



**CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 7 – 2021**

**VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY**

**MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

A TWO-HORSE RACE – BUT A LOT MORE HORSES!...

Maximum points on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, the penultimate round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, gave Garry Pearson/Niall Burns (Skoda Fabia) their third such score of the season and it goes without saying that they are now in a very strong position when it comes to the acquisition of the BTRDA Gold Star® Championship title.



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

However, following two consecutive DNFs earlier in the year, second-place points in North Wales keep Callum Black's hopes of taking the title himself alive. He and co-driver Jack Morton (Fiesta R5) have left themselves with no margin for error in their quest for victory – and so far, so good! So, it all goes down to the Rallynuts Stages on 13<sup>th</sup> November for this little teaser to be resolved!...



*Callum Black/Jack Morton 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star*

Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta), arrived back in Llandudno half-a-minute behind Black, with the Mitsubishi Lancer EVOX of George Lepley/Tom Woodburn next, not only continuing its total

dominance of Class B13 but also extending its uninterrupted run of finishes in this year's BTRDA Series.



*Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star*

Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Lancer EVO9) put in their best performance of the year to date, finishing almost a couple of minutes ahead of Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta WRC). Ten seconds quicker in their Escort Cosworth and Ian Joel/Graeme Wood would also have been ahead of the 2016 Gold Star Champions but they, nevertheless, move up to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hotly-contested B13 behind an absent Richard Hill. Although they'd long since put the destination of the BTRDA Production Cup beyond doubt, Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence recorded a Top Ten finish to chalk up yet another maximum score in their Lancer!

Tom Llewelin's Mitsubishi Mirage ended up on its side, minus a wheel, on the first run through Penmachno, resulting in his first DNF of the season. Dylan Davies' Impreza suffered a similar fate on the same stage while electrical gremlins accounted for Russ Thompson's Lancer EVO9, coincidentally also in Penmachno.

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**MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

OWEN OWNS SILVER STAR – AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT YEAR!....



Owen McMackin 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

The Cambrian Rally presented Owen McMackin (Escort MkII) with the opportunity to become the first driver to take maximum BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points twice this season and, in so doing, the Ulsterman has clinched the title with one round still to go. Congratulations from all at the BTRDA!...

2017 Silver Star winner Ashley Davies (Escort) was next up and, for his part in the team's success, it's co-driver Sam Fordham who'll hold the bragging rights in that car for the next twelve months! Sam missed out on the Co-drivers' title four years ago but it's all come good this time and we've no doubt there were wild scenes in his particular part of London when the news filtered through!...



Ashley Davies 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star/Sam Fordham 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star



Paul Street/Ian Jones 1<sup>st</sup> Historic Cup

Paul Street/Ian Jones, who had led the category for much of the season in their Historic-spec. Escort MkII, were behind Davies/Fordham and can take considerable consolation in the fact that they are confirmed as the 2021 Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup winners. The major thorn in their side throughout the Series has been Baz Jordan himself who, with Arwel Jenkins in his Avenger, just wouldn't leave them alone!



Tom Coughtrie/Ian Fraser 1<sup>st</sup> H4

Tom Coughtrie/Ian Fraser's Mitsubishi Galant VR4 arrived in Llandudno having already claimed Class H4 by dint of four maximums from four starts. By the time the crew were on their way north again, that number had increased to five! Behind Street and Jordan, Tom and Martin Freestone (Escort RS1600) are equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the overall Historic Cup table – there's something else that will be sorted out on the Rallynuts Stages!

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Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan 3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Star & 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup

Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan showed the other BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup crews the way home on the Cambrian – their Fiesta was half-a-minute ahead of Sam Bilham’s similar car by the finish, with Jonathan Lee-Jones and Kiaran Hankin/Peter Whiteside also featuring in the results.

Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams still hold sway in both the R2 and R2 Junior Cups but, when their Peugeot 208 joined the ‘Three-Wheel Club’ in Penmachno, it was immediately obvious to the crew that their cause would not be furthered on that particular occasion! However, you’ll not be surprised to learn that their failure to complete the event has led to the chasing pack gaining ground, leading to a good deal of unfinished business on both counts!



Ricky Crone/Daniel James 1<sup>st</sup> B11

In other classes Ricky Crone/Daniel James (Escort) have claimed B11 for themselves and, despite a retirement on the Cambrian, Sean Bannister (Citroen C2) can’t be overhauled for B10. Brendan Leonard’s Fiesta ST is the N3 victor and, no matter what happens in the overall

BTRDA Historic Cup, Martin Freestone’s Escort RS1600 reigns supreme in H1/2.



George Lepley Top Junior

George Lepley has a ‘full-house’ of maximum scores in his pursuit – and capture! – of the Junior Driver award while, notwithstanding his absence from the Cambrian, Will Atkins will be able to add ‘2021 BTRDA Junior Co-Driver Champion’ to his business cards for a year....

Among the competitors who have long since ceased to qualify as Juniors, Pat Naylor has successfully held off Ian Joel’s advances to clinch this year’s ‘Senior Driver’ award but, while Ian Lawrence currently holds sway in the Co-drivers’ category, Graeme Wood is still within striking distance....

#### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400® CHAMPIONSHIP

BLACK LISTS ANOTHER ‘WIN’!...



Steve Black/Paul Morris 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

Steve Black/Paul Morris (Suzuki Swift) took their third maximum score in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship on the Cambrian Rally to close the gap

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**2021 English Rally Championship**



(slightly!) on leaders Edward Wain/Noel Murphy whose Class 1400C MG ZR continued on its merry way to its fourth finish so far. ‘Winners’ on the Woodpecker Stages, Adrian & Matt Walk (Ford Ka) returned for another untroubled run to maximum points in Class 1400C but, with the best will in the world, were unable to keep pace with the ‘swift’ Suzuki of Black/Morris.



Adrian & Matt Walk 2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze Star and 1<sup>st</sup> 1400C

So, with just the one event remaining, Black/Morris have a score in hand over Wain/Murphy but, then again, so do Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith (MG ZR) and the Escort of Aaron Rix, neither of which went the distance on the Cambrian. Now, although 5<sup>th</sup> November will have passed by the time the Rallynuts Stages takes place, there’ll definitely be some fireworks in mid Wales before this one reaches a conclusion!



Edward Wain/Noel Murphy 3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze Star

Top honours in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First<sup>®</sup> Championship went to the Ford Puma of Andrew & Oliver Wheatley on this occasion after the ongoing battle between Simon Double/ Jessica Mitchell (MG ZR 160) and Tom Naylor/Tom Bishop came to nothing when the latter’s Fiesta ST was side-lined with a damaged brake line after SS4. Jessica is confirmed as winner of both the BTRDA Rally First Co-driver and BTRDA Lady Co-driver titles this year (congratulations!) but the Rally First driver is still to be decided. Simon Double currently leads but has four scores and can, therefore, only improve on an existing result, whereas Tom Naylor, with just three finishes, can add whatever he scores on the Rallynuts – thus, as long as he finishes, the title will be his. Easier said than done, but we wish them both all the best...



Andrew & Oliver Wheatley 1<sup>st</sup> Rally First

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

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## CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

### Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com). These points will become final on **Wednesday 10 November**. Please note that from the Cambrian Rally onwards, dropped scores come into play!

## 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 3 prize winners from the Cambrian Rally were: -

- **Paul Street**                      **£250**
- **Robert Gough**                **£150**
- **Baz 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 Cambrian Rally the award goes to the highest placed driver in the **BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup: Tony Simpson**

On the Rallynuts Stages the Kielder Power Award will go to the highest placed driver in BTRDA Gold Star.

## BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The Cambrian Rally was the fifth 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. **The £150 prize goes to Sam Bilham.**

## 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 Cambrian Rally the prizes are awarded to: -

- **The highest placed BTRDA Junior driver: Elliot Payne**
- **The highest placed BTRDA driver in Class 1400C: Adrian Walk**

The two awards on the Rallynuts Stages will be for the highest placed BTRDA Junior 1600 R2 Cup driver and the highest placed BTRDA driver in Class R2

A major part of this initiative is that the 2021 BTRDA Junior Drivers winner will receive a **free fuel package from Vital Equipment on all the 2022 BTRDA Rally Series events!** We are pleased to confirm that the winner of this valuable prize is **George Lepley**.

If you do not already use this excellent service (and why not?) then this is another reason to start now. See ON EVENT FUEL



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### MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Adrian Walk** – Ford KA (Class 1400C)

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **John Gribbins** - Ford Escort RS (Class B11). Again!..

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:

#### 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 is on 13th November and will be the 7<sup>th</sup> and final round of the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Based in Built Wells, the 44-mile gravel event will use some of the most iconic forests that British rallying can offer. The competitive action will centre on Hafren, Sweet Lamb and Myherin forests to test competitors to the limit.

The event has received a cracking entry but it is still possible to get a run if you go via the Competitor section of the event website <http://rallynutsrally.co.uk/competitors>. This will be the BTRDA Rally Series season finale and certainly an event not to be missed.

#### HIPPO MOTOR GROUP GRIZEDALE STAGES – FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> / SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

This event, which is the final round of the Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship has a new timetable this year taking advantage of the shorter days by running a special 5-mile stage on Friday evening. Then on Saturday it is the famous Grizedale stages! More info about this event can be found at [www.grizedalestages.co.uk](http://www.grizedalestages.co.uk). Due to the compact nature of the event there is a maximum of 100 starters so you need to be quick if you have not already secured entry.

### THE 2021 AWARDS PRESENTATION

We are pleased to confirm that the date for the 2021 Awards Presentation for both the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and the Motorsport UK 2021 English Rally Championship in association with SEACON UK will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, more details to follow.

### 2022 MRF TYRES BTRDA RALLY SERIES CALENDAR

We will be announcing the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series later this week, look out for the email with all the details of the events

### 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 2021 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.

### 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.

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### 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)

### 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 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 Rallynuts Rally the BTRDA will be represented by Ian Arden and Geoff Doe will be in attendance as BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer, further representatives will be announced

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