



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 4 – 2021

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

A CHANGE IS GOOD - IF ONLY TO BEAT THE REST!...

Having contested the first round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series in a Mitsubishi Lancer EVO9, Garry Pearson/Niall Burns entered the 75th Scottish Rally in a Skoda Fabia R5 and came away with 3rd overall and maximum BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship points. Less than 20s behind after five stages totalling more than 44 miles, Elliot Payne was next up in his Fiesta and, having led the table prior to the trip to Lockerbie, the young Harrogate driver returned south in the same hallowed position!



1st Gold Star driver & 2nd Codriver Garry Pearson/Niall Burns

Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins, in another Fabia, were 3rd on the day while B13 winners (again!) George Lepley/Tom Woodburn (Lancer EVOX) arrived back at the finish a mere one second ahead of Tom Llewelin’s Mitsubishi Mirage. Gareths Sayers & Gilchrist finished just outside the Top Ten overall – but, more importantly, 6th in the points – in their Fiesta, with Charlie Payne/Patrick Walsh’s similar car behind them.

Baumgart/Dave Robson’s Impreza also taking its second consecutive finish. Maxx Bradshaw/Liam Whiteley’s Lancer EVO3 was the only other scorer in the class, with the Manxmen having one eye on the MRF Tyres Mixed-Surface Challenge.



3rd Gold Star driver & Co driver Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins

Having had ‘one of those days to forget’ in mid-Wales, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence opened their BTRDA Production Cup account with a Top 20 finish in their Lancer EVO9.



2nd Gold Star Elliot Payne



1st Production Cup Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence

As far as Class B13 was concerned, Richard Hill (Lancer EVO9) was Lepley’s nearest challenger, with Ian

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1st B13 George Lepley/Tom Woodburn

So, in addition to those listed above, crews who might reasonably have expected to be among them, but weren't due to the simple fact that they didn't complete the route, we find Callum Black whose Fiesta was 2nd overall after two stages before suffering a double puncture on the next and being forced to retire. John Wink's Hyundai i20 exited stage left on SS4 while Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear's Lancer disappeared off the results and down a bank on the second stage. Maxx Bradshaw's Manx compatriot Steven Ormond-Smith was holding his own right up until the final stage when his Lancer EVO9 became another one to end its day in the scenery!...

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

STREET'S AHEAD!....



1st Silver Star Paul Street/Ian Jones

Replicating the situation on the Nicky Grist Stages when the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship winner on the day also came up trumps in the BTRDA Historic Cup, although in the absence this time of Jason Pritchard, Paul Street/Ian Jones (Escort MkII) grasped the nettle

with both hands and, with two strong performances under their respective belts, currently lead both series as the summer recess until the Woodpecker beckons.

Likewise, Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins have maintained a clean sheet thus far in their Avenger and are within touching distance of the leaders in both series. It's perhaps worth noting that, on the Nicky Grist, Baz beat son Richard's 1400 MG ZR by three seconds – in Scotland the order was the same but the difference was down to a solitary second! Next time, maybe?...



2nd Silver Star Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins

Having scored 'nil points' on the Grist, Neil Andrew picked himself up, dusted himself down and not only took his Escort to a class win in the Borders, but also 3rd in the Silver Star. After what was probably the shortest trip of the season to the start of a BTRDA round, Dungannon's Frank & Lauren Kelly had what, by their standards, could be classed as a subdued day in their Escort. However, Frank remains 3rd in the Silver Star table with Lauren one better, squeezed equi-distant (if you'll pardon the expression!) between Ian Jones and Arwel Jenkins in the Co-drivers' category!

In Historic Cup terms, Tom Coughtrie's perseverance with his Mitsubishi Galant VR4 is paying off – a second very respectable result sees the Ayr driver breathing down both Paul Street and Baz Jordan's necks but, at the same time, has Richard Freestone (Escort MkI) a mere one point behind him....

Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham's attempts to add a second Silver Star crown to their CVs took a knock when their Escort RS stopped on the opening stage of the day, while Andy Davison/Tom Murphy have still to open their 2021 account after their Talbot Sunbeam VXR succumbed to a

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broken wheel on SS2 – their luck must surely change for the better soon...

BTRDA RALLYE R2 CUP

A TOPSY-TURVY DAY!...



1st R2 Cup. Jonathan Jones

Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams' hopes of furthering their advantage in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup came to nought when their Peugeot 208 finished 'greasy side up' on SS2, fortunately without injury (apart from their pride!) to either crew member... Jonathan Jones stepped into the breach to claim maximum points which, added to his 2nd place on the Nicky Grist, put his Fiesta into the lead at this point.



2nd R2 Cup Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan

Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan were paying their first visit of the season to the BTRDA Series in their Fiesta and were rewarded with 2nd place (1st for Bevan). However, the same could not be said for 2021 R2 Cup debutant Ewan Tindall who, with Peredur Davies guiding the way, rolled his Fiesta out of the event on SS2.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

JORDAN SURFACES AT THE TOP!...



1st Bronze Star Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith

Having been the bridesmaids on the Nicky Grist, Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith were able to climb one step higher on the podium at the conclusion of the Scottish Rally by taking maximum points in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship in their MG ZR.

Erstwhile leaders Steve Black/Paul Morris were a couple of seconds quicker on the opening stage in their Suzuki Swift, but that was eclipsed on the next one when the MG ZR stopped the clocks seven seconds to the good. Jordan then rubbed salt in the wound by adding a further 13s to his lead on SS3. However, any chance of a fightback by the defending champions evaporated when the Swift left the road on the second run through Twiglees.



1st Rally First Simon Double/Jessica Mitchell

Meanwhile, Simon Double/Jessica Mitchell added their names to the list of maximum points scorers in this year's

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MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Championship by taking a class win in their MG ZR 160.

MRF TYRES MIXED-SURFACE RALLY CHALLENGE

Following the first two gravel rounds of the MRF Tyres Mixed-Surface Rally Challenge, it's Terry Pankhurst who narrowly leads the charge in his Escort RS2000. For those of you with long memories, among other credits, Terry won the Group 1 category of the Castrol/Autosport National Rally Championship, also in an RS2000, in 1981 and we're delighted that he's chosen events in the BTRDA Rally Series in which to make his comeback.

All photos courtesy of Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the 75th Scottish Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise the **MRF Mixed Surface Challenge** points after the 75th Scottish Rally can be found in the MRF Challenge section of www.btrdarally.com These points will become final on Monday 9th August.

JORDAN Road Surfacing HISTORIC CUP

On each round of the BTRDA Rally Series there will be a **prize fund of £500** with the highest placed BTRDA Historic Cup driver receiving £250, the 2nd placed driver £150 and the 3rd £100. At the end of the year the overall BTRDA Historic Champion will be presented with the prestigious AC de Monaco Trophy at the BTRDA awards ceremony. The prize winners on the 75th Scottish Rally were: -

- **Paul Street** £250
- **Barry Jordan** £150
- **Steve Ward** £100

KIELDER POWER AWARDS

Thanks to generous support from KIELDER Works Team, they will be awarding one of their valuable "Layer Cake Spare Wheel Kits" as a prize on each round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Details of these specially designed Motorsport Spare Wheel Kits, which include a battery impact wrench, can be viewed in the News item on the btrdarally.com website.

On the 75th Scottish Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in BTRDA Silver Star: Paul Street**

On the Woodpecker Stages the award will go to the highest placed driver in BTRDA Rally First.

CARLESS RACING FUELS PRIZE

Carless Racing Fuels in conjunction with the premier competition fuel suppliers Vital Equipment Ltd and have a new initiative to support Britain's most popular national rally series. On every round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel**.

On the 75th Scottish Rally the prizes are awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA registered Junior Driver on the event: Elliott Payne**
- **The winning driver in Class H1/2: Terry Pankhurst**

The two awards on the Woodpecker Stages will be for the Class B11 winner and the winner of the BTRDA Junior R2 1600 Cup

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 **motorsport UK**
2021 English Rally
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SPECIALIST LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS

In addition, the highest placed Junior Driver in the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a free fuel package from Vital Equipment on all the 2022 BTRDA Rally Series events! If you do not already use this excellent service (and why not?) then this is another reason to start now.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Richard Jordan** – MG ZR (Class 1400S)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Jonathan Jones** - Ford Fiesta R2 (Class R2)

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:

WOODPECKER STAGES – SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

Due to the restrictions on the use of English Forests in 2021, the event will have a much-revised format. It will be based at Kinnerton, near Presteigne and offer 44 stage miles all within the Radnor Forest Complex, linked by just 20 road miles. This very compact format means there are just 120 places available. There was a great demand for entries. The unseeded entry list can be found at <https://www.woodpecker-rally.co.uk>

TRACKROD FOREST STAGES – SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

This event will use all the traditional Yorkshire forests to provide a full 45 miles of single use stages. The event will again be based in Filey with Scrutineering and the Service Park at Filey Brigg Country Park. The event will start in Pickering and the Ceremonial Finish on Saturday afternoon will be on The Beach, Filey.

Event regulations should be available from 1 August with entries opening on Friday 6 August at 19:00.

DECALS:

Competitors are reminded that they **must** display the BTRDA Rally Series decals on each qualifying event to be eligible to score points in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, MRF Mixed Surface Challenge and the Motorsport UK 2020 English Rally Challenge supported by SEACON UK. 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. Checks will be carried out to ensure compliance with this! Decals were sent to registered drivers before the Nicky Grist Stages and are available from the BTRDA Co-ordinator Ian Arden Tel: 07917 355169 at each event.

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

TYRES:

Please note that in the **MRF Rally Challenge** and the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Championship** it is a requirement that MRF tyres are used throughout the event and checks will be made to ensure compliance with this requirement. **MRF Tyres / Service and Sport** will be at all events to provide tyre support to competitors. See www.serviceandsport.com for more information about the extensive range of MRF competition tyres.

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SPECIAL STAGE filming:

The popular coverage of the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** by 'Special Stage' from all rounds of the championship will be shared on various platforms including the Special Stage Facebook page, the BTRDA Rally Facebook page and BTRDA Rally Series website. It will try to include coverage of all the categories / classes where it is practical to do so, in order to tell the story of the event. Some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately. The BTRDA Rally Series website also has videos from all the BTRDA Rally Series events since 2014.

In addition, on some events where there is no spectator access, Special Stage will try to provide live streaming direct from the stages. Certainly, the live coverage of the recent Nicky Grist Stages was excellent and was watched by thousands of viewers from around the world.

ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATIVES

On the Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages the BTRDA will be represented by Ian Arden and Norman Robertson, Geoff Doe will be in attendance as BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer

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