



**CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 5 – 2021**

**EVENTSIGNS WOODPECKER STAGES**

**MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

**PEARSON HITS DOUBLE TOP TO FINISH AHEAD!...**

In his first full season of MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series events, Garry Pearson followed up his maximum Gold Star® Championship points score on the Scottish Rally with outright victory on the Eventsigns Woodpecker Stages and, obviously, credited his account with another 30 in the process! Pearson and Niall Burns set fastest – equal fastest on one occasion - times on all five stages in their Fabia and, after 44 miles of competition in the Radnor forest complex, arrived at the finish 58s ahead of the flying Lancer EVOX of George Lepley/Tom Woodburn.



*Garry Pearson/Niall Burns 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star*

Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins, in another Fabia, were 3<sup>rd</sup>, ahead of Gold Star leaders prior to the Woodpecker, Elliot Payne/Cameron Fair (Fiesta). Although no strangers to the BTRDA Series, Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen were making their debut in a Fiesta R5 and, featuring in the Top Ten on four of the five stages, came home in a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place, just four seconds in front of 2016 Gold Star Champions Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta WRC).



*George Lepley/Tom Woodburn 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star*

So, with three rounds gone and (all being well!) three to go, Pearson leads the Gold Star drivers' table by one point from Payne Jnr. who, in turn, is a similar margin ahead of Lepley. Meanwhile, Fair holds sway in the race for the Co-drivers' title but he has both Burns and Woodburn breathing down his neck, one and two points respectively adrift.



*Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star*

After a double puncture caused them to throw in the towel last time out in Scotland, Callum Black/Jack Morton were looking to the Woodpecker for an opportunity to get their season back on track. Lying 2<sup>nd</sup> after three stages, their Fiesta came off second-best in an altercation with some logs on SS4 and, unfortunately for the pair, a second consecutive DNF ensued. Never fear! The regulations state that, from a six-round Series, everyone's four best scores will count – so, there's still time to turn things around!...

Lepley/Woodburn's fine run served to consolidate their lead in B13, but Ian Joel/Graeme Wood's 7<sup>th</sup> in their Escort Cosworth, exactly half-a-minute and two places in front of Richard Hill's Lancer, keep both in with a shout of the class title. Or, to put it another way, Lepley/Woodburn now have three goes to get the one

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maximum they need to put the matter beyond doubt. Gentlemen, start your engines!.....



Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence 1<sup>st</sup> Production Cup

Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence's Group N Lancer EVO9 finished unchallenged, between Joel & Hill, to give the Midlands their second maximum BTRDA Production Cup score.

So, Filey and the North York Moors are next on the agenda for the Trackrod Forest Rally – some of the quickest stages of the season and, with things so tight at the top, it'll be an interesting day for all concerned!...

### MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

LIKE FATHER....!



Robert Gough/Jonny "Tad" Evans 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star 1<sup>st</sup> Historic

The top points scorer in both the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship and the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup® bears a surname that will be very familiar to seasoned Woodpecker watchers. Robert Gough is the son of five-times Woodpecker winner Richard and it's quite obvious that speed is in the genes

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– or should that be 'racing overalls'?... Anyway, an outing on the Nicky Grist Stages ended prematurely but, this time, it all went to plan and Robert and his Escort are now firmly ensconced in the points tables for both the above series.

Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams brought their Peugeot 208R2 home a handful of seconds behind Gough, with Owen McMackin's Escort claiming third-place points. Gough Snr's ex- Rothmans Escort was next with co-driver Jonny Tad Evans' efforts rewarded with plenty of Silver Star & Historic Cup points. Following a non-finish in Scotland, 2017 Silver Star Champion Ashley Davies and co-driver Sam Fordham's Escort was back in the points and, in spite of spending more than half-a-minute in a ditch on SS4, just managed to hold off Rob Wright/Mark Fisher's similar car by the slender margin of 7s!



Owen McMackin 3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Star 1<sup>st</sup> B12

Notwithstanding the frantic activity being played out ahead of them, Paul Street/Ian Jones (Escort) and Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins (Avenger) both kept their 100% finishing records so far this season intact and their consistency sees them retaining their 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> places respectively in both Silver Star and Historic Cup. Martin Freestone (Escort) and Tom Coughtrie/Ian Fraser (Mitsubishi Galant VR4) both recorded their third consecutive finishes of the season, not only maintaining their 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> places in the Cup, but also keeping them in touching distance of the leaders.

### BTRDA RALLYE R2/JUNIOR R2 CUP

R2 DETOUR...

Following the huge success of the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup over the past few seasons, we were naturally disappointed by the slow start to both the R2 and R2 Junior Cups in 2021. This, in turn, has led to an enforced







review of the list of end-of-season awards (don't worry – we're working on it!), but interest continues to increase and we currently have ten drivers on the books. From them, Jonathan Jones is the only one to have maintained a clean sheet to date and his consistency is paying off handsomely as, at the halfway stage, he leads the R2 Cup in his Fiesta. However, the Bridgnorth driver needs to keep a wary eye out for Welshmen Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams who, putting aside an off day (literally!) on the Scottish Rally, have dominated both R2 and Junior R2 Cups in their Peugeot 208.



Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup

As mentioned above, Lloyd/Williams were 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the Silver Star battle on the Woodpecker and lead the R2 Junior Cup from Connor Tolson/Dylan Thomas (Fiesta) who opted to miss the Scottish but have been their nearest challengers on the other two occasions.

The Fiestas of Billy Grew and Sam Bilham entered the fray on the Woodpecker and, although both posted finishes, the latter was way down the order after losing six-and-a-half minutes on SS2.

#### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400 CHAMPIONSHIP

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!...

Adrian & Matt Walk (Ford Ka) made history on the Woodpecker Stages when the father-and-son team became the first crew in a 1400C car to take maximum points in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship. Indeed, the second-placed crew on the day were also in a 1400C car – Edward Wain/Noel Murphy's MG ZR finished ahead of the Escort of Aaron

Rix/Abi Haycock who were the only scorers in Class 1400S.



Ade & Matt Walk 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

As far as the fancied runners in the BTRDA Bronze Star were concerned, the phrase 'to finish *first*, you must *first* finish' will have a salutary ring to it as Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith (MG ZR), Steve Black/Paul Morris (Suzuki Swift) and Dave & Toby Brick (Vauxhall Nova) all retired on the *first* stage!... Jordan/Gratton-Smith will take some consolation from the fact that they still lead the table but, obviously, by a much reduced margin.

Tom Naylor (Fiesta ST) took his second maximum score in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Championship by finishing ahead of the MG ZR of Simon Double/Jessica Mitchell but, even so, there are only a couple of points between the two drivers at the top of the table. To be continued....



Tom Naylor 1<sup>st</sup> Rally First

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**MOTORSPORT UK 2021 ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK**

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO!...

Following their opening encounter on the Nicky Grist Stages in July, contenders for the Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK had their second run-out on the Woodpecker Stages and, as predicted, the number of joint leaders in the class-based series has been significantly reduced. Prior to the start of the day, there were five drivers with maximum scores and now, following Round 2, it's left to George Lepley (Lancer EVOX) and Ioan Lloyd (Peugeot 208) to squabble over top spot. Their chance will come on the Trackrod Forest Stages at the end of September but of course, as everything is still very tight at the top,

**CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!**

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the EventsSigns Woodpecker Stages can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) Likewise the **Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with SEACON UK** can be found in the Competitor section of [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk) These points will become final on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**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 EventSigns Woodpecker Stages were: -

- **Robert Gough**                    **£250**
- **Paul Street**                        **£150**
- **Barry Jordan**                      **£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 EventSigns Woodpecker Stages the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in BTRDA Rally First: Tom Naylor**

On the Trackrod the Kielder Power Award will go the highest placed driver in the BTRDA Historic Cup.

**BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP**

The Woodpecker Stages was the third round of the BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 Cup and as part of this initiative the leading Junior R2 1600 Cup drivers receive cash awards on each event.

- **Ioan Lloyd**                         **£150**
- **Connor Tolson**                **£125**
- **Billy Grew**                        **£75**

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there's no saying that others won't have joined them by then!

Outright Woodpecker winner Garry Pearson (Fabia) and Owen McMackin (Escort MkII) are 3<sup>rd</sup>, two points adrift of the leaders, with Elliot Payne (Fiesta), Paul Street (Escort) and Jonathan Jones (Fiesta R2) another two points adrift. And so it goes on...

There are a maximum of 25 points available to each of the class winners and, with three events still remaining, you don't need an abacus to work out that there's plenty of scope for a change at the top before 2019 Champion Steve Black's successor is revealed...

**All photos courtesy of Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond**







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### CARLESS RACING FUELS PRIZE

**Carless Racing Fuels** in conjunction with the premier competition fuel suppliers **Vital Equipment Ltd** 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 EventSigns Woodpecker Stages the prizes are awarded to: -

- **The highest placed driver on the BTRDA Junior R2 1600 Cup: Ioan Lloyd.**
- **The winning driver in Class B11: Ricky Crone**

The two awards on the Trackrod will be for the highest placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup winner and highest placed Rally First competitor.

**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. See ON EVENT FUEL

### 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: **Tom Naylor** - Fiesta ST (Class RF2.0)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Billy Grew** - 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:

#### TRACKROD FOREST STAGES – SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

This event will use all the traditional Yorkshire forests to provide a full 45 miles of single use stages. The Trackrod will again be based in Filey with Scrutineering and the Service Park at Filey Brigg Country Park. The Trackrod Forest Stages will start in Pickering with the Ceremonial Finish on Saturday afternoon on 'The Beach' at Filey. The combined 180 car entry list can be found at [www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk/competitors-information/](http://www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk/competitors-information/)

To enable BTRDA championship registered competitors on any of the three 'Trackrod' events to be eligible to score BTRDA Rally Series & English Rally Championship points, the allocation of championship points will be based on the cumulative times over the Saturday stages, provided that neither member of the crew have completed the pre-event recce.

#### VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY – SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

The penultimate rally in the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series in the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally. The event will, once again, be based around Llandudno with Rally HQ relocated to nearby Coleg Llandrillo. It will include some of the best forest stages in North Wales and finish with a new 6-mile asphalt stage! Entries are now open at [www.rallies.info/webentry/2021/cambrian/webentry.php](http://www.rallies.info/webentry/2021/cambrian/webentry.php)

#### RALLYNUTS STAGES RALLY – SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

After postponing from April, the organisers of the Rallynuts Stages Rally are delighted to confirm that the event will run on 13th November 2021. Based in Builth Wells, the 44-mile gravel event will include classic stages in Myherin, Sweet Lamb and Hafren and will be the 6<sup>th</sup> and final round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series.

Event regulations should be available on <http://rallynutsrally.co.uk/> from 20<sup>th</sup> September with entries opening a few days later. Certainly, an event not to be missed.

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

**TYRES:** **MRF Tyres / Service and Sport** will be at all events to provide tyre support to competitors. See [www.serviceandsport.com](http://www.serviceandsport.com) for more information about the extensive range of MRF competition 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.

#### **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.

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 on recent events was watched by thousands of viewers from around the world.

#### **ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATIVES**

On the Trackrod Rally the BTRDA will be represented by Ian Arden and Nic Quinlan-Hull, John Cooper will be in attendance as BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer

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