



## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 3 – 2023

### RALLYNUTS STAGES

#### MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

##### IF'S, BUT'S & NEWBY'S!...

Having won the Interclub section of the Malcolm Wilson Rally outright in their Fabia R5, we knew that Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards would be a force to be reckoned with when it came to the battle for this year's MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star Championship. We also knew that 2022 Rallynuts Stages winners Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) had got what it takes and then, of course, there was defending Gold Star champion Elliot Payne (Fiesta Rally2) who won the event for himself in 2021 but had to settle for runner-up spot last year. So, even to the casual observer, it was quite obvious that a fascinating battle was in prospect....



1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star Arron Newby & Jamie Edwards

With fastest times on each of the first four stages, Hirst/Dear looked to be running away with it but, at the start of the fifth, the fat lady was obviously warming up as it certainly wasn't over yet!... A rear puncture not only started removing bits of the Fiesta's bodywork but also cost 36s to Newby/Edwards who, at a stroke, moved up a place to lead the event. Back up to full speed once more, Hirst/Dear were not to be beaten on the penultimate stage of the day – Hafren Sweet Lamb 2 – but were to suffer the indignity of another puncture in Cwmysgawen which added a further half-minute to their time.

So, as the cars arrived back at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells for muted celebrations in the wake of Craig Breen's death just a couple of days before, Newby/Edwards were declared the winners from Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn, who were never lower than 4<sup>th</sup> fastest on any of the stages, in runners-up spot. In spite of their deflationary pressures, Hirst/Dear took

3<sup>rd</sup> place by a solitary second to leave them wondering (knowing full well?) what might have been....

Proving – if proof was needed – that their Malcolm Wilson result wasn't a flash in the pan, Russ Thompson/Steve Link brought their Lancer EVO9 home in 4<sup>th</sup> place, a minute in front of the EVO7 of Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier, with Al Ginley/Craig Thorley's Fiesta Rally2 squeezed in between the two main Class B13 protagonists. Steve Black borrowed the Fiesta Rally2 and co-driver – Jack Morton – used so successfully by Callum Black on the previous round to finish 7<sup>th</sup> overall and, coincidentally, 7<sup>th</sup> BTRDA-registered driver in the process.



2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn

Eddie Lewis/Sion Cunniff (Fiesta R5) and Charlie Payne (Fiesta Rally2) arrived home a mere two seconds apart just outside the Top Ten after 44 miles of special stages but, unfortunately, one crew that didn't feature in the results was Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins. Their Fiesta departed the fray – and the track – on the opening stage, never to return...

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3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star Matt Hirst/Declan Dear

So, what do (Gold Star) points make? Well, a tie for first place to start with – Newby/Edwards and Payne/Woodburn are currently inseparable at the top, while Thompson/Link are two points adrift and Hirst/Dear four. Jedburgh plays host to Round 3, the Border Counties Rally, and it's already quite clear that there'll be a skirmish, or two, before any form of coronation takes place. No matter, there'll be another one taking place in London on the same day!...

**MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

A FRIEND IN THE LEAD!....



1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star & Historic Richard Gough/Paul Morris

Having come, seen and conquered all before them on the Malcolm Wilson Rally, Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons led the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship in their Historic spec. Escort prior to the start of the Rallynuts Stages. In spite of being upstaged by Robert Gough/Paul Morris (Escort MkII), who were 9<sup>th</sup> overall in mid-Wales, they returned home with their heads held high – and their position in the points tables unaltered!

Nevertheless, their advantage would have been cut somewhat if Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees (Escort) had finished the day 6s quicker but, as things stand, the Flying Kiwi and his Welsh co-driver are joint 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table with Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown whose Opel Adam brings a front-wheel drive dynamic to the sharp end of the Silver Star table. Andy Davison/Tom Murphy have begun their season in fine form, bringing their at-times recalcitrant Sunbeam VXR home to two excellent results to date, putting them in 4<sup>th</sup> place and within spitting distance (please!...) of the leaders.



2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons

With a 100% finishing rate among contenders for the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup, Gough/Morris took top honours, while Friend/Simmons maintain their advantage at the head of the table. Making a welcome return to the series, Jonathan Brace/Paul Spooner's Escort RS1600 led home the similar car of Ernie & Karen Graham to lead Class H1/2 and, not to be out-done, Manxman Martin Freestone made it a 1-2-3 for the much-loved Ford model!



3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Star Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees

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Behind Proudlock/Brown, Tony Simpson and co-driver Stefan Arndt (Fiesta) joined the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup hopefuls but had to give best to Liam Clark/Ben Wild (Fiesta), with Alfie Hammond/Phil Boyle ensuring that there was a full-house of category finishers!

**FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP**

MICRA LIGHTS UP THE STAGES!...



1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star & Rally First Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards

Defending MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First® Cup Champion Lewis Hooper and co-driver Rhys Edwards returned to the top step of the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship podium on the Rallynuts Stages with a superb run in their Nissan Micra to finish ahead of first round leaders Nigel & Kaz Jenkins (Nova) after what, by their standards, was an 'off' day. Now, in a similar situation to the Gold Star Championship, we have joint leaders, each with a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place to their names!



2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze Star Nigel & Kaz Jenkins



3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze Star Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans

Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans won Class 1400C on the day, bringing their Micra home one place behind the Jenkins' Nova, while Paddy Homan (Puma) and Chris Bush/Kev Papper (Corsa) finished on identical times with the former getting the nod, having finished the opening stage one second quicker than the latter!...

Behind Fowler-Bishop/Evans in 1400C, Ashley Francis-Adams/Lucy Wilding, in another Micra, were next with the MG ZR of Luke Watts/Matt Rogers finishing in the points as well. Will Banks/Sam Kelter weren't so lucky, however, as their Nova ran out of fuel after SS4.

Dale Glover's Alfa Romeo Alfasud TI had been quicker than the Jenkins' Nova on three stages, equalled it on two – and went off on SS6! Meanwhile, any hopes Giles Armitage/Josh Rhodes might have had in regard to Rally First points evaporated when, having completed all the stages, their Peugeot was forced to stop by a fuel leak on the final road section.

**MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY**



Points Leader after round 2 Ian Joel

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As predicted, leadership in the new MRF Tyres Motorsport Trophy has changed hands following the Rallynuts Stages, with Ian Joel being the new 'King of the Castle' in his Escort Cosworth. However, he holds the position on a tie-break with Lewis Hooper (Nissan Micra) and both are only one point ahead of Edward James (Nissan Micra Kit Car), two from Alfie Hammond (Fiesta R2) and three from Colin Minton (Fiesta R5).

Beginning their campaigns on Round 2, Tony Simpson (Fiesta R2), Martin Beech (Peugeot 205 GTI), Daniel Sigurarson and Peter Bayliss (both Lancer EVO9s) have all started strongly and will be looking to the Border Counties Rally, at the beginning of May, for the opportunity to consolidate – and even improve! – their positions.

Photos by 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 Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://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](http://www.englishrally.co.uk)

These points will become final on Saturday 29 April 2023.

### 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](http://www.serviceandsport.com)

Contact: Jerry@Serviceandsport.com Tel 07789 392080.

Championship standings after round 2

No	Driver	Make	Model	MRF Class	R1 Total	R2 Total	Total
1	Ian Joel	Ford	Escort Cosworth	Class 6	20	22	42
2	Lewis Hooper	Nissan	Micra	Class 1	21	21	42
3	Edward James	Nissan	Micra Kit Car	Class 2	19	21	40
4	Alfie Hammond	Ford	Fiesta R2	Class 3	21	18	39
5	Colin Minton	Ford	Fiesta R5	Class 7	18	20	38
6	Andrew Wheatley	Ford	Puma	Class 2	22	x	22
7	Ian Bainbridge	Ford	Fiesta R5	Class 7	21	x	21
8	Tony Simpson	Ford	Fiesta R2	Class 3		21	21
9	Martin Beech	Peugeot	205 GTi	Class 4		20	20
11	Daniel Sigurarson	Mitsubishi	Evo 9	Class 6		19	19
10	Giles Armitage	Peugeot	205 GTi	Class 1	18	1	19
12	Will Banks	Vauxhall	Nova	Class 2	17	1	18
13	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi	Evo 9	Class 6		17	17
14	Michael Jenkins	Ford	Fiesta R2	Class 3	1	x	1

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### 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 Rallynuts Stages Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class 1400S: Nigel Jenkins**

On the Border Counties Rally Stages the award will go the highest placed driver in class 1400C.

### BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The top three Junior R2 Cup crews on the Rallynuts Stages Rally are

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

### 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 Rallynuts Stages Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Robert Proudlock**
- **The winning driver in the 1400C class: Dylan Fowler-Bishop**

The two awards on the Border Counties Rally will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class B10

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 Rallynuts Stages Rally, each of whom receive a FREE set of competition brake pads from Questmead Ltd, are: -

Improvement on Start No: Bronze Star 1400's/Rally First: **Dylan Fowler-Bishop**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Lucy Wigley**

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 Border Counties Rally it will be Ian Arden, Neil Cross, David Thompson and Steve Waggett, the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

#### Border Counties Rally – 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://bordercountiesrally.co.uk)

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### Kielder Forest Rally – 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://kielderforestrally.co.uk)

### Nicky Grist Stages – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> May and entries will open on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Further details can be found at [nickygriststages.co.uk](http://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 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](http://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](http://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.

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