



motorsport UK

English Rally
Championship



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 9 – 2022

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

HIRST'S 3rd 1st MOVES HIM UP TO 2nd!...

Once again Llandudno played host the final round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, and while, following the Trackrod Forest Stages, we already knew that Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) were the 2022 BTRDA Gold Star® Rally Champions, 2nd & 3rd places were still up for grabs. Prior to the start, there were three possible contenders (all Fiesta-mounted!) for runners-up spot – current holders Stephen Petch/Michael Wilkinson, mid-season series leaders Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen and Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear who, prior to the Cambrian, seemed to have been virtually invincible in Wales this year!



1st Gold Star Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear

Although Petch/Wilkinson were absent from the Cambrian starting grid, 2nd place still had to be taken from them and, when Gardener/Bowen retired at half distance, that left Hirst/Dear as their only threat. Over the first four stages, Hirst traded fastest times with Callum Black who looked to be on course to repeat his 2021 victory, even though there was a mere 0.4s between the two crews. However, having suffered a puncture on the first run through Clocaenog East, Black's Fiesta Rally2 suffered a similar problem when the rally returned for its second pass. On the following stage, Brenig 2, the car hit something on the line which caused a third puncture and, without a spare spare(!), that was that!...

Notwithstanding Black's demise, Hirst/Dear stepped up a gear, taking FTDs on the remaining four stages, on each occasion from Payne/Walsh, to take outright victory – their third of the season – and, in so doing, wrest 2nd in the Gold Star table from Petch/Wilkinson who, while sitting at home, still finished 3rd!



2nd Gold Star Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh

On only his second appearance in this year's BTRDA Series, Niall Devine brought his Fiesta R5 back to Llandudno in 3rd place, ahead of a battling trio of Mitsubishi Lancers all vying for Class B13 supremacy. In the event it was Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier who took maximum points on the day but, right behind them, Russ Thompson/Steve Link gained enough points to depose an absent Richard Hill/Pat Cooper from the overall class lead. James Giddings will be pleased to have registered his first finish since the Nicky Grist Stages in July with a fine 3rd in class.

Eddie Lewis (Fiesta R5) and Bob Morgan/Ade Williams (Skoda Fabia R5) ended their campaigns with Top Ten finishes which, in both instances, equalled their best performances of the season.

Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence were 9th overall after the second run through Clocaenog but, on its last event before retirement, their Lancer EVO9's engine succumbed on the next stage. It's lasted 16 years with only minimal maintenance but forcing the crew to stop

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as they couldn't see through all the oil on the windscreen gives us some idea of the extent of the damage!...



3rd Gold Star Driver Niall Devine

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

LEPLEY LEAVES IT LATE!...



1st Silver Star Driver James Lepley

Following in the footsteps of an older sibling is never easy but, especially when your brother was BTRDA Silver Star Champion two years running, James Lepley's appearance in the Series this year came with a degree of unwanted pressure. The Newark driver would be the first to admit that the season didn't start well, but cometh the hour, cometh the man! 12th overall in his Escort MkII on the Cambrian netted maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star and Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup points and, no doubt, a huge sigh of relief!

Next up, a couple of places behind, were Michael McDaid/Declan Casey in their similar car but what is worthy of note is that, despite only contesting five events, two 1st places, two 2nd and a third have seen the Irishmen claim 3rd overall in Silver Star and runners-up in

the Historic Cup. Irish eyes will certainly be smiling – if not a little bloodshot – by the time of the Awards Evening in January!...

The non-appearance of Nick Dobson in Llandudno meant that Rob Wright – also absent – joined co-driver Mark Fisher as MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Champion before the Cambrian started. For his part, in addition to his Class B11 win, Dobson holds on to 2nd place, ahead of McDaid and Jonathan Jones (Fiesta R2).



2nd Silver Star Driver & 1st Co driver Michael McDaid/Declan Casey

Jones and co-driver Jez Rogers (2nd to Fisher in the Silver Star Co-drivers' table) not only claimed the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup for themselves but were also responsible for keeping a front-wheel drive car in contention for Silver Star honours...



3rd Silver Star Driver & 2nd Co driver Paul Thompson & Josh Davison

On the subject of the R2 Cup, mention should be made of runner-up Tony Simpson – four 'wins' from seven starts and, but for a couple of retirements, things could have been very different! Adapting to different co-drivers, following the sad loss of Ian Bevan in September,

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go to make the feat even more impressive – but he'll know that!



1st Rallye R2 Cup Tony Simpson

Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm (Escort) resisted everything the forests of North Wales could throw at them to claim the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup. Just as well really as, if something had gone awry, McDaid/Casey would have profited from their misfortune. However, it didn't – and they didn't, such that the AC de Monacotrophy will be spending the next twelve months in Glasgow!...

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

LAST-GASP GORST!...



1st Bronze Star Driver Nigel Jenkins

Although they'd scored three maximums in the first half of the season, two retirements had seen Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname (Nova) trailing the ever-reliable Micra of MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup Champion Lewis Hooper in the race for the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship. So, to stand any

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chance of altering the look of the leaderboard, Gorst/Twiname had to finish the Cambrian – and finish well. No 'if's, no 'but's – just knuckle down and get on with it!



2nd Bronze Star Driver 1st co driver Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname

Nigel Jenkins' appearance from mid-season also put the cat amongst the pigeons as, while he didn't pose a threat in overall Championship terms, two 1st places and a 2nd in his Nova meant that his presence had to be taken seriously. Very seriously, as it happened as the Lydney driver completed his season with yet another 1400cc victory. However, Gorst/ Twiname resisted the pressure and recorded 2nd 1400 on the day which, in spite of Hooper's close proximity in the final results, was enough to oust their rival from the top of the table.



3rd Bronze Star Driver Lewis Hooper

Ed James/Charlie Mason (Micra Kit Car) had retired on the Trackrod but, even so, Charlie had managed to hang on to her lead in the Bronze Star Co-drivers' table. Now with their car restored to full health, they couldn't do





anything to stop the charge of the eventual winners. However, we hope the '2022 BTRDA Lady Co-driver' award will go some way in recompense!



1st 1400C Alfie Hammond

Alfie Hammond (Micra) was victorious in Class 1400C while Richard Garnett/Stefan Arndt's 2nd place was enough to confirm them as winners for the year. Any thoughts Adrian & Matt Walk might have had of challenging them disappeared in a cloud of steam when, in full view of the 'Special Stage' cameras, their Ka slid into a very stout tree stump in Penmachno and went no further....

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS:

Due to an error that wasn't corrected before the result went final the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally results have been reissued with the permission of Motorsport UK, in line with this we have reissued the post Cambrian BTRDA Points.

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 and on the Sportity app

Points will become final on Monday 13 November

JORDAN ROAD SURFACING BTRDA 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 Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally were: -

1. £250 James Lepley
2. £150 Michael McDaid
3. £100 Will Graham

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 Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in Class H1/2 Will Graham**

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

No eligible finishers

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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 Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed R2** **Tony Simpson**
- **The winning driver in class B13** **Rob Wilson**

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 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: **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**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Grizedale Stages – 2 & 3 December

The final round of the 2022 Motorsport UK English Rally Championship in association with SEACON UK takes competitors to the Grizedale Stages in the Lake District. The event offers 42 miles over 4 stages with just 37 road miles. Regulations are published and Entries close at Midnight on Saturday 19 November. Visit www.grizedalestages.co.uk for further details

AWARDS EVENING

The 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK awards evening will be held on Saturday 14 January 2023 at Drayton Manor, Tamworth. Full details will be released in the next week, but you can contact the hotel and book a discounted room quoting BTRDA Awards Evening <https://www.draytonmanor.co.uk/hotel>

2023 SEASON

The Committee are putting the final touches to the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, a full announcement of dates and classes will be made in the next 7 days

The BTRDA have won the tender to run the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship and we will be releasing details of the 2023 Championship and Calendar in due course

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