



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 2 – 2022

MALCOLM WILSON RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

THE FULL S.P.I...!

Notwithstanding a change of car to that as used by his dad in recent times, Stephen Petch and co-driver Michael Wilkinson wasted no time in showing the opposition a clean pair of heels to run out winners of the Malcolm Wilson Rally, the first round of the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and, in so doing, left no-one in any doubt as to their intention of retaking the BTRDA Gold Star® Championship title they last won in 2018!



Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson 1st overall

From a superb entry of 124 cars, joint leaders after the first couple of stages, Petch/Wilkinson had the place all to themselves after a run through Wythop, with a hard-charging Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh next up. However, the latter's challenge came to an abrupt end in Greystoke when their Fiesta Rally2 clipped a rock which unceremoniously removed a front wheel...



Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins 2nd Overall

Fastest times on the final two stages of the day elevated Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins (Skoda Fabia) into runners-up

spot in both the event and BTRDA points, while Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen (Fiesta R5) remained in close attendance to claim 3rd place in the table.

In BTRDA terms, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear's Fiesta finished between the battling Lancer EVOs of Richard Hill/Pat Cooper, who took the B13 spoils, and Russ Thompson/Steve Link. Tom Llewellyn/Ross Whittock (Mitsubishi Mirage) and Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) rounded off the Top Ten on the event, with Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence bringing their Lancer EVO9, which is still basically a Group N car, home not far behind.



Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen 3rd overall

2016 BTRDA 1400 Champions Jordan & Paul Hone have returned in a Fiesta R5 for the new season and, quite obviously 'at-one' with the extra power, were up to 6th with two stages to go. However, the subsequent application of a two-minute road penalty served to push the Ulstermen down the finishing order. After a subdued day, but nevertheless retaining the bragging rights in the Payne household following Elliot's untimely demise, Charlie and Carl Williamson (Fiesta) also opened their

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account in the Gold Star Championship that they won in 2016.

Multiple former Asphalt Rally Champion Damian Cole, accompanied by Jamie Vaughan, has returned to the gravel this season but has yet to open his account after his Fiesta R5+ was withdrawn due to a lack of brakes prior to the final stage.

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

CROSSEN MAKES HIS MARK!....



David Crossen 1st Silver Star

With such a strong four-wheel drive entry on the Malcolm Wilson Rally, for David Crossen to take his Escort MkII to 12th overall – and maximum BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points – is some feat! Indeed, his was the only two-wheel drive car to feature in the Top Ten stage times at any point during the day – 10th on the opener in Hobcarton!



Rob Wright/Mark Fisher 2nd Silver Star

Rob Wright/Mark Fisher's Escort was next up, with the final 'podium spot' going to Andy Davison/Tom Murphy

who must be quietly hoping that the nightmare that was 2021 is now behind them and that their Talbot Sunbeam VXR is suitably fit to take them back to the dizzy heights of 2019 when they finished as runner-up and champion, respectively, in the Silver Star series of that year. So far, so good!...

Nick Dobson's 2-litre Escort was next, ahead of the MkI of Terry Pankhurst/Jamie Sparks and Neil Andrew's MkII.

Any hopes that Max Utting might have had of moving the Silver Star pendulum in the direction of a front-wheel drive car came to nought when his Fiesta ST MAX (is he the only person to drive a car named after him?...) stopped on the penultimate stage. 2021 BTRDA Rally First Champions Tom Naylor/Tom Bishop may have had similar designs on the Championship but their Fiesta ST got up close and personal with the undergrowth in Wythop and, although they were eventually able to get going again, their rally was run.



Yaniv Bar/Osian Owen 1st R2 Cup

In the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup Yaniv Bar/Osian Owen's Fiesta prevailed over Scott & David Sloan's Peugeot 208 which was bearing the scars of a close encounter with the scenery by the end of the event! At least it made the finish which, following gearbox failure, is more than can be said for Billy Grew/Simon Rogers' Fiesta....

Hannah McKillop's co-driving skills earned her top BTRDA Historic Cup points in her category, while Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm (Escort) and Alex Waterman/Glyn Thomas (Datsun 1600 SSS) both opened their accounts. However, the event did not look so kindly on James Lepley/Arwel Jenkins (Escort), Ernie & Patricia Lee (BMW 325i) and Kris Hopkins (Triumph TR7) who all joined the list of retirements at various points along the way.

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FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MICRA LIGHTS UP!...



Lewis Hooper 1st Bronze Star

A new season has brought new names to the fore in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship but, if the Malcolm Wilson Rally is anything to go by, there's no change in the competitiveness shown by the contenders! Lewis Hooper's Rally First Nissan Micra drew first blood with a maximum points score but, after more than 44½ miles of stages in the Lake District, the Proton Satria of Gary Scott/James Hedges was only 7s adrift! Then third-placed Edward James/Charlie Mason's Micra Kit Car was less than half-a-minute behind them. It'll come as no surprise to learn that Lewis also leads the MRF Tyres Rally First Cup at this point...



Gary Scott/James Hedges 2nd Bronze Star

Nissans certainly seem to be the car of choice this year with Alfie Hammond/Peter Williams and Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt claiming 1st & 2nd respectively in Class 1400C in Cumbria.

On the other side of the coin – or the 'down' side! – there were a number of would-be Bronze Star contenders who wouldn't see the finish ramp in Penrith. Dave & Freddy Brick's attempt to take the title that has, thus far, eluded them ended in Comb when their Nova was reduced to three wheels, while Dave Gorst's similar car also went out on the same stage. Paddy & Tom Homan's Puma succumbed to halfshaft failure in Greystoke and a broken wishbone accounted for Dale Glover's Alfasud Ti.

Adrian & Matt Walk's attempts to repeat their giant-killing antics of last year were not to be after one of their Ka's engine mountings broke – although they managed to strap it up and get to service, it could not be repaired in time.

MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP, IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

PURE CLASS!

The Malcolm Wilson Rally also doubled up as the first round of the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK. As is always the case in this class-based series, there are multiple leaders at this stage of the proceedings and it's only as the season progresses that the number is whittled down. So, those currently sharing the limelight include Stephen Petch (Fiesta), Richard Hill (Lancer EVO9), David Crossen and Nick Dobson (both Escorts, but with different size engines!), Yaniv Bar (Fiesta R2) and Alex Waterman (Datsun 1600 SSS).

English Rally Championship contenders have a six-round calendar to look forward to, culminating in the Grizedale Stages in early December. However, in the more immediate future, they've got three months to regroup before rejoining the campaign trail on the Kielder Forest Stages in June.

Photos by Kevin Money

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CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Malcolm Wilson Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com Likewise a list of **Motorsport UK English Rally Championship** points can be found in the Competitor section of www.englishrally.co.uk

These points will become final on Wednesday 30th March.

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 Malcolm Wilson Rally were: -

- **Grant Inglis £250**
- **Alex Waterman £150**

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 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series. Details of these specially designed Motorsport Spare Wheel Kits, which include a battery impact wrench, can be found on this youtube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg9F9Gglywc&ab_channel=KielderWTLtd

On the Malcolm Wilson Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B10: Nathan Wearden**

On the Rallynuts Stages the award will go to the highest placed driver in class 1400S.

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

There were no eligible finished on the Malcolm Wilson Rally

VITAL FUEL PRIZE

Premier competition fuel suppliers Vital Equipment Ltd and Carless Racing Fuels continue their initiative to support Britain's most popular national rally series. On every round of the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel**.

On the opening round of the Championship, the Malcolm Wilson Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup, no finishers so award went to the highest R2 Cup crew: Yaniv Bar**
- **The winning driver in the H1/H2 class: Alex Waterman.**

The two awards on the Rallynuts Stages will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class 1400C

At the end of the 2022 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a fuel deal

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

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

Improvement on Start No: 1400's/Rally First: **Lewis Hooper**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **John Gribbins**

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.**

ON EVENT BTRDA REPRESENTATION

Ian Arden, Neil Cross (Friday only) and Norman Robertson. Geoff Doe will be the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer on the Rallynuts stages

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motorsport UK

English Rally
Championship



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Rallynuts Stages – 9th April

Round 2 of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series is the Rallynuts Stages. Visit the event website for more information. rallynutsrally.co.uk

Border Counties Rally – 14th May

Returning to the Championship since the 1990s the event will be based in the picturesque Scottish Borders town of Jedburgh and use the classic forest test in the renowned and little used Tweed Valley and Wauchope Forest complexes. Entries are due to open on 2 April bordercountiesrally.co.uk

Kielder Forest Rally – 18th June

Based at Hexham Auction Mart the event will use the classic stages in Kielder. Entries are due to open on 19 April, keep an eye in their website for further details kielderforestrally.co.uk

Nicky Grist Stages – 9 July

The event will return to the centre of Built Wells with Service in the Town and using the classic stages up on the Military Ranges and Crychan Forest. The Rally Guide will be released on 1st May and entries will open on 16 May further details can be found at nickygriststages.co.uk

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 and the Motorsport UK 2022 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!

Co-drivers with non-registered drivers must carry 2 x BTRDA club decals on the car.

Decals are available from the BTRDA Championship Co-ordinator Ian Arden Tel: 07917 355169 at each of the qualifying events.

TYRES

Please note that in the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup** 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.

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

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 has videos from the BTRDA Rally Series events since 2014.

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