



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 2 – 2023

MALCOLM WILSON RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

ICE & A SLICE JUST THE TONIC FOR ELLIOT!...

A burst of very wintry weather in the days leading up to the Malcolm Wilson Rally, the opening round of both the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and Motorsport UK English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK, caused severe headaches for the organisers and led to a revamp of the original route which saw a number of stages cut from the itinerary due to the presence of snow and ice.



1st Gold Star Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn

Notwithstanding, defending MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star® Champion Elliot Payne, with co-driver Tom Woodburn installed in his Fiesta Rally2 for the new season, belied his lack of experience in the prevailing conditions and, while additionally contesting the BRC (but foregoing the opportunity of a recce in order to qualify for BTRDA points), not only embarrassed some of his colleagues who had had sight of the stages the previous day but also began his campaign in the best possible way with maximum Gold Star points....



2nd Gold Star Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards

The aforementioned problems led to the BRC & BTRDA event routes being identical, although split into 'National' (BRC) and 'Interclub' (others) sections. Elliot & Tom were 3rd in the former but, winning the Interclub event outright, Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards' Skoda Fabia R5 finished 50s adrift to claim 2nd Gold Star points – just! With only the last of three runs through Greystoke to go, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) were leading the rally by 3.6s but then Newby, on his home turf, put up a gargantuan effort over the last 7.5 miles to stop the clocks 4s quicker than his rival to claim victory by a mere 0.4s. The pace, itself, would have been hot enough to melt the ice!...



3rd Gold Star Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear

Russ Thompson/Steve Link continued where they left off in Class B13 at the end of last season by taking 4th overall – and maximum class points – in their Lancer EVO9, a handful of seconds in front of Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins who have joined the Fiesta Owners' Club since their last BTRDA appearance in a Fabia. Keeping Thompson/Link honest in B13, Ian Joel/Graeme Wood's Escort Cosworth claimed a Top Six finish, staying marginally ahead of 2016 Malcolm Wilson winners Charlie Payne/Carl Williamson's Fiesta Rally2. Alistair Ginley/Craig Thorley

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com





motorsport UK
English Rally
Championship



belied their lack of recent (BTRDA) match practice by bringing their ex Payne Jr. Fiesta Rally2 to the finish in 8th place after a performance which included 2nd fastest time of the day through Grizedale South, immediately followed by a loss of 40s with a puncture in Grizedale North. You win some, you lose some!...

Among those who could have reasonably expected to finish in the points but for various reasons didn't, we find the Fiestas of Trevor Gamble/Phil Kenny and Eddie Lewis/Sion Cunniff. Don't panic, lads – as we say every year at this point, there's still plenty of time to get your respective seasons back on track...

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIEND REUNITED!...



1st Silver Star & Historic Cup Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons

Ben Friend and Cliff Simmons showed that they've lost none of their competitive edge by taking their Historic spec. Escort MkII to a Top Ten finish in Cumbria, earning themselves maximum points in both the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship and BTRDA Historic Cup in the process. Cumbrians Rob Wright/Mark Fisher (Escort), the defending Silver Star champions, were next while completing the two-wheel drive podium – and moving into an early BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup lead – were Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown in their Opel Adam.

Back for another season in their venerable Sunbeam VXR, Andy Davison/Tom Murphy missed out on 3rd Silver Star points by 1.5s, while Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees (Escort) opened their account with a Class B11 win.

Behind Proudlock/Brown in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup, the Fiestas of Liam Clark/Ben Wild and Alfie Hammond, who has moved up from Class 1400C and now has Phil

Boyle to point him in the right direction, also had successful outings.



2nd Silver Star Rob Wright/Mark Fisher

Ernie & Patricia Lee (BMW325i) put their last-stage retirement on the 2022 Malcolm Wilson Rally behind them and got the job done this time! An excellent haul of BTRDA Historic Cup points was their reward and we look forward to seeing them out on events during the season in weather that, perhaps, won't be quite so 'exciting' from inside a BMW!...



3rd Silver Star & 1st R2 Cup Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MAKING PLANS FOR NIGEL!...

... although it's abundantly clear that Nigel (Jenkins) has got plans of his own, especially in respect of the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship. Having set the series alight with performances in their Nova during the second half of the 2022 season, Nigel and his wife, Kaz, started on the Malcolm Wilson Rally

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com





where they left off last autumn by clinching the overall 1400 category by almost a minute. Although the contest has only just started, the phrase 'laying down a marker' seems particularly apt here...



1st Bronze Star Nigel & Kaz Jenkins

Next up were Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards in their Rally First Nissan Micra. No matter how hard they tried, the opposition had trouble shaking off Lewis' attention last year and, once again, all the signs are that we (or, more particularly, 'they'!) are in for more of the same... It goes without saying that Lewis & Rhys currently lead the MRF Tyres Rally First Cup...



2nd Bronze Star & 1st Rally First Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards

Andrew & Oliver Wheatley's Puma (no – not an electric one!) comfortably cleaned up in Class 1400C, adding to the variety of the Bronze Star podium but, at the same time, only just holding off the Micra Kit Car of Ed James and 2022 BTRDA Lady Co-driver Champion Charlie Mason for the spot.



3rd Bronze Star Andrew & Oliver Wheatley

Kris Farrell/Harry Stubbs (Proton Satria) and Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort) finished line-astern in Class 1400S while the appearance of Giles Armitage/Josh Rhodes (Peugeot 205) means that Lewis Hooper may possibly not have an uninterrupted run to retain his Rally First Cup....

Dale Glover/Sean Ward's Alfasud TI looked on course for some points but failed to appear at the end of the final stage. That'll have been a quiet trip back to Kings Lynn, then!...

MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP, IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

JOINT PAYNE – WITH PROUDLOCK, JENKINS & FRIEND!...

The Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK, also slid into action – literally! – on the Malcolm Wilson Rally and, such is the nature of the competition that a mere three points currently separate the top dozen drivers. Equal first following their performances on Round 1 are Elliot Payne (Fiesta Rally2), Robert Proudlock (Opel Adam), Nigel Jenkins (Nova) and Ben Friend (Escort). These four have Arron Newby (Fabia), Andrew Wheatley (Puma) and Russ Thompson (Lancer EVO9) breathing down their necks, and so on...

Contenders now have a couple of months to regroup before the Jedburgh-based Border Counties Rally beckons in early May. Then we'll see who is able to maintain their winning stance and continue their quest to carve out an advantage purely for themselves!

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com





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 Monday 28th March.

MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY

The 2023 MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY is open to all BTRDA Rally Series drivers and will be contested on all rounds of the 2023 MRF TYRES BTRDA Rally Series.

To be eligible to score points in the MRF TROPHY the rally car must be fitted with MRF branded tyres throughout the event, but the tread pattern and profile are free. Cars must carry the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series decals. Checks will be made to ensure compliance with the Tyre and Decal requirements. Failure to comply will automatically result in zero points being scored.

For more info about MRF Motorsport Tyres at www.serviceandsport.com

Contact: Jerry@Serviceandsport.com Tel 07789 392080.

Championship standings after round 1

	Driver	Make	Model	Points
1 st	Andrew Wheatley	Ford	Puma	22
=2 nd	Ian Bainbridge	Ford	Fiesta	21
=2 nd	Lewis Hooper	Nissan	Micra	21
=4 th	Ian Joel	Ford	Escort Cosworth	20
=4 th	Alfie Hammond	Ford	Fiesta	20
6 th	Edward James	Nissan	Micra Kit Car	19
=7 th	Colin Minton	Ford	Fiesta	18
=7 th	Giles Armitage	Peugeot	205 GTi	18
9 th	Will Banks	Vauxhall	Nova	17
10 th	Michael Jenkins	Ford	Fiesta	1

KIELDER POWER AWARDS

Thanks to generous support from KIELDER Works Team, they will be awarding one of their valuable "Impact Wrench Kit" as a prize on each round of the 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series.

Further details of the kit Kielder provide please visit <https://www.kielder.co>

On the Malcom Wilson Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B10: Lucy Wigley**

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

BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The top three Junior R2 Cup crews on the Malcolm Wilson Rally are

1 st £150	Robert Proudlock
2 nd £100	Liam Clark
3 rd £50	Alfie Hammond

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com





CARLESS RACING FUELS & VITAL EQUIPMENT 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 2023 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series two competitors each receive **25 litres of Carless Racing Fuel** to be redeemed on the next round of the championship.

Elliott Payne is the recipient of the 2023 end of season prize for the 2023 championship

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

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Robert Proudlock**
- **The winning driver in the H1/H2 class: No eligible finishers, prize awarded to highest placed B10 driver Lucy Wigley**

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

At the end of the 2023 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2024 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series will receive a fuel deal for each round they enter.

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: **Andrew Wheatley**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Robert Proudlock**

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

On the Rallynuts Stages it will be Ian Arden, Neil Cross (Friday only) and Bryan Hull and the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Rallynuts Stages – 15th April

Round 2 of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series is the Rallynuts Stages. Based in Builth Wells, the 44-mile gravel event will take in classic stages in Myherin, Sarnau, Sweet Lamb and Hafren forests to test competitors to the limit. Approximately 27 miles of this will be first usage and the tests in Myherin feature roads not generally available for use.

Entries are now open, visit the event website for more information. rallynutsrally.co.uk

Border Counties Rally – 6th May

Winner of the Best Event in 2022 BTRDA Rally Series, the Border Counties Rally will once again be based in the picturesque Scottish Borders town of Jedburgh and provide some of the best stage rallying in the UK. Entries are due to open on 2 April bordercountiesrally.co.uk

Kielder Forest Rally – 17th 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 – 8th July

The event will return to the centre of Builth 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 22nd May. Further details can be found at nickygriststages.co.uk

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com





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 2023 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.

We allow some latitude on the first round but from round 2 this will be strictly enforced.

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 or the Championship representatives at each of the qualifying events in the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series.

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.

Registered Office: The Barn, Holly Berry House, Rough Park, Rugeley, WS15 3SQ
Registered in England & Wales No. 4185808
www.btrdarally.com

