



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 6 – 2022

NICKY GRIST STAGES

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

HIRST'S BURST TO 1st!...

Having been absent from the previous round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Championship, the Kielder Forest Rally, due to attendance at the wedding of his co-driver Declan Dear, Matthew Hirst (Fiesta R5) could have chosen a number of ways to announce his reappearance in the Series. However, setting FTDs on seven of the eight stages contained in the route of the Nicky Grist Stages must count as one of the most emphatic! By the end of the first stage, Llyn Login, Hirst/Dear were 3s up on eventual runners-up Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) and spent the day steadily increasing



1st Gold Star Matthew Hirst & Declan Dear

So, with five of the eight rounds down, we now have two crews who've tasted victory twice – Hirst/Dear & Payne/Walsh. After the next round – the Woodpecker Stages at the beginning of September – dropped scores will come into play and that's when maximums will really start to pay dividends. Brace yourselves!...



2nd Gold Star Elliot Payne & Patrick Walsh

Posting their best result of the season by far, Hugh Brunton/Drew Sturrock (Fiesta R5) took 3rd place points on the Nicky Grist, finishing the day fractionally ahead of the only other crew to win a BTRDA Series round this year, Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson (Fiesta). James Giddings rounded off the Top Six in his Lancer EVO9, taking the Class B13 spoils in the process, but Richard Hill/Pat Cooper's 7th place in their similar car maintains a consistency – 5 starts/5 finishes - that puts them into the lead of the Gold Star table at this point.



1st B13 James Giddings

Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier (Lancer EVO7) also exceeded their previous results in mid Wales and, likewise, Bob Morgan/Ade Williams (Fabia R5) returned home to the Forest of Dean in a better Gold Star position than they had been when they left! Darren Craig/Harry Stubbs (EVO9) missed out on a Top Ten finish by 20s and, following their off in Kielder, Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson (Fiesta Rally2) will be pleased to have got to the finish of this one!

Among those to whom that previous remark does not apply were erstwhile Gold Star leaders Perry

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Gardener/Jack Bowen whose Fiesta R5 rolled out of 5th place on SS3, Halfway. Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence's efforts had been sufficient to register Top Ten times on a couple of occasions during the day, but it all came to nought when their Lancer EVO9's gearbox failed on the final stage in Crychan. Eddie Lewis must be wondering just who he's upset as his Fiesta R5 registered a second consecutive – and it's third of the season – DNF when the power steering failed on the second run through Halfway.

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

IT'S ALL IRISH TO US!....



1st Silver Star and Historic Michael McDaid & Declan Casey

At least it has been on four of the five rounds of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship so far – and the Nicky Grist Stages was no exception! Following the Kielder Stages Rally, David Crossen's Escort MkII had notched up two 'wins' to Michael McDaid/Declan Casey's one. The latter's RS1800 evened up the score on this occasion and also took maximum Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup points into the bargain. For his part, in spite of completing all the stages, Crossen was registered as a non-finisher...



2nd Silver Star & 1st B12 Rob Wright & Mark Fisher



1st R2 Cup Tony Simpson & Ian Bevan

Having relinquished the Silver Star lead following a DNF in Kielder, Rob Wright (Escort) was back in the points, allowing co-driver Mark Fisher to resume his place at the head of the Co-drivers' table. Less than 1.5s behind them on the day, Ashley Davies/Sam Fordham (Escort MkII) announced their return to the Series in no uncertain terms while a class win for leader Nick Dobson (Escort) helped maintain the Ilkley driver's exalted position at the top of the class!



2022 Junior R2 Cup Champions Billy Grew & Simon Rogers

Tony Simpson/Ian Bevan (Fiesta R2) put their retirement in Kielder behind them to finish marginally adrift of Davies/Fordham but, more importantly, as Kings of the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup! Jonathan Jones/Jez Rogers were next which was sufficient to retain their overall lead, while Billy Grew/Simon Rogers' 3rd place not only keeps them in the hunt for the title but a fourth consecutive maximum confirms the driver as the winner of the 2022 BTRDA Rallye R2 Junior Cup – congratulations from everyone at the BTRDA!

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B10 winners Nathan Wearden & Ethan Thompson

Behind McDaid/Casey in the BTRDA Historic Cup, Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm (Escort) did more than enough to keep their names in the limelight while, on only their second visit to the series, Jonathan Brace/Paul Spooner (Escort RS1600) came away with a class win.

The one major omission from the names mentioned above is that of Andy Davison/Tom Murphy. Following a cracking run in Kielder, faith in their Talbot Sunbeam VXR must have been – at least partially! – restored but, unfortunately, their rally ended shortly after the commencement of the second half. Stick with it, lads – this run of bad luck has got to end soon!...



1st B11 Nick Dobson

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

STILL GOT IT, THEN?!...

After a considerable absence, former 1400 Championship front-runner Nigel Jenkins (Nova) rejoined the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship regulars on the Nicky Grist Stages and came away with victory – by an impressive margin! However, in the interests of fairness, we should point out

that the 1400 winners on the past three occasions, Peter Gorst/Mark Twiname (Nova), were also heading for a fourth straight win when it all went wrong on the final stage of the day. Be that as it may, another name has been added to the 1400 'Roll of Honour' for 2022.



1st Bronze Star Nigel Jenkins

Second was Lewis Hooper in his trusty Rally First spec. Nissan Micra who, following a season of enviable consistency, not only leads the Bronze Star table overall but, with a 5th straight victory, is now confirmed as the winner of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup. Take a bow, Lewis – well done!



2nd Bronze Star 1st Rally First Lewis Hooper

Adrian & Matt Walk (Ford Ka) were 3rd Bronze Star finishers, taking a 1400C win into the bargain and narrowly edging out Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt (Micra) who lead the class by a considerable margin – i.e. by more than 30 points! Stefan also leads the Bronze Star Co-drivers' table overall – but a little bird tells us he's already aware of that!...

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3rd Bronze Star Adrian & Matt Walk

Class 1400S contenders Dale Glover/Sean Ward (Alfa Romeo Alfasud TI) and Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort) had, by their standards, a subdued day, as did Gethin Price/Matt Baddeley (Micra) and Edward Wain/Noel Murphy (MG ZR) as they strove to improve their respective standings in 1400C. However, at the same time, spare a thought for Edward James/Charlie Mason whose Nissan Micra Kit Car was officially classified as last finisher after missing much of the morning's action but making the most of the opportunity to rejoin the event for the afternoon loop of stages....

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS:

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Nicky Grist Stages can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com and on the Sportity app

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 Kielder Forest Rally were: -

1. £250 Michael McDaid
2. £150 Grant Inglis
3. £100 Jonathan Brace

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=dq9F9Gglywc&ab_channel=KielderWTLtd

On the Nicky Grist Stages the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B12 Rob Wright**

On the Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally the award will go the highest placed driver in class B13

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 Nicky Grist Stages the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup** **Billy Grew**
- **The winning driver in class H3** **Michael McDaid**

The two awards on the Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class B11

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

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motorsport UK

English Rally
Championship



BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

1. £150 Billy Grew

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Nicky Grist Stages, 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**

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

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:

Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally – 3rd September

Returning to its traditional base at Ludlow Racecourse, the 2022 event will be using classic stages long associated with the “Woody”. Check out their website, woodpecker-rally.co.uk and social media platforms for more details. Entries opened a few days ago and a healthy entry is already promised

Trackrod Forest Stages – 24th September

The Trackrod Forest Stages (part of the Rally Yorkshire weekend) offers a unique opportunity for the rallying community from the Clubman upwards, to participate in an event which uses ALL the CLASSIC YORKSHIRE STAGES. Based in Filey at the Evron Centre with Scrutineering and Service at Filey Brigg Country Park

Regulations will be published on 1st August with entries open on 5th August. Remember you can enter the longer Trackrod Rally Yorkshire or the Historic Cup and Land Rover Challenge and still score points in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK provided you **DO NOT** complete the pre event recce. Visit www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk for further details

BTRDA ON EVENT TEAM – Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally

Your on-event team will be:

Ian Arden, Andrew Haill and Geoff Doe

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. 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.

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

Checks will be carried out to ensure compliance with this, any competitors not carrying the appropriate decals will be reported to the Championship Stewards (W2.2.2 applies)

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.

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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

SPECIAL STAGE filming

The **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** by 'Special Stage' will feature extensive live event coverage from all rounds of the championship and will air on the Special Stage Facebook page. Special Stage will include coverage of all the categories / classes, where it is practical to do so, to tell the story of the event. Some of the online coverage will be split into shorter packages and released separately after each event and this can be found on the BTRDA Facebook Page and Website.

Look out for the live coverage schedule announcements across social media @SpecialStageUK @BTRDArally

The BTRDA Rally Series website has videos from the BTRDA Rally Series events since 2014.

Sportity Channel

Keep up to date with all things championship on our Sportity channel



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