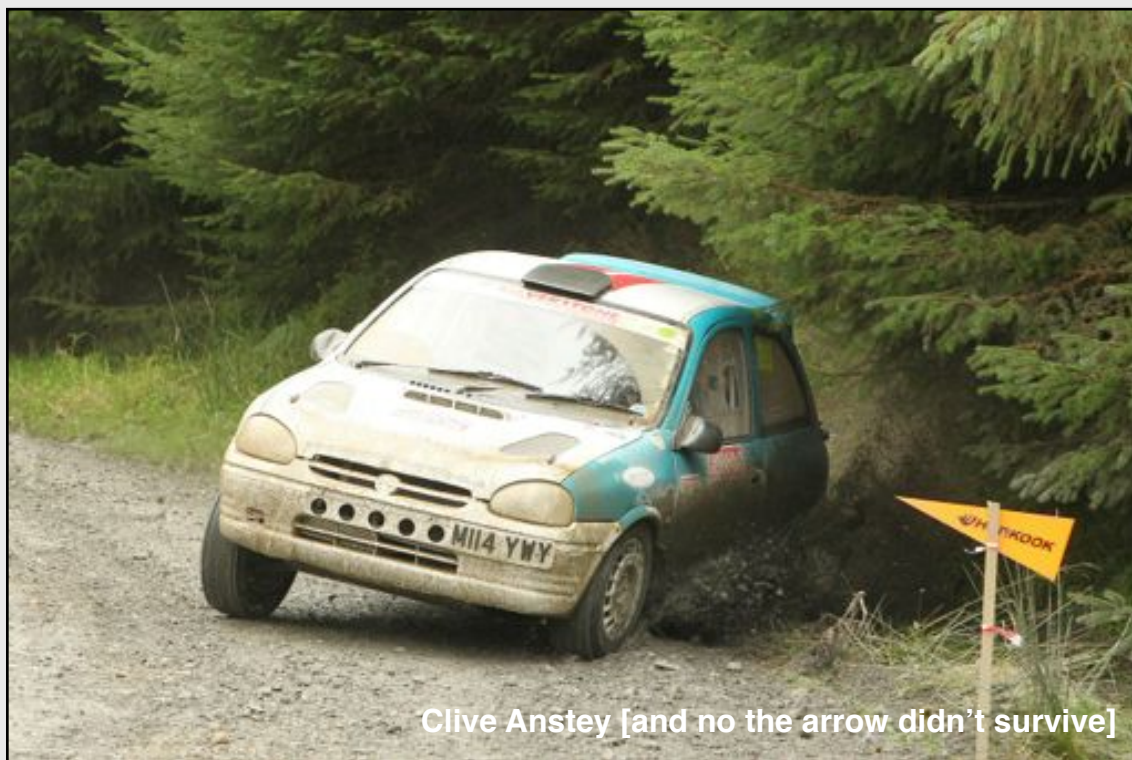
It is also worth pointing out that Philliskirk started and finished all eight events, Brown did likewise on the seven he contested and Kershaw and fifth-placed Matt Beebe both scored eight out of eight. We've said on numerous occasions in the past that consistency plays a vital part in Championships - OK, so does winning but running a car that keeps finishing gives you the confidence to push that extra bit harder when it is deemed necessary!

The Silver Star Championship has experienced something of a renaissance in 2011 - 40 drivers scored points at some time during the season and none of the Top Ten finishers started less than five rounds...



Boyd Kershaw





Clive Anstey [and no the arrow didn't survive]

The Millers Oils BTRDA 1400 Championship has, once again, provided thrills and spills, not to mention plenty of action, throughout the season. Having had to give best to Matt Edwards after a gargantuan fight in 2010, Darren Pinchin returned to complete what in his eyes was some unfinished business and claim the title at the earliest possible opportunity. Maximum scores on each of the first three rounds put everyone else on the back foot, but Clive Anstey, Kieran Darrington and Justin Lawson have all had maximum scores on events and should be applauded for keeping him honest throughout the season. Darren's absence from the points scores on the final couple of events tells us that he is already preparing for the defence of his title next year. Be warned!..

### WATTS GOING ON? - IT'S GIRLS ON TOP!

Now then, you'll have heard it said that rallying is a male-dominated sport and, whilst not wishing to get into an in-depth discussion as to the reasons, a glance at just the 1400 Co-drivers' points table reads thus : 1. Karen Watts 176; 2. Karen Robinson 162; 3. Pam Hilton 154.

KW has contested all eight events and her best six scores are four maximums and two 2nd places, PH finished all six events she started and then, having scored on each of the first six events, KR adopted a novel approach on the Cambrian by hiring a Nissan Micra and swapping places with her driver, Marcel. Sadly, the experiment only lasted about 3 miles, (rolled and ended up down a bank), but well done for trying!

### **BTRDA RALLY FIRST - HELLINGS HITS THE PODIUM**

BTRDA Rally First had a rather low key finish to the year with Chris Hellings securing the 3<sup>rd</sup> podium position in the drivers' Championship ahead of Roy Gravestock. However it was very encouraging to see the number of new Rally First cars on the event which bodes well for another competitive year in 2012. (Champion driver Ashley Slights is busy building a new car to contest the 1400 Championship in 2012)



## BTRDA / VITAL EQUIPMENT £30 FUEL VOUCHERS



The eighth and final group of recipients of the £30 Fuel Vouchers were selected at random prior to the Cambrian Rally.

Two competitors are chosen from the Gold Star, Silver Star, 1400's and Rally First categories. This will mean that this year £1,920 has been handed out in product vouchers to competitors and those that have received them will have been able to benefit from the safety and ease that comes from refuelling at the Vital Equipment facility.

The eight lucky winners were:

Shaun Gardner, David Wright, Boyd Kershaw, Barry Jordan, Justin Lawson, Kieran Darrington, Chris Hellings, Jon Payton.

## MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME



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

**Best Improvement on Start Number in GS / SS Championships: Matt Beebe [MG ZR160]**

**Best Improvement on Start Number in Millers 1400 / MG / RF: Martin Shaw [Escort 1400]**

Alan Brown from Questmead can be found in the service area at most events to claim your rewards and to contact him in advance to arrange the required product please call Alan on 01706 860088.

### BRIEF OUTLINE of 2012

2012 will be the 59<sup>th</sup> year of the BTRDA Rally championships. The provisional calendar will be:-

EVENT	DATE	RALLY HQ	STAGE venues include
Wyedean Rally*	11th February	Chepstow	Speech House, Sallowvallets
Malcolm Wilson Rally*	3rd March	Cockermouth	Grizedale, Greystoke, Comb
Somerset Stages*	21st April	Minehead	Croydon Hill, Porlock
Plains Rally	19th May	Welshpool	Dyfi, Garthieniog, Hafren
Dukeries Rally*	9th June	Southwell	Sherwood Forest, Clipstone
Nicky Grist Quinton Stages	14th July	Builth Wells	Crychan, Halfway, Route 60
Woodpecker Stages*	1st September	Ludlow	Haye Park, Radnor
Cambrian Rally	20th October	Llandudno	Clocaenog, Penmachno

\* These events will also be part of the **SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship** which will also include the Trackrod (29th September) and the Tempest 2 Rally (3rd November)

We are in advanced negotiations with a new title sponsor for the BTRDA Rally Series and we will be making a very positive announcement in early November. However this does not mean that we have ended our search for additional sponsors so if anyone has any contacts or wishes to become involved with supporting the BTRDA Rally Series then please contact us; we would be very happy to discuss the various options.

Each year we look at the various classes and categories in order to ensure that they continue to provide the best opportunities and incentive for the maximum number of competitors to participate in UK forest rallying.

We will not be making huge structural changes for 2012 of the BTRDA Rally Series package [Gold Star, Silver Star, 1400's, Rally First, Historic Cup and MG ZR Challenge]. All cars participating in the 1400 championship, including BTRDA Rally First and the MG ZR's will have the opportunity to score points in the Millers 1400 Championship in addition to their own category. We will also be revising the classes in the Historic Cup to better reflect the range of cars that will hopefully be participating in 2012.

## ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

The 2011 Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation will take place on **Saturday 3rd December 2011** at the splendid surroundings of Moor Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, where we have previously enjoyed wonderful food and hospitality.

Silverstone Tyres and BTRDA will be providing many of the award winners with FREE tickets to the dinner (as per the respective Championship regulations). A list of all the 2011 BTRDA Rally Series award winners and those who are eligible for free tickets is published along with this Newsletter and is on the Championship website. A list of the award winners on the 2011 Swisher MSA English Rally Championship will be published as soon as possible after the Tempest 2 Rally.

The relevant forms for tickets and hotel accommodation are available for download from [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) so don't delay in sending in your form. You can complete it now and indicate if you believe you will be eligible for the free tickets after the final event. You should submit your order now and indicate if you believe you will be eligible for the free tickets. If you are one of the lucky recipients of a free ticket, you have until 30th October (13th November if it is an MSA English Championship award) to confirm your acceptance. After these dates, any tickets left unclaimed will be offered for general sale.

Tickets are disappearing quickly and there is a maximum limit of 200 people, so please do not delay in ordering your tickets.

Please note we have a new Dinner organiser, Beryl Gregg. She can be contacted through the following methods. Beryl Gregg, 43 Ludlow Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. WV16 5AH. Email: [bmgregg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bmgregg@tiscali.co.uk) Tel: 01746 769159 (h) 07779 436330 (m).

### AGX TEAM CHALLENGE



Mixed fortunes for competitors on the Cambrian Rally saw the final positions in the AGX Team Challenge change yet again, with the Yorkshire Mafia coming through to snatch the title and the £600 first prize. The Friends of the M6 take the runners up spot and will share a prize of £300 and with the advantage of a maximum score from the Easy as ABC team on the Cambrian it saw them take the third place prize of £150 on a tie decider.

The Final Table is:

1.	Yorkshire Mafia	Charlie Payne / Warren Philliskirk / Ashley Slight	167
2.	Friends of the M6	Tom Naughton / Allan McDowall / Justin Lawson	163
3.	Easy as ABC	Tom Cave / Dave Brick / Clive Anstey	158
4.	High Flyers	Paul Bird / Boyd Kershaw / Kieran Darrington	158
5.	Easterly Wind	Jamie Anderson / Jon Ross / Chris Hellings	156

The final scores of all the 21 teams in the AGX Team Challenge are now published in the Bulletins

We apologise that this final newsletter is not as full or as colourful as earlier editions. The newsletter contributors are currently fully occupied with other rally events, with preparations for the Annual Awards Dinner and planning for the 2012 season. We hope to be back to normal in the new year.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## JLT TEMPEST RALLY - 5TH NOVEMBER

The final round of the SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship is the JLT Tempest 2 Rally on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. As the name suggests this event is exclusively for 2 wheel drive cars and is an ideal finale for the SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship. Based at the Rushmoor Arena near Aldershot, this unique rally is located only 25 miles from the M25 to the South West of London and features 43 miles of gravel stages on both FC and Army land.

The Tempest Rally is split into a 2 wheel drive event and a 4 wheel drive event with each running the same stages but on a different time schedule to make the best use of the stages, the daylight hours and the marshalling resources. The route includes stages at Yateley Wood, Warren Heath and the Rushmoor Arena

live action stage adjacent to the Service Area which is ideal for sponsors and guests.

The latest SWISHER MSA English Rally Championship points can be viewed on the championship website [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) and more information, regulations and entry forms can be found on the JLT Tempest Rally web site at [www.tempestrally.com](http://www.tempestrally.com)

The Entries Secretary is Pam Guess, 8 Bethel Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0QA - Email: [pamgcharlie@aol.com](mailto:pamgcharlie@aol.com). Tel: 01252 727390 (before 21.00 hours) Fax: 01252 657959.



### **Final 2011 BTRDA Rally Series Points [For full list visit [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com)]**

The full list of Championship points and positions after the Cambrian Rally have already been published on the BTRDA Rally Championship website. If there are any queries they should be addressed to the Championship Co-ordinators as soon as possible because the 2011 BTRDA Rally Series points will go 'final' on the 23rd October.

<b>GOLD STAR</b>			<b>SILVER STAR</b>			<b>1400s</b>			<b>RALLY FIRST</b>		
1	Andy Burton	177	1	Allan McDowall	172	1	Darren Pinchin	173	1	Ashley Slights	150
2	Roger Chilman	164	2	Warren Philliskirk	158	2	Clive Anstey	168	2	David Town	143
3	Charlie Payne	163	3	Terry Brown	158	3	Kieran Darrington	167	3	Chris Hellings	141
4	Tom Cave	157	4	Boyd Kershaw	157	4	Euros Evans	119	4	Roy Gravestock	129
5	Jamie Anderson	150	5	Matt Beebe	147	5	Kris Farrell	116	5	Ian Arden	128

### Remaining Swisher MSA English Rally Championship Events

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Rally HQ</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tempest 2 Rally	5th November	Aldershot	Hampshire

**Awards Evening ~ 3rd December 2011 ~ Venue ~ Moor Hall, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham**

## CHAMPIONSHIP CONTACT DETAILS

BTRDA values any communications from competitors and therefore if you have any news, comments, questions or simply require advice we would like to hear from you.

### Championship Contacts

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### Championship Eligibility Scrutineers

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Twitter: @BTRDARally

Facebook: BTRDA Forest Rally Championships

## CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



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