

CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 8 - 2018

EVENTSIGNS WOODPECKER STAGES

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

RED CARPET FOR MATT!...

Having already taken victory on the Rallynuts Stages, Plains and Nicky Grist Stages Rallies and finished 2nd on the Carlisle Stages, Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod required just one more good score from the remaining two rounds of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series to claim the coveted Gold Star® Championship title for themselves. So, another outright win, this time on the Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages, the penultimate event in the 2018 calendar, put the matter beyond doubt.....

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP



Matt Edwards/Darren Garrod 1st overall

Edwards/Garrod's Fiesta won the Ludlow Racecourse-based event by exactly half-a-minute from Luke Francis/John H Roberts whose Melvyn Evans-prepared WRC car was also taking its fourth runners-up spot of the season. With one stage to go, the difference had been a full minute, but a puncture in Cwm Y Gerwyn had served to halve the Champions' lead - fortunately, it didn't matter!... Outgoing Gold Star Champions Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson were 3rd on the day and, although the result moves them up to 2nd in the Gold Star table, they now find themselves pitted against Francis/Roberts for the position on the final round at the end of the month.

Martyn & Dawn England's Fiesta R5+ was 4th, but any thoughts of a good result on the Woodpecker that Hugh Hunter/Rob Fagg harboured were dashed on the opening stage when their Fiesta suffered terminal engine problems.

In spite of clouting a large rock at the end of the opening stage, Class B13 leaders prior to the Woodpecker Stages Ian Joel/Graeme Wood still set 6th fastest time in their hitherto pristine Escort Cosworth. However, rear suspension damage had been sustained such that they were forced to call it a day. Dylan Davies/Lion Williams' excellent 5th overall gave their Impreza the B13 win - its third of the season - to put it in with a shout of a possible podium finish, although their absence from a couple of rounds, plus a retirement on the Nicky Grist, leaves an outright class win out of reach.



Luke Francis/John H Roberts 2nd Overall

Joel/Wood's retirement has allowed Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Mitsubishi Lancer EVO9) and the Impreza of Lee & Craig Burgess to nip ahead of them but, with a score in hand over their rivals, Joel/Wood could wrest the lead back again in Yorkshire. So, there'll be a fair amount of jockeying for position before this one is put to bed!



Stephen Petch/Ian Windress 3rd overall

BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP®

NAYLOR WINS THE BATTLE - BUT NOT THE WAR!...

Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy will be breathing a sigh of relief that they'd already clinched the BTRDA Production Cup® on the Nicky Grist Stages in July, as their Lancer EVO9 succumbed to gearbox failure on the fourth of the seven Woodpecker stages, ensuring that they took no further part in the proceedings. Season-long rivals - and former Production Cup winners themselves - Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence brought their own Lancer home in 6th place overall to take top marks and ensure that runners-up spot in the Cup was safe.



Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence 6th overall 1st Production Cup

Top dogs in the MRF Fiesta ST Trophy on the Woodpecker Stages, James Giddings/Sion Cuniff, retain their series lead, with Ewan Tindall/Paul Hudson finishing a mere one second in arrears. The Tordoffs, Mat & Tim, were 3rd on the day but are still 2nd in the table. However, it could have been so much different if Zak Hughes / Tom Wood, who had set fastest Fiesta ST Trophy times throughout the event, had been able to get back to Ludlow Racecourse. With all the stages completed, the car cut out leaving the final stage and

refused to restart. Sadly, by the time it was running again they were OTL.

So off to the final round in Yorkshire where both the leading crews will need to keep a wary eye out for young Tindall who - with a score in hand and all the usual caveats! - could just have pushed both crews down a place by the finish of the Trackrod....

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

GEORGE AT THE DOUBLE!....



George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 1st Silver Star & Rallye R2 Cup

As the season has worn on, the fortunes of the Jordan Road Surfacing Silver Star® Championship and the inaugural BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup have become more and more entwined - basically down to the efforts of one particular crew! Having secured the R2 Cup, and the prize-drive on the forthcoming National section of Wales Rally GB, after taking their Fiesta to its fifth consecutive maximum score on the Nicky Grist Stages, George Lepley/Tom Woodburn also found themselves in the lead of the Silver Star Championship. Without any R2 Cup constraints to worry about, they'd made it perfectly clear that they viewed the Woodpecker as their chance to clinch a second title but, prior to the start, they weren't alone in their objective. Although they'd retired on the Nicky Grist Stages, Rob Dennis/Andy Boswell (Escort MkII) still posed a threat to Lepley/Woodburn's plan....

Carrying on where they left off in July, Lepley/Woodburn came home in 15th place overall to take 1. a class win, 2. their sixth consecutive maximum score in the R2 Cup, 3. maximum points in the BTRDA Silver Star Championship, 4. clinch the Silver Star title - the first time that a front-wheel drive car has won it for

more than a decade! - and 5. waltz off with the BTRDA Junior Driver & Co-driver trophies after another fine array of maximum scores. Indeed, if it hadn't been for Tommi Meadows who claimed top billing on the Carlisle Stages, once again it would have been a complete whitewash! OK, boys - you can go and lie down now....



Andy Davison/Tom Murphy 2nd Silver Star

But what of the others? Andy Davison/Tom Murphy's rapid (well, it is with them in it!) Talbot Sunbeam VXR was only a handful of seconds behind the winners, with Nicky Grist victors Max Utting/Mike Ainsworth (Fiesta ST Max) also in very close attendance. Nick Dobson/Steve Pugh (Escort) were one place and a few seconds back, while Bob Vardy/Keaton Williams' Fiesta took 2nd R2 points for the third time this season. Other R2 Cup scorers included Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan (Fiesta) and Ryan Blandford/Chris Dove (Citroen C2R2), but Roger Nevitt's attempts to join them ended when his Fiesta broke its suspension on the third stage.

As far as Dennis/Boswell were concerned, both they and their Escort were in the wars! The car slid sideways into a bank at speed in Hays Park and, in addition to some body damage, sustained a puncture. They stopped, changed the offending wheel and carried on - probably because of the adrenalin that was pumping through their bodies, they thought nothing of it, apart from annoyance at the time loss. However, they both soon began to feel rather unwell, such that they were forced to call on the medics to have a look at them. Rib damage in both cases was suspected but, whatever, their challenge for the 2018 BTRDA Silver Star Championship was at an end. Here's to a speedy recovery, chaps!...



Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard 1st Historic

Ernie Graham/Robin Kellard clinched the BTRDA Historic Cup[®] with another maximum score - their fifth which means their Escort will complete their season with a full house, putting it just out of reach of the Hillman Avenger of series sponsor Barry Jordan and co-driver Paul Wakely which also won its class on the Woodpecker. The Escorts of Jonathan Brace and Steve Ward weren't far behind Jordan but, with each only registering their second finish of the season, neither is in a position to worry him in Championship terms. However, somebody who is - Tom Coughtrie - took his Mitsubishi Galant VR4 to a class win and could, conceivably, demote Barry to 3rd in Yorkshire and, so, you couldn't blame him for trying, could you?....



Barry Jordan/Paul Wakely 1st H1/2

BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP®

BRICK LAYS DOWN THE GAUNTLET!...

Ludlow's Dave Brick, co-driven by son Toby, took his Nova to a category win on the Woodpecker to set up a grandstand finish in Yorkshire with Chris Powell/Jim Lewis who retired their Sunbeam on the second stage of the day. The Bricks currently lead their respective points tables but, were Powell/Lewis to take a maximum on the Trackrod and the Bricks not score, the two drivers would finish on equal points, with Powell getting the nod by dint of a greater number of maximums! No pressure, then....

Tommi Meadows/Emma Morrison (Ford Ka) finished 2nd 1400, ahead of the Corsa of Freddy Brick (that name again!). Unfortunately, the event did not look kindly on a number of 1400 runners, with Steve Black (Suzuki Swift), Kieran Darrington, Stuart Spyer & Chris Bush (Corsas), Perry Gardener, Nigel Jenkins & Pete Gorst (Novas) and Richard Cole (Escort) all joining the list of retirements at some point during the day.

BTRDA RALLY FIRST® CHAMPIONSHIP

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A SEAT - BUT THE OTHERS ARE TOYOTAS!....

Sam & Liam Johnson (Seat Arosa) finished top BTRDA Rally First® Championship contenders on the Woodpecker and their third maximum of the season puts them in range of the Toyota Corolla T Sports of team-mates Guy Butler and Matt Baddeley. Guy led Matt back into Ludlow and the two now find themselves on identical points at the top of the table. So, we have a three-way fight to look forward to on the Trackrod Forest Stages....

Wesley Gilford finished 3rd in class, behind the Toyotas, in his Fiesta ST, moving him up to 5th in the Championship table.



Sam & Liam Johnson 1st Rally First

MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!...

The MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship is now in full swing - the Woodpecker was Round 4 and the situation at the top is extremely tight! A graphic illustration of the strength and depth of competition would focus on Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) who started the Woodpecker as series leaders but, following their aforementioned demise, actually dropped ten places in the points table!

Maximum points scorers in their respective classes were George Lepley/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta), Dave & Toby Brick (Nova), Andy Davison/Tom Murphy (Talbot Sunbeam VXR) and Dylan Davies/Llion Williams (Impreza). So, taking Joel/Wood's place at the top are the ubiquitous Lepley/Woodburn who have the narrowest of margins - one point! - over Matt Edwards (Fiesta), himself a mere two points in front of Tommi Meadows (Ka). Ernie Graham (Escort MkII) is another single point adrift in 4th place, with Dave Brick and Matthew Hirst (Lancer EVO9) rounding off the Top Six.

Unlike the BTRDA Series, following the Trackrod Forest Stages, the MAXXIS English Championship still has the Wydean Stages, in early November, to go before everything is declared final. Surely, there'll be some badly-bitten fingernails by then!

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 Woodpecker Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise the latest points in the 2018 **MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship** can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk These points will become final on Saturday 15th September.

Note: Following the cancellation of the Malcolm Wilson Rally due to the severe weather conditions in March, the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series will consist of SEVEN rounds with the best FIVE scores to count. The 2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship will now consist of FIVE events with the best FOUR scores to count.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Matt Edwards and Darren Garrod who have won the 59th BTRDA Gold Star Championship. The BTRDA Rally Series has been something of a project for Matt who first started with BTRDA in 2004 with a 1300 Astra. He went on to become the BTRDA 1400 Champion in 2010 with Sam Collis in a MG ZR and has now finally some 50+ events later has achieved the Gold Star title. Hopefully Matt and Darren will go on to also take the BRC title on Wales Rally next month.

George Lepley and Tom Woodburn who with another excellent performance (how many times have we said that this year!) on the Woodpecker Stages have won the BTRDA Silver Star ahead of many more experienced crews. We are sure that George is also the youngest ever Silver Star Rally Champion and fittingly he has also secured the BTRDA Junior driver title.

Ernie Graham and Robin Kellard (Escort Mk2) who have won the **BTRDA Historic Cup** this year, and the AC de Monaco Trophy, with a series of exceptional performances.

However, there is still the matter of the Trackrod Forest Stages on 29th September to settle all the championship points / places in the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Woodpecker Stages, 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: **Geoff Phelps - Ford Escort Mk2** (B11)

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:

TRACKROD FOREST STAGES - 29th SEPTEMBER

The **Trackrod Forest Rally** is the final round of the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and the penultimate round of the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship. Rally HQ will again be based in Filey with Scrutineering and Documentation on the Friday and the Finish on the seafront on Saturday afternoon. The Start and the Service Area will be within the forest complex, thus ensuring low road mileage. The organisers have confirmed that they will be providing 45 stage miles of **all single use stages** in the Yorkshire Forests. More information at www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk

WYEDEAN STAGES RALLY - 10th NOVEMBER

The Winner Garage SKODA Wyedean Stages Rally will be the final round of the **2018 MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship**. Regulations are not yet published but we know that the event will be based at Vantage Point Business Village in Mitcheldean in the heart of the Forest of Dean which means that they can provide a very compact route. More information at www.wyedeanstages.co.uk

2017 AWARD Winners....yes 2017 !

If you have any BTRDA trophies from the 2017 Rally Championships you can return them to the BTRDA desk at the Trackrod Forest Rally. Otherwise please arrange for their safe return to our Trophies Officer Jon Ballinger. Email: jonandshirl@tarenig.co.uk Tel: 01568 797293

2018 AWARDS PRESENTATIONS - Date for your diary.

We can now confirm that the Awards Presentations for the 2018 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and the MAXXIS MSA English Rally Championship will be held on **Saturday 12th January 2019** in the function suite at the Drayton Manor Hotel near Tamworth. More details in due course.

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 BTRDA Rally Series 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:

<p>COMPETITOR LIAISON OFFICER Ian Arden: ian@btrdarally.com Mobile: 07917 355169</p>	<p>OTHER BTRDA CONTACTS:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="525 1420 804 1525"> <p>Gill Cotton: gill@btrdarally.com Mobile: 07980 810730</p> </td> <td data-bbox="804 1420 1187 1487"> <p>Norman Robertson: norman@btrdarally.com</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1187 1420 1532 1487"> <p>Howard Wilcock: howard@btrdarally.com</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Gill Cotton: gill@btrdarally.com Mobile: 07980 810730</p>	<p>Norman Robertson: norman@btrdarally.com</p>	<p>Howard Wilcock: howard@btrdarally.com</p>
<p>Gill Cotton: gill@btrdarally.com Mobile: 07980 810730</p>	<p>Norman Robertson: norman@btrdarally.com</p>	<p>Howard Wilcock: howard@btrdarally.com</p>		

CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY SCRUTINEERS

<p>John Cooper: jcmstech@gmail.com Tel: 01208 863406 Mobile: 07702 240970</p>	<p>Dave Newton: daveynewton@msn.com Tel: 01633 672494 Mobile: 07814 595132</p>	<p>Geoff Doe: geoff@doemotorsport.com Tel: 01270 780356 Mobile: 07808 129663</p>	<p>Andrew Farrington: andrew.farrington@hotmail.co.uk</p>
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