



**CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 8 – 2021**

**RALLYNUTS STAGES**

**MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

**PAYNE'S LEVEL INCREASES WITH FIRST OUTRIGHT BTRDA WIN!...**

Elliot Payne began the 2021 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series with maximum points on the Nicky Grist Stages and, with Patrick Walsh now ensconced in his Fiesta's co-driver's seat, the 18-year old finished his BTRDA Gold Star® Championship season with outright victory on the final round, the Rallynuts Stages. Ten seconds quicker than anyone else through the opening stage in Myherin put the pair into a lead they maintained throughout the day, arriving back at the finish to take the win by exactly that margin!

Prior to the start of the Rallynuts Stages Callum Black (Fiesta) and Tom Woodburn, his co-driver on this occasion, were the only crew who could possibly unseat Garry Pearson/Niall Burns from the Gold Star Championship lead. However, to stand any chance of causing an upset, two things needed to happen – 1. They must score maximums in their respective categories (nothing less would work) and 2. Pearson/Burns mustn't improve on their score following the Cambrian Rally. Unfortunately, in spite of their best efforts, they were to be disappointed on both counts. An incorrect tyre choice for the early stages didn't help their cause but Black should take considerable comfort from the fact that, notwithstanding his two retirements earlier in the season, his lowest score has been a 28 (2<sup>nd</sup> in BTRDA terms) – a feat nobody else can lay claim to in 2021!

stages of the day elevated them to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the final analysis which was more than enough to see them crowned BTRDA Gold Star® Champions.



*Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star*



*Callum Black/Tom Woodburn 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star*



*Garry Pearson/Niall Burns 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold star*

For their part, Garry Pearson/Niall Burns (Fabia) have had better days as they set about maintaining station, but it all came good in the end. If power steering failure on the opening stage wasn't bad enough, a puncture on SS4 put them out of the Top Ten times and down to 5<sup>th</sup> place at that point. However, FTDs on the final two

Hearty congratulations to Pearson/Burns for their total dominance of UK Rallying this season as, in addition to winning the BTRDA Gold Star® Championship, they are BRC National, Scottish & Welsh Champions at the same time! So, it's not unreasonable to expect that the first

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item on each of their Christmas lists to Santa will be larger trophy cabinets....



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

Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins (Fabia) were 4<sup>th</sup>, pipped to a podium spot by two seconds on the final stage by that man Pearson! Bainbridge has led a BTRDA event for the first time this season and, although denied the opportunity to convert it into a victory on that occasion, we wait to see what 2022 will bring! For his part, Atkins will be dining out in his new role as BTRDA Junior Co-driver Champion...

Proving that they've got the hang of their Fiesta R5, Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen were never out of the Top Ten times and came home in a worthy 6<sup>th</sup> place. Should funding be available for a full campaign next year, nobody should bet against Perry becoming the second member of the Gardener family to be crowned BTRDA Gold Star Champion...



Russ Thompson/Tom Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> B13

As for B13, George Lepley's absence meant that he wouldn't have the opportunity to finish the season with

a full-house of maximum scores. However, with an impressive list of crews perfectly capable of taking a class win, it was Russ Thompson/Tom Murphy (Lancer EVO9) who came good on the day, from the similar car of Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear. Ian Joel/ Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) also finished in the Top Ten overall, one place ahead of Dylan Davies/Mark Glennerster's Impreza.

The one major casualty of the day was Charlie Payne who was forced to leave it to Elliot to uphold family honour after his own Fiesta's power steering failed on the way to the first stage. Game over!...

### MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

FLATS CAN'T BLOCK OWEN'S TITLE!....



Jason Pritchard 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

With the benefit of hindsight (which, as we all know, is always wonderful and usually 20/20!), Owen McMackin will be thanking his lucky stars that the BTRDA Silver Star® Championship was sewn up prior to the Rallynuts Stages. Maintaining his support of the Series, he took the start of the final round but his Escort succumbed to several punctures on the second stage which found him wanting in terms of the requisite number of wheels to replace them and, for the first time this season, retirement ensued.

Similarly, any thoughts that Ashley Davies and 2021 BTRDA Silver Star Co-driver Champion Sam Fordham may have had re a result on the Rallynuts were dashed when their Escort departed the fray during the afternoon.

So, what of those who did finish?... In a repeat of his Nicky Grist Stages performance, Jason Pritchard

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returned to take maximum Silver Star and BTRDA Historic Cup scores in his Escort but, having only contested these two rounds, even such stellar performances had no impact on the outcome of the Series. Rob Wright/Mark Fisher (Escort) were next up in Silver Star, confirming them as 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the final tables.



Rob Wright/Mark Fisher 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star

Following a retirement on the Cambrian, Michael McDaid/Declan Casey (Escort RS1800) also claimed points in both Silver Star and the Historic Cup.

In spite of a non-appearance on the event as they prepared for the Roger Albert Clark Rally, Paul Street/Ian Jones are confirmed as the 2021 BTRDA Historic Cup winners, from Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins whose Avenger took its sixth finish from six starts on the Rallynuts. Manxman Martin Freestone's Escort RS1600 has also maintained a 100% finishing record on its way to 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, behind Jordan/Jenkins.



Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan 1<sup>st</sup> R2 Cup



Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> R2 Cup 1st Junior R21600

Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan (Fiesta) took their second consecutive maximum score in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, beating Ioan Lloyd/Sion Williams (Peugeot 208) into 2<sup>nd</sup> place, but the latter crew's consistency during the season has seen them claim both Rallye R2 and R2 Junior Cups. After a late start (he missed the first two rounds!), Sam Bilham (Fiesta) has finished runner-up in both, with Simpson 3<sup>rd</sup> in the R2 Cup and Connor Tolson taking the final spot in the Juniors.

#### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA 1400<sup>®</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP

JORDAN WINS THE BATTLE – BUT NOT THE WAR!...



Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

Richard Jordan/James Gratton-Smith took their MG ZR to a Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA 1400 Championship win on the Rallynuts, but Steve Black/Paul Morris' 2<sup>nd</sup> place was enough to clinch the title for their Suzuki Swift. It was a close-run thing but Black's three maximums to Jordan's two proved decisive in the final analysis.

Adrian & Matt Walk's 1400C Ford KA was 3<sup>rd</sup> but, in the overall class, Edward Wain/Noel Murphy's two

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maximums and two second places trumped the Walks' three maximums for top spot. Nevertheless, both crews have proved that reliability and consistency still have an important part to play over the duration of a season.



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

Tom Naylor's fourth 'win' of the season was enough to see him crowned MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First® Champion in his Fiesta ST. He and Tom Bishop finished comfortably ahead of a returning Simon & Alex Stanbury (MG ZR), with the similar car of season-long rivals Simon Double/Jessica Mitchell, who takes the Co-drivers' title, 3<sup>rd</sup> on the day.

**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 Rallynuts Stages can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) These points will become final on **Saturday 27 November**.

### **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, Paul Street, will be presented with the prestigious AC de Monaco Trophy at the BTRDA awards ceremony. The 3 prize winners from the Rallynuts Stages were: -

- **Jason Pritchard**            **£250**
- **Michael McDaid**        **£150**
- **Baz Jordan**                **£100**

### **KIELDER POWER AWARDS**

Thanks to generous support from KIELDER Works Team, they have been 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 Rallynuts Stages the award goes to the highest placed driver in **BTRDA Gold Star: Elliot Payne**.

### **BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP**

The Rallynuts Stages was the sixth 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**
- **Sam Bilham**              **£75**

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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 Cambrian Rally the prizes are awarded to: -

- The highest placed BTRDA Junior 1600 R2 Cup driver: **Ioan Lloyd**
- The highest placed BTRDA driver in Class R2: **Tony Simpson**

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**.

### MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Rallynuts 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: **Michael McDaid** - Ford Escort RS1800 (Class H3).

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:

#### 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 this 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

Following the announcement of the date of the Awards Evening in the last Newsletter there have been some developments, we are working hard to secure a venue and suitable date, **more details to follow**.

### CALENDAR for the 2022 MRF TYRES BTRDA RALLY SERIES (best 5 scores to count)

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • <b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>Malcolm Wilson Rally / Cockermouth</b>        |
| • <b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>Rallynuts Stages / Royal Welsh Showground</b> |
| • <b>May 14<sup>th</sup></b>       | <b>Border Counties Rally / Jedburgh</b>          |
| • <b>June 18<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>Kielder Forest Stages / Hexham</b>            |
| • <b>July 9<sup>th</sup></b>       | <b>Nicky Grist Stages / Builth Wells</b>         |
| • <b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>Woodpecker Stages / TBC</b>                   |
| • <b>September 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Trackrod Forest Stages / Filey</b>            |
| • <b>October 29<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Cambrian Rally / Llandudno</b>                |

More details to be announced shortly...

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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 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 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.

**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 at <https://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/pages/grizedale-stages-fuel-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. Coverage across all six rounds can now be found on the BTRDA Rally Series website

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