

## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 2 - 2018

### Visit Conwy Cambrian RALLY

Before we start, some words of praise for the organisers of the Cambrian Rally who, after last year's disappointment of being forced to give in to the prevailing weather conditions almost as soon as the rally started, had picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and got on with the task of producing another event worthy of inclusion in the BTRDA Series - and, thankfully, this time the vagaries of the UK climate did not interrupt its progress! Thank you to all concerned...

### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

#### BIRD ON SONG IN NORTH WALES!...

Notwithstanding an absence of four years from the Cambrian Rally (he was 3<sup>rd</sup> on his last appearance in 2014), Paul Bird returned to North Wales to take 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and, more importantly, maximum points on the opening round of the 2018 Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship. Unlike a number of his fellow competitors, the Cumbrian driver (no, not Cambrian, Cumbrian - he's from Penrith!), accompanied by Jack Morton, has kept the faith with his Focus WRC and, in spite of an incorrect tyre choice for the final couple of stages, the partnership came up trumps.



Paul Bird/Jack Morton 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA Gold Star

Undoubtedly, 2017 Gold Star Champions Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson would have liked to kick off the defence of their title with a win but, nevertheless, a solid run in their Fiesta WRC saw them take the final podium spot, 24s behind Bird, and a good haul of points to boot! Late entry Osian Pryce in his Mitsubishi Mirage was just 4s adrift of Petch by close of play, with Fiestas filling the next three places. Marking a return to the BTRDA Series, Julian Reynolds proved that he is still a potent force at this level - he and Patrick Walsh led

former Cambrian winner Hugh Hunter, who had Manxman Rob Fagg along for the ride, and 2016 Gold Star Champion Charlie Payne and Ian Windress over the finish ramp in Llandudno, each setting off their new campaigns in fine style.

Dylan Davies/Llion Williams' Impreza took the B13 class win in 8<sup>th</sup> place, half a minute in front of the Escort Cosworth of Ian Joel/Graeme Wood, with the Top Ten being closed out by BTRDA Production Cup winners on the day, Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy.

In the case of Matt Edwards, his 'home' event (his dad is Clerk of the Course!) was definitely a case of what might have been! He set FTD on the opening seven-miler through Penmachno by a staggering 16s from Hunter but then in its haste, on the next stage, his Fiesta caught the end of a log which, in turn, broke a strut. Game over? Well, in terms of a good result, yes - but, in line with a new Blue Book regulation, once he'd sorted himself out, he was allowed to continue, albeit with major time penalties. So, having missed SS2/3, he went on to set fastest times on each of the final four stages to come home in 74<sup>th</sup> place out of the 75 finishers.....

Luke Francis/John H Roberts' move from their past Cambrian-winning Mitsubishi Lancer to a Fiesta WRC seemed to be going according to plan - they were lying 4<sup>th</sup> after SS4, but then everything went awry on the next when they removed a front wheel.... Even so, they fared somewhat better than Sacha Kakad/James Aldridge who had also joined the ranks of Fiesta owners for the new season but, unfortunately, their example suffered problems with its starter motor prior to the first stage and, consequently, was not to be used in anger...

There was a delay on the opening stage after Simon Rogers launched his Lancer EVO6 into the scenery at high speed - 'aerobatics' in his words, but he is full of apologies to those he held up and full of praise for

those involved in extricating him and taking him to Rhyl Hospital for a check-up. He was released later that day and promises to be back when - quote - 'he and the Mustard Missile are a bit better'....

### BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP

AS YOU WERE!

Following on from the close finish to last year's BTRDA Production Cup, the new season has started in a similar vein with the top two finishers a mere handful of seconds apart after 45 miles of stages! The Lancer EVO9s of Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy and defending champions Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence were the major players, especially after a returning Tom Naughton, with Will Rogers, had been forced to throw in the towel when his own EVO9 succumbed to mechanical issues on the fifth of the seven stages.

Thompson was fully 15s quicker than Naylor through the opener and, increasing his advantage by more modest amounts over the next few stages, inflicted damage to an extent that, even when Naylor hit back to take 11s out of his rival on the penultimate stage and a further four on the last one, the order still didn't change. Dan Moss/Sam Allen finished just outside the Top 20 to make it a Lancer 1-2-3 at this early stage in the proceedings, but all the signs are pointing to some exciting tussles as the season progresses....



Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA Production Cup

There's a definite Welsh bias to the upper echelons of the MRF Fiesta ST Trophy points table at this early stage of the contest! Zak Hughes (Welshpool)/Tom Wood (Cwmbran) took top honours first time out, ahead of James Giddings (Swansea)/Sion Cunniff (Gaerwen) and Calvin Green (Treorchy)/Osian Owen

(Rhyl). Of those not classified as finishers, the Tordoffs, Mathew & Tim, ended their day in a Stage 1 ditch, Brynmor Pierce took a wheel off his example on the next one, joining Martin Laverty/Phil Kenny who also didn't make SS3 and then Richard Wells ground to a halt with a broken driveshaft on SS5.

### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

ROWLANDS ESCORTS HIS BROTHER BACK TO LLANDUDNO!....

As predicted in our Cambrian Rally Preview, the Rowlands brothers took centre stage in the battle for Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points.



John Rowlands/Glenn Latham 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA Silver Star

In spite of a lucky escape at one point (and posted on YouTube for all the world to see!), John Rowlands/Glenn Latham won the two-wheel drive category outright with 15<sup>th</sup> overall in their Escort, while Ieuan and Emyr Hall were three places and exactly half-a-minute down in Barry Jordan's Avenger BRM to take 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, what we didn't see coming was the 1400cc Talbot Sunbeam of Chris Powell/Jim Lewis finishing between the Blaenau Ffestiniog brothers! 17<sup>th</sup> overall and a class win by nearly four minutes should fill the Hereford pair full of confidence for their assault on the 1400 Championship title...

Andy Davison/Tom Murphy are also pretty handy in their Talbot Sunbeam VXR, beating last year's Silver Star runners-up, Rob Dennis/Andy Boswell (Escort), by one place and one second! Then Owen McMackin/Lee Taylor, in another Escort, made Class B12 all their own, ahead of the similar car of former Silver Star Champions Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine.

Ieuan Rowlands/Emyr Hall also took their loaned Avenger to top BTRDA Historic Cup points, finishing ahead of Mr Jordan himself who, for his part and with some help from Paul Wakely, was next up in a Fiat 131 Abarth.

Among those who could have reasonably expected to feature in the results - but didn't! - were Nick Dobson/Steve Pugh who were left deflated after their Escort suffered two punctures and carried only one spare, and Richard Sykes/Simon Taylor whose hopes of getting their Citroen DS3 R3T back to Llandudno were dashed by a visit to a ditch in Penmachno North.

### BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP

FIESTA TIME!...

Heralding the launch of the new BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, nine drivers took up the challenge and, from them, the Fiestas of George Lepley/Tom Woodburn and Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams were first and second respectively. While George finished comfortably ahead of Bob, the third-placed Peugeot 208 of Jack Leese/Sam Spencer was a mere three seconds adrift.

Charlie Barlow/Emma Morrison continued the Fiesta dominance with 4<sup>th</sup> place, with like-minded Alex Waterman/Harry Thomas and Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan rounding off the Top Six.

There are two sides to every coin and, as such, both crews who failed to make the finish were also in Fiestas! Better luck next time to Jordan Reynolds, who had enlisted the services of 2016 Silver Star Champion Co-driver Caron Tomlinson for the event, and Roger Nevitt/Mike Smith....



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup

### BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNBEAM LIGHTS UP THE STAGES!...



Chris Powell/Jim Lewis 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA 1400 Championship

As mentioned in the Silver Star round-up, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis were certainly punching above their weight on the Cambrian in their Talbot Sunbeam. Of course, Top Twenty finishes on BTRDA Series events in 1400cc cars are not unheard of - who can forget Julian Wilkes' fabulous 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on the snowy 2012 Wydean in his Nova? However, with all due deference to Mr Wilkes, those were exceptional circumstances.... For Messrs Powell/Lewis, their mission - should they choose to accept it! - is to do everything within their power to maintain the Sunbeam's reliability. Last year, they started six rounds, from which the euphoria of a first and two seconds was muted by three retirements. Gentlemen, over to you.

Hefin Lloyd-Davies' Corsa was 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day, with Perry Gardner/Toby Brick (Nova) 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Brick family - dad Dave and brothers Freddy & Toby - have been staunch supporters of the 1400s over the years and it's good to see Toby upholding family honour into 2018. Pete Gorst/Phil King took 4<sup>th</sup>-placed points in another Nova, whilst Tommi Meadows will be another eternally grateful that the event was running to the new Blue Book regulation that allowed him to rejoin after an earlier problem. OK - he was classified last finisher in his Ford Ka but, nevertheless, he left Llandudno with a reasonable points haul to take to his next event.

### BTRDA RALLY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

JOHNSONS KEEP THEIR POWDER DRY!....

Sam & Liam Johnson emerged from the forests of North Wales to take victory on the opening round of this year's BTRDA Rally First Championship. Their Seat

Arosa finished ahead of the 2.0 litre VW Lupo of Matthew Baddeley/Shawn Hughes and the Nissan Micra of Owen McConochie/Rhodri Williams which, from looking at the results, you just feel had had one of those days it would rather forget. The same could probably be said for Richard Ingleby/Alex Booth who, having journeyed all the way up to Llandudno from Bridgwater and Hereford respectively with their MG ZR, suffered the indignity of retirement on SS3 with mechanical issues...



Sam & Liam Johnson 1<sup>st</sup> BTRDA Rally First Championship

*All photos courtesy of Kevin Money and Malcom Almond, Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series official photographers*

### **CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!**

A full list of all the **JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) These points will become final on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### **MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME**

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Sam Johnson** - Seat Arosa (RF1.4)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **James Giddings** - Ford Fiesta ST (N3)

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:**

#### **MALCOLM WILSON Rally - 3rd MARCH**

The Malcolm Wilson Rally is round 2 of the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and also round 1 of the 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Championship. For more info about the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship please see the item below....

The Malcolm Wilson Rally includes such iconic stages as Grizedale, Greystoke and Wythop. The event is based in the friendly town of Cocker mouth where scrutineering will take place on the Main Street. The event will start in the nearby M-Sport complex and the finish will be, as last year, within a few metres of Junction 40 of the M6 to help speed your journey home on Saturday evening. So, if you have not already done so, please submit your entries a.s.a.p. for this great event. Regulations and online entries can be found at [www.malcolmwilson.co.uk](http://www.malcolmwilson.co.uk)

The Rallynuts Stages Rally is round 3 of the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and we welcome back to the BTRDA Rally Series the Midland Manor Motor Club event. The event will be based in the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells and will be using stages in the Crychan Forest Complex and Radnor Forest. Regulations are due to be published at the end of this week and can be found at [www.rallynutsrally.co.uk](http://www.rallynutsrally.co.uk)

### **MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

For the 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship we have reverted to an all gravel format but as last year it will be open to all cars that comply with the MSA Safety and Technical Regulations. The 2018 Championship will include a selection of the best one-day forest events in England, with the addition of one Welsh event, the Nicky Grist Stages. A total of six events make up the Championship with the final round being the Wydean Stages in the Forest of Dean in November. Best 5 scores to count.

Event	Date	Location
Malcolm Wilson Rally	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Lake District
Carlisle Stages Rally	9 <sup>th</sup> June	Kielder Forest West
Nicky Grist Stages	14 <sup>th</sup> July	Mid Wales Forests
Woodpecker Stages	1 <sup>st</sup> September	Shropshire
Trackrod Forest Rally	29 <sup>th</sup> September	North Yorkshire
Wydean Stages Rally	10 <sup>th</sup> November	Forest of Dean

The Championship will be split into 8 championship classes with the scoring system reflecting achievement against other competitors in the same class.

- Class 1 BTRDA Rally First cars up to and including 1400cc and FIA R1A and N1
- Class 2 All cars up to 1400cc not eligible for class 1 and RF1.6 cars
- Class 3 Over 1400cc and up to and including 1600cc, including all FIA R2B cars
- Class 4 Over 1600cc and up and including to 2000cc
- Class 5 Over 2000cc 2 Wheel Drive
- Class 6 Current and former FIA Group N / NR4 cars over 2000cc
- Class 7 Over 2000cc 4 Wheel Drive
- Class 8 All WRC, RRC, R5 and S2000 cars and all derivatives

NB: The MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship registration is part of the 2018 BTRDA Rally Series and BTRDA membership package. More information about the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship can be found at [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk)

**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 MSA 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/btrda-fuel-order-form-30-w.asp](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/btrda-fuel-order-form-30-w.asp)

**DECALS:** Competitors are reminded that they **must** display the BTRDA Rally Series decals on every qualifying event to be eligible to score points in the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship. 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. Decals are available from the BTRDA desk at event signing on. NB: Not carrying a screen strip will also exclude the competitor from any film coverage. (Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car)

**LIVE RESULTS:** All events in the BTRDA Rally Series use the excellent Tynemouth Computer Services (TCS) to provide live event results. This is the most comprehensive and detailed results system currently operating and enables competitors, supporters and spectators to follow events via the live online web results service.

**SPECIAL STAGE filming:**

The popular coverage of the JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series by 'Special Stage' from all rounds of the championship will be shared on various platforms including Frontrunner TV and our BTRDA Rally Facebook page and BTRDA Rally Series website.

The coverage will try to include all categories / classes where it is practical to do so, in order to tell the story of the event and some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately.

In order to help Special Stage produce more informed programmes we encourage competitors to send information about their exploits to Special Stage ASAP after each event. This should be done online via the driver info page at [www.specialstage.co.uk/driver-info](http://www.specialstage.co.uk/driver-info)

**ON-EVENT TEAM:**

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