

CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 4 - 2018

Rallynuts Stages

KING EDWARDS ON THE BOIL!...

Having set several fastest times on the opening round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship in February, problems prevented Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod from translating their speed into a good result. However, following the enforced break in the season due to the cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally, they made no mistake on the Rallynuts Stages and, securing FTD in their Fiesta on all seven stages, there was only one possible outcome!

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

Taking their maiden Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series victory, Edwards/Garrod arrived back at the Royal Welsh Showground, in Builth Wells, forty seconds ahead of runners-up Luke Francis/John H Roberts - the North Walians mighty relieved to have opened their account after a DNF on the Cambrian Rally. The final podium spot went to Paul Bird/Jack Morton (Ford Focus WRC) which was sufficient to maintain the lead in their respective Rally Series points tables.



1st overall Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod

Hugh Hunter/Rob Fagg put in another solid performance to take 4th, 7s behind 3rd but just one in front of defending BTRDA Gold Star Champions Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson! Julian Reynolds/Patrick Walsh weren't far behind either - such was the closeness of the competition that a mere 14s separated 3rd from 6th!

And still the Fiestas kept coming! Charlie Payne, reunited with his 2016 BTRDA Gold Star-winning co-driver Carl Williamson, and Martyn & Dawn England also took Top Ten finishes on an event where the highest-seeded retirement had started at No.17!

For the second event running Dylan Davies/Llion Williams took the honours in Class B13. Their Impreza squeezed into the Top Ten, half-a-minute in front of the Escort Cosworth of Ian Joel/Graeme Wood.



2nd Overall Luke Francis/John H Roberts

Always a popular and well-run event, Midland Manor MC's Rallynuts Stages (or 'Severn Valley' for those with longer memories!) took its place in the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series calendar for the first time since 1989. Moving from its traditional June date, combined with its re-alliance to the BTRDA, had a positive effect on entries and 124 crews left Builth on the Saturday morning. In a year when April 'showers' seem to have been particularly prevalent across the UK, the rally was blessed with fine weather and the team manning the final control dealt with exactly 100 cars.

BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP

THOMPSON'S TWIN VICTORIES!

Arriving in Mid Wales as leaders of the BTRDA Production Cup®, Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy were able to consolidate and, indeed, strengthen their position by running out ahead of the opposition in their Lancer EVO9 for a second time. Following a DNF on the Cambrian, a returning Tom Naughton, with Will Rogers pointing the way, was next up, with Dan Moss/Sam Allen taking a Top Twenty finish to make it a Lancer 1-2-3.



1st Production Cup Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy

Mentioned above was the fact that the highest-seeded non-finisher had left the Showground at No.17 - unfortunately, defending Production Cup Champions Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence were back there considerably earlier than planned when, after about ½ mile of the opening stage, their EVO9's transfer box decided it didn't want to be next to the gearbox anymore. So, they now have some catching-up to do but will, no doubt, be heartened with the knowledge that they weren't confirmed as last year's winners right up until the final round!

Having finished runners-up in the Fiesta ST Trophy on the Cambrian, James Giddings/Sion Cunniff went one better this time, finishing a minute ahead of Calvin Green/Osian Owen's example. Leaders prior to the start of the Rallynuts Stages, Zak Hughes/Tom Wood, managed five stages before succumbing to problems with their ST's radiator, but we're not party to who or what was at fault....



1st MRF Fiesta ST Trophy James Giddings/Sion Cunniff

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

DENNIS DOMINANT!

Rob Dennis/Andy Boswell took their 2-litre Escort to maximum Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Rally Championship points as they seek to go one better than the runners-up spot in which they finished 2017. For the second event running, they managed to keep Owen McMackin/Lee Taylor's bigger-engined car at bay - but not by much! - and now top the table ahead of their rivals, but it's all very close!



1st Silver Star Rob Dennis/Andy Boswell

George Lepley/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta R2) took 3rd on the day, ahead of former Silver Star Champions Allan McDowall/Gavin Heseltine in another Escort.

Richard Sykes/Simon Taylor must be wondering just what they need to do to get their Citroen DS3 R3T to the finish of a BTRDA Rally Series event. Their trip to Built Wells ended with a second consecutive retirement

while one of the 'stars' of the Cambrian, the 1400cc Talbot Sunbeam of Chris Powell/Jim Lewis, also threw a wobbly and didn't make the end of SS4.

BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP LEPLEY LEAPS AHEAD!

George Lepley/Tom Woodburn's Top Three place in the Silver Star Championship on the Rallynuts Stages also saw them take top honours in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup - for the second consecutive time. They obviously have their eyes on the free entry to Wales Rally GB through the 'Road to Wales' scheme, but they'll not need reminding that there's still a long way to go until the award is made after the Woodpecker Stages at the beginning of September!



1st Rallye R2 Cup George Lepley/Tom Woodburn

In a reversal of fortunes from the opening encounter, Jack Leese took 2nd place in the R2 Cup from Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams' Fiesta, with Tony Simpson 4th.

Jordan Reynolds/Peredur Wyn Davies' (Ford Fiesta R2) reason for retirement is listed as 'Overheating' - we're left to assume it was the car, rather than them personally!...

BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

WALL-TO-WALL BRICKS!...

Dave Brick has returned to the BTRDA 1400 Championship® for the first time this year and, immediately putting aside any thoughts of a lack of match-fitness, was in excellent form on the Rallynuts Stages. With son Toby strapped - hopefully, very tightly! - into the co-driver's seat of their Corsa, Dave completed the seven stages to win the category by three-and-a-half minutes from his nearest rival!



1st BTRDA 1400 Dave Brick/Toby Brick

A couple of points before we go any further - a) although the Bricks were obviously 'on it', on the three stages they completed, Chris Powell/Jim Lewis were quicker still in their Talbot Sunbeam and b) 2nd on the day was Kieran Darrington who was venturing on to the stages for the first time for twelve months, having not competed seriously since 2015. He and Simon Jones also put their faith in a Corsa and should be well pleased with their efforts.

Stuart Spyer/Peter Williams, in yet another Corsa, were next, just managing to keep the Escort of Richard Cole at bay.

Tommi Meadows caught fire on the opening stage - at least his Ka did! - and joining him on the retirement list were Pete Gorst/Phil King whose Corsa snapped a tie rod.

So, in true 'Pick of the Pops' fashion, straight into the 1400 Charts at No.3 is Dave Brick, down one to 2 is Chris Powell and, for the first time, at No.1 is Perry Gardener!...

BTRDA HISTORIC CUP

ERNIE'S PREMIUM SCORE!...

Ernie Graham & Robin Kellard took their Escort RS1600 to its second maximum score of the season on the Rallynuts Stages to consolidate their lead in the category. The Escorts of Jeremy Wells and Jonathan Brace were 2nd & 3rd respectively, while Tom Coughtrie's long trip down from Ayr was made all-the more worthwhile as his Mitsubishi Galant VR4 made it two-wins-out-of-two in the four-wheel drive class.

At least Steve Ward/Mike Crawford were a little nearer home when they were forced to retire when their Escort developed a fuel leak on the penultimate stage of the day.



1st Historic Cup Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard

BTRDA RALLY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

PUMA ON THE PROWL!....

M-Sport's Business Development Manager Andrew Wheatley is not what you'd call a regular performer in the BTRDA Rally First® Championship but, when he does find the time to compete, he does his best to make it count - it must be good for business! Andrew's Ford Puma took victory on the Rallynuts Stages, eclipsing last

year's Championship winners, Bart Lang/Sinclair Young, whose Nissan Micra was a handful of seconds adrift by the finish.



1st Rally First Andrew Wheatley/Ian Nicols

Owen McConochie/Rhodri Williams (Nissan Micra) retain their series lead after two rounds while, in the RF2.0 category, the Toyota Corollas of Matt Baddeley & Guy Butler/Calvin Houldsworth finished one place and 15 seconds apart. Two maximums see to it that Baddeley is the current 'King of the Castle', while Butler will just be pleased to get his first finish of the season under his belt.

Richard Ingleby/Alex Booth's attempts to put their season back on track after retiring from the Cambrian came to nought when their MG ZR was diagnosed with head gasket failure at first service.

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 Rallynuts Stages Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com These points will become **final on Monday 30th April**.

NB: Following the unfortunate cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally in March, the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series will now consist of SEVEN rounds with the best FIVE scores to count and the 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship will now consist of FIVE events with the best FOUR scores to count.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Andrew Wheatley** – Ford Puma (RF1.4)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Ron Hall** - Subaru Impreza (NR4)

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:

PLAINS RALLY – 12th MAY

The Plains Rally is now round 3 of the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally and is based at Welshpool. The event will be using long stages in Dyfnant and in Gartheiniog. Both these venues are classic rally stages and Dyfnant has not been used for club rallying for some time having been the exclusive preserve of Wales Rally GB over the last few years. 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.plainsrally.co.uk

ATL CARLISLE STAGES – 9th JUNE

The ATL Carlisle Stages is designed to be a great day's sport in some classic forests with a compact route. The route contains 44 stage miles in Kershope and Newcastleton forests on the western side of Kielder with just 110 road miles. The event will be based at the premises of the H & H Auctions, at Carlisle just off junction 43 of the M6. The venue will host documentation, scrutineering, service area and overnight parking. Online entries are now open at <http://racmc.org/carlisle-stages/home>

MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

RECALCULATING!...

Following the enforced cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally, the original opening round of this year's MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship, attention now focuses on the ATL Transport Carlisle Stages on 9th June - and, if snow forces the postponement of this one, those sceptical about the concept of global warming will have plenty to discuss!...

Seriously, the 'Beast from the East' has necessitated a re-jig of the calendar and we're now looking at a five-round series, with everyone's four best scores to count. Starting in Carlisle, the action in an all-gravel format then moves to the Quinton Motor Club-promoted Nicky Grist Stages six weeks later. After a similar gap, the Woodpecker Stages will welcome contenders to Ludlow Racecourse for some of the famous Marches special stages. The North York Moors play host to the penultimate round, the Trackrod Forest Rally, at the end of September before the finale, the Wydean Stages, takes everyone to the picturesque Forest of Dean on 10th November.

| Event | Date | Location |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Carlisle Stages Rally | 9 th June | Kielder Forest West |
| Nicky Grist Stages | 14 th July | Mid Wales Forests |
| Woodpecker Stages | 1 st September | Shropshire |
| Trackrod Forest Rally | 29 th September | North Yorkshire |
| Wydean Stages Rally | 10 th 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

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

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

ON-EVENT TEAM:

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