

## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 8 - 2019

### EVENTSIGNS WOODPECKER STAGES

#### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

BRACE YOURSELVES - GEORGE HASN'T FINISHED YET!...

Having secured his second consecutive Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Silver Star® Championship crown on the Nicky Grist Stages in July, George Lepley's efforts had also put him into a possible podium finish in the Gold Star® Series as well. OK - Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton are the undisputed champions, but 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> are still to be decided. So...

The penultimate round of the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series was the Ludlow Racecourse-based Woodpecker Stages. The organisers had received a phenomenal entry of over 150 cars, among which was one from a certain G. Lepley in a B13 Mitsubishi Lancer EVOX. Seeded at No.15, one might have been forgiven for thinking that, in his first competitive outing in a 4WD car, George might take some time to settle in. Wrong!....

The Newark driver, with Tom Woodburn being treated to the fastest ride he's had for a while, was 4<sup>th</sup> after the opening stage with, in BTRDA terms, just the two Fiestas of Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson and Sam Bilham/Patrick Walsh ahead of him. SS2 saw Lepley stop the clock a second quicker than Petch, while Bilham was out of the running after tipping his car over. Equal fastest times on the next two stages put Lepley into top BTRDA spot, with an outright FTD on the final stage just to ram the point home!



1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star George Lepley & Tom Woodburn

It's ironic but, with dropped scores coming into play, Lepley actually ended the day further down the Gold Star table than when he started but, if he can produce a similar performance on the final round, runner-up spot is still within his grasp. Not to put too fine a point

on it, however, he won't be the only one focussing on that!...



Stephen Petch & Michael Wilkinson 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star

Petch/Wilkinson continued their fight back and, with two DNFs, unlike everyone ahead of them in the points who can only improve on their previous scores, they will be able to add all they can muster on the Trackrod. Pressure? Absolutely!...

Ian Bainbridge's debut on a BTRDA round in a Skoda Fabia R5 can be deemed a success - 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> place points giving the Darlington driver his first finish since the Cambrian in February. The Production Cup twins, Naylor/Lawrence and Thompson/Murphy, occupied the next two places in the results just a handful of seconds apart, with Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) having to settle for 2<sup>nd</sup> in B13 behind the flying Lepley.

Having missed the last two BTRDA rounds, 2016 Gold Star Champions Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta) had, by their standards, a subdued day to finish just inside the Top Ten, with Richard Hill/Steffan Evans (Impreza) closing it out.





Ian Bainbridge & Jamie Edwards 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star

Class B13 now sees a tie for the lead between Richards Hill & Sykes, the latter failing to finish the Woodpecker after his Lancer succumbed to electrical gremlins on the final stage. Just who is to become the 2019 class winner will require sorting out on the Trackrod Forest Stages at the end of the month.

#### BTRDA PRODUCTION CUP

NAYLOR DIGS IN!...

JCB-sponsored Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence won the battle of the Group N Lancers on the Woodpecker and, now with the same number of maximum scores as Scott Faulkner/Gareth Parry, lead the BTRDA Production Cup<sup>®</sup> by a single point. So, cue the North York Moors for some high-speed action as this one is brought to a conclusion - no doubt, very quickly!



Pat Naylor & Ian Lawrence Production Cup winners

Defending champions Russ Thompson/Andy Murphy's fourth runners-up spot of the season - although still highly commendable - leaves the top two just out of reach, no matter what they can come up with on the Trackrod.

Having claimed top MRF Fiesta ST Trophy points on each of the first four rounds, Zak Hughes/Tom Wood needed just one more good score to clinch it. A rare retirement on the Nicky Grist meant that they had to wait several weeks for their next opportunity, but it all came good on the Woodpecker - a fifth win, combined with nearest rival Bobby Mitchell's absence from Ludlow, putting the matter beyond doubt.

#### JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA SILVER STAR<sup>®</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP

ANDY CAPS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OUTING!....



Andy Davison/Tom Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

Just to prove - if proof were necessary - that their maximum Jordan Road Surfacing Silver Star<sup>®</sup> Championship score on the Nicky Grist Stages wasn't a flash in the pan, Andy Davison/Tom Murphy produced a repeat performance in their Talbot Sunbeam VXR on the Woodpecker. BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup contenders Tommi Meadows and James Giddings/ Rhys Stoneman took the next two places in their Fiestas, with the Escort of Rob Wright/Terry Mallin right behind them in 4<sup>th</sup>.

In the R2 Cup itself, Meadows gained his second consecutive maximum, from Giddings, while Mat & Tim Tordoff achieved their best result of the season so far with a 3<sup>rd</sup>. Having already clinched the title on the Nicky Grist, in spite of a panel-bending off at the Flying Finish of the final stage, Perry Gardener/Keaton Williams started the Woodpecker Stages but were to be sidelined by gear linkage problems. Let's hope these character-building experiences will set them up for a good run on their Wales Rally GB prize-drive!

Having not furthered his cause in the BTRDA Historic Cup<sup>®</sup> since the Malcolm Wilson Rally, David Gathercole returned to his class-winning ways in his Escort RS1600, while Philip Clarke/Ian Jones (Escort MkII) also



headed home with maximum points scores.



David Gathercole 1<sup>st</sup> Historic Cup

### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

BLACK IS THE NEW BRONZE!...

Following a decision earlier in the year to award Bronze Stars to the winners of the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship, Callum Black/Michael Gilbey confirmed on the Woodpecker that they are to be the first recipients. Another maximum points score - their fourth of the season - put their MG ZR into an unassailable position in the table with one event still to go.

Steve Black/Paul Morris (Suzuki Swift) continued their run of excellent finishes with another 2<sup>nd</sup> place but erstwhile Championship leaders Chris Powell/Jim Lewis recorded their first DNF of the season when their Talbot Sunbeam went out with mechanical trouble on SS3. However, due to the extremely high level of reliability of all the top 1400 cars this season, Powell/Lewis are safe in runners-up spot, as are Black/Morris in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Callum Black & Michael Gilbey 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

Noel Lappin/Will Atkins took 3<sup>rd</sup> place points on the Woodpecker in their Escort while Dominic Hodge/Stefan Arndt, who had moved back to Class 1400C in their Micra, were next.

Joseph Keen's attempt to claim the BTRDA Rally First<sup>®</sup> Championship title on the Woodpecker fell victim to a dose of over-enthusiasm when his MG ZR rolled out of the event on the second stage. Graham Roberts' 2.0 litre version scored maximum points which now puts him within touching distance of the leader! Do the trees (on the North York Moors) have ears? If so, there'll be some interesting conversations to listen to on 28<sup>th</sup> September...

### 'TCS AT 40' JUNIORS

NOW, DON'T SPEND IT ALL AT ONCE!....

The 'TCS at 40' Junior Driver & Co-driver awards continue to benefit various BTRDA Rally Series contenders who had not yet reached the age of 25 at the start of the season. As might be expected, the name 'Lepley' appears regularly on the list and on the Woodpecker, Zak Hughes, Tommi Meadows, Tom Murphy, Abi Haycock and Gareth Parry also all left Ludlow in a better pecuniary state than when they arrived!...

Martin Little's bank balance continues to be adjusted - downwards! - as each BTRDA Rally Series event passes and, once again, we very much appreciate the gesture - no, not that sort!...

### MAXXIS MSA ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

FIVE DOWN, TWO TO GO!...

Returning to the forests after a brief sojourn on asphalt, courtesy of the Otterburn-based Tyneside Stages Rally at the beginning of August, the MAXXIS Motorsport UK English Rally Championship continued on the Woodpecker Stages.... and it'll come as no surprise to learn that the name of George Lepley remains at the top of the table! A couple of points adrift we find Callum Black who, in turn, has Andy Davison breathing down his neck.

Tommi Meadows also scored maximum points in his class on the Woodpecker but, having retired from the last English Championship round he contested (the Plains Rally), still has some catching up to do.

Pretenders to the English Championship crown have two more events - the Trackrod Forest Stages followed by the Wydean Stages in early November - on which



to assert themselves as they strive to succeed 2018 winners Ian Joel/Graeme Wood in adding a Motorsport UK-backed Championship title to their rallying CVs.

*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](http://www.btrdarally.com) Likewise the points for the **MAXXIS Motorsport UK 2019 English Rally Championship** can be viewed in the Competitor section of [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) These points will become final on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **BTRDA Historic Cup prize**

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter the winner of the BTRDA Historic Cup prize on the Woodpecker was in doubt right until the end of a very dramatic last stage. Ben Friend, Jonathan Brace, Steve Ward and Baz Jordan were all contention, but it was **David Gathercole** in the Mk 1 Ford Escort who overcame fuel pressure problems to win Class H1/2 and with it the **£500 BTRDA Historic Cup prize**.

#### **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: **Graham Roberts** - MG ZR (Class RF2.0)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Robert Smith** - Ford Escort (Class B10)

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 – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

The final round of the 2019 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and Round 6 of the MAXXIS Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, the Trackrod Forest Rally. This excellent event offers a full 45 miles of single use forest stages and was awarded the Bill Turner Trophy for the best round of the 2018 BTRDA Rally Series.

NB: Those registered BTRDA competitors who enter the Trackrod Historic Cup event will still be eligible to score BTRDA Rally Series and Motorsport UK English Rally Championship points provided that they continue to comply with the BTRDA Rally Series and Motorsport UK English Rally Championship regulations.

Please go to [www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk) for more info and to submit your on-line entry.

##### **WYEDEAN STAGES RALLY – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

The final round of the 2019 MAXXIS Motorsport UK English Rally Championship uses the superb stages in the Forest of Dean. This compact event will be based entirely at the Vantage Point Business Park, Mitcheldean with scrutineering at Winner Garage. For more information and to submit your on-line entry, go to [www.wyedeanstages.co.uk](http://www.wyedeanstages.co.uk)

#### **RETURN of BTRDA TROPHYS from 2018**

If you have any BTRDA Trophies that were presented at the 2018 Awards Presentation you can return them to the BTRDA desk at documentation on the Trackrod Forest Stages.

#### **2020 will be the 67th year of SERIOUS FUN...!**

The BTRDA Rally Committee are pleased to can confirm the proposed calendar for the 2020 BTRDA Rally Series, (subject to Motorsport UK approval).

The 2020 calendar includes a great selection of **one-day forest events**, starting with the Cambrian Rally in North Wales in February and finishing with the Trackrod Forest Stages at the end of September. New for 2020 will be the 75th running of the Scottish Rally, based at Lockerbie just off the M74. The final points table will be based on a competitor's best 5 scores, which provides some flexibility to fit around family or business commitments.





## 2020 BTRDA Rally Series calendar\* (subject to Motorsport UK approval)

- |                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Cambrian Rally          | 8th February   |
| • Malcolm Wilson Rally    | 14th March     |
| • Rallynuts Stages Rally  | 18th April     |
| • The 75th Scottish Rally | 6th June       |
| • Nicky Grist Stages      | 11th July      |
| • Woodpecker Stages       | 5th September  |
| • Trackrod Forest Stages  | 26th September |

The BTRDA Rally Series will continue to be open to all stage rally cars and will include a broad spread of categories and competition classes so there is something for everyone. In addition to the Gold Star, Silver Star and the Bronze Star (1400) championships, the 2020 BTRDA Rally Series will include BTRDA Rally First, Historic Cup, Production Cup, Rallye R2 Cup and Fiesta ST Trophy.

We are grateful for the wholehearted commitment of the event organisers, because without their efforts we could not promote such a successful rally championship.

You can be assured that the 2020 version of the BTRDA Rally Series will continue to provide competitors and followers with some Serious Fun! More announcements about 2020 after the Trackrod Stages.

**DECALS:** Competitors are reminded that **they must display the 2019 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 Motorsport UK 2019 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 car from any film coverage. Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car.

**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](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/pages/btrda-rally-series-fuell-order-form)

**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. Previous BTRDA Rally Series videos can be found in the Video section of the 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 to 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)

**AWARDS EVENING:** A note for your diary to confirm that the 2019 JORDAN Road Surfacing BTRDA Rally Series and MAXXIS Tyres Motorsport UK English Rally Championship Awards evening will be held at Drayton Manor Hotel, Nr Tamworth, West Midlands on Saturday 11 January 2020. Further details will be announced later in the year.

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:** The Woodpecker Stages was the third of the four counting rounds for the new BTRDA Junior Driver incentive which has been donated by Adam Kent, the 1998 BTRDA Gold Star Rally Champion. Adam's company, Install Automation Ltd, will provide a £2,500 prize fund for a leading BTRDA Junior Driver to be used for entries to events in the 2020 BTRDA Rally Series. The winner will be chosen from a short-list of the three drivers with







the highest total points score on the final 4 events in the 2019 BTRDA Junior Championship. Following the Woodpecker George Lepley (57 points) has retaken the lead with George Clarke (42 points) now up to second with Matthew Hirst in third with 39 points. The final event is the Trackrod Forest Stages.

#### CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Ian Arden is the Competitor Liaison Officer and will be out on each round of the Championship supported by other members of the BTRDA Rally Committee. Norman and Howard will be out on selected events along with Andrew Hail. Below is the current list of BTRDA attendees at events, although this is subject to change:

Event	BTRDA Rep	BTRDA Rep	BTRDA Rep	Eligibility Scrutineer
Trackrod	Ian Arden	Howard Wilcock		John Cooper

Other committee members will be out on selected events supporting the above

Ian Arden:	Email: <a href="mailto:ian@btrdarally.com">ian@btrdarally.com</a>	Mob: 07917 355169
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#### CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY SCRUTINEERS

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