



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 6 – 2023

NICKY GRIST STAGES

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

ELLIOT IN A SPIN!....

Although Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta Rally2) arrived in Built Wells for the fifth round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, the Nicky Grist Stages, as BTRDA Gold Star® Championship leaders, Elliot was only too aware that the event was one of the ever-decreasing list of those he'd not actually won! For his part, Tom was 3rd overall in 2021 with George Lepley but, last year, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) pipped Elliot to the post for victory. Thus, this time there were two main items on Elliot & Tom's agenda, the second of which would naturally follow the first, i.e. win the event and maintain (if not even extend) their lead in the Gold Star table.



Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn 1st Gold Star

Two loops of four stages lay in wait for the excellent 127-car entry and, just to emphasise that they did, indeed, mean business, Payne/Woodburn set FTDs on the first three, with Hirst/Dear their nearest rivals on each occasion. Then on the first run through Monument, the last stage of the first batch, Elliot was caught out briefly and the resultant spin allowed Hirst to record the fastest time but, even then, by less than 5s!



Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear 2nd Gold Star

The second loop saw Payne take two FTDs plus one shared with Hirst who then claimed the second run through Monument for himself. So, a flag to flag lead for the defending Gold Star Champion but Hirst/Dear will also be encouraged by the final margin which was just 7.9s after more than 42 miles of flat-out motoring!



Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards 3rd Gold Star

Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards (Fabia R5) started steadily and, while unable to break into the Fiesta clique ahead of them, acquitted themselves perfectly satisfactorily with four third-fastest times, such that it was no surprise that that's where they finished on the event. More importantly, perhaps, they retain their runners-up spot in the Gold Star table on equal points with Hirst/Dear - their one maximum and two 2nd places giving them the nod over the latter crew's one of each!...

Russ Thompson/Steve Link's momentous season continued with 4th overall and, into the bargain, their Lancer EVO9 took it's fifth consecutive victory in Class B13. No doubt pleased to see the finish after their early exit from the Kielder Forest Rally, Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier's EVO7 was next up – 7th, half a minute behind

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Thompson after setting Top Ten times on all eight stages, including one 3rd and two fourths.



Russ Thompson/Steve Link 1st B13

Alistair Ginley/Craig Thorley's Fiesta Rally2 set several 4th-fastest stage times (and one 3rd!) on its way to 5th overall with Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins, whose flirtation with a Fiesta was summarily brief, rounding off the Top Six in a VW Polo!

Eddie Lewis/Sion Cunniff's Fiesta R5 was 3rd after the opening stage but had dropped to 8th before suspension damage on SS4 put them out, while Charlie Payne – with 2022 BTRDA Gold Star Champion Co-driver Patrick Walsh in his Fiesta Rally2 – departed the fray a stage earlier.

B13 protagonists Ian Joel/Graeme Wood (Escort Cosworth) were 10th overall after SS6 – and on their way home after SS7, while Jonathan Lightbody's Impreza waited until the final stage before throwing itself at the scenery!



Robert Gough/Paul Morris 1st Silver Star & Historic

So, everyone now has a bit of a breather before a full-on climax to the season begins with the Woodpecker Stages on 9th September. There are three events to go and, while some categories/classes may look as though they're all but sewn up, it's worth remembering that there's still plenty of time for Sod's Law to intervene!...

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

LIKE FATHER!....

Robert Gough's dad, Richard, won the Quinton Motor Club-organised event that is now known as the Nicky Grist Stages back in 1982 in an Escort RS1800. 41 years later he was back in his Rothmans-liveried ex-works car but, from the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship perspective, interest centred on Robert who, with Paul Morris riding shotgun, took his own Escort MkII to its third maximum points score of the season. While, nevertheless, very impressive, that fact on its own doesn't convey the whole story as, a mere three seconds behind the Historic spec. car, series leaders Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees took a B11 class win in their Escort MkII and, one place and 9s in arrears, early-season top dogs Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons were 3rd in their fully-repaired example after its indiscretion on the Border Counties!



Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees 2nd Silver Star

Having spat its dummy out very early on the previous round, Andy Davison's Sunbeam VXR was back on its best behaviour, carrying its driver to a B12 class win and 4th Silver Star points – for the fourth time this season!

Following various no-shows and retirements, Liam Clark's Fiesta made hay (while it rained!) in both the BTRDA Rallye R2 & Rallye R2 Junior Cups but, as has already been alluded to, nothing can yet be regarded as safe!

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In direct contradiction to the above synopsis, following a 2nd in Class B10 finish on the Nicky Grist Stages, Lucy Wigley cannot be beaten in her quest to be crowned 2023 BTRDA Lady Driver! Congratulations, Lucy, well done! You can now sit back – should you choose to do so! – and watch everybody else ducking and diving as they seek to achieve their own particular goals!...



Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons 3rd Silver Star

Gough/Morris (Escort MkII) still hold the upper hand in the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup but can't shake off the attentions of Ernie & Karen Graham in their MkI Escort RS1600. Steve Ward/Phil Sandham (Escort MkII) are 3rd, a handful of points in front of a resurgent Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons who led after the first couple of rounds.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

NEARLY – BUT NOT QUITE!...



Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 1st Bronze Star

Nigel & Kaz Jenkins went a step closer to sealing this year's Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Championship on the Nicky Grist Stages by taking their Nova to its fourth win out of a possible five so far! However, in spite of their current domination of the series, there's still some more work to do before thoughts turn to the possibility of succeeding Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname to the title...

Proving that persistence pays off – eventually! – 2nd 1400 on the day was the Alfasud TI of Dale Glover who finally got to see the finish of an event this year at his fourth attempt! The final podium spot went to the 1400C Micra of Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans which moves them up to 5th in the overall table, behind Luke Watts/Matt Rogers (MG ZR), Lewis Hooper (Micra) and Chris & James Greenall (Nova).



Dale Glover 2nd Bronze Star

Hooper and Harry Stubbs finished just behind series returnees Ed James/Charlie Mason (Micra Kit Car) and marginally ahead of Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort) who, likewise, had also been missing for a while.

Behind the 1400C winners, Ashley Francis-Adams/Lucy Wilding (Micra) were next, ahead of Watts/Rogers and Will Banks (Nova).

Adrian & Matt Walk's attempts to join them all at the finish were thwarted when their Ka's engine failed on the opening stage of the day.

Following some mechanical updates to his Micra prior to the Kielder Forest Rally, Lewis Hooper has ruled himself out of the running for back-to-back MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cups. Taking up the cudgel in his place, Adam Quinn's Suzuki Swift finished one place and a handful of

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seconds ahead of the Fiesta of Daniel Shalev/Steven Brown.



Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans 3rd Bronze Star

MRF MOTORSPORT TYRES TROPHY

Colin Minton continues to lead the MRF Tyres Motorsport Trophy following another good run on the Nicky Grist Stages in his Fiesta R5. However, following his retirement in mid Wales, Ian Joel (Escort Cosworth) has forfeited the position of 'closest challenger' and been replaced by Lewis Hooper in his Micra who is less than one maximum score behind Minton.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

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 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 Sunday 23 July 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 Contact: Jerry@Serviceandsport.com Tel 07789 392080.



Colin Minton leader MRF Motorsport Tyres Trophy

Others to head home from Builth Wells with healthy additions to their accounts were Nigel Jenkins (Nova), Peter Bayliss (Lancer EVO9) and Liam Clark (Fiesta R2), while Chris Greenall (Nova) and Daniel Shalev (Fiesta ST).

Once again, contenders will now have to wait until the Woodpecker Stages on 9th September for the next opportunity to further their cause in pursuit of the very worthwhile prize of some free entries and tyres for a 2024 BTRDA Rally Series campaign.

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

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Trophy standings after round 4

	DRIVER	Car	Class	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
1	Colin Minton	Fiesta R5	7	18	20	20	20	20				98
2	Lewis Hooper	Nissan Micra	1/2	21	21	1	18	18				79
3	Ian Joel	Escort Cosworth	6	20	22	20	-	1				63
4	Alfie Hammond	Fiesta R2	3	21	18	18	1	-				58
5	Will Banks	Vauxhall Nova	2	17	1	20	1	16				55
6	Nigel Jenkins	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	23	23				46
7	Tony Simpson	Fiesta R2	3	-	21	21	-	1				43
8	Edward James	Micra Kit Car	2	19	21	-	-	-				40
9=	Chris Greenall	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	20	20				40
9=	Daniel Shalev	Ford Fiesta ST	1	-	-	20	-	20				40
11	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	17	-	-	22				39
12	Daniel Sigurdarson	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	19	-	20	-				39
13	Martin Beech	Peugeot 205 GTi	4	-	20	-	18	-				38
14	Liam Clark	Fiesta R2	3	-	-	-	1	22				23
15	Andrew Wheatley	Ford Puma	2	22	-	-	-	-				22
16	Wil Armitage	Peugeot 306 S16	4	-	-	-	21	1				22
17	Ian Bainbridge	Fiesta R5	7	21	-	-	-	-				21
18	Giles Armitage	Peugeot 205 GTi	1	18	1	1	-	-				20
19	Michael Jenkins	Fiesta R2	3	1	-	-	-	1				2
20	Colin Griffiths	Subaru Impreza	6	-	-	-	-	1				1

Best 6 scores to count.

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 Nicky Grist Stages the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B12: Andy Davison**

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

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.

On the Nicky Grist STages the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Liam Clark**
- **The winning driver in the H3 class: Robert Gough**

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 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.

Elliot Payne was the recipient of the 2022 end of season prize for the 2023 MRF BTRDA Rally Series.



BTRDA JUNIOR R2 1600 CUP

The top three Junior R2 Cup crews on the Nicky Grist Stages are:

1 st £150	Liam Clark
2 nd £100	no award
3 rd £50	no award

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: Bronze Star 1400's/Rally First: **Dale Glover**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Callum Griffiths**

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 Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages it will be Ian Arden, Andrew Hail, Norman Robertson and the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages Rally – Saturday 9 September 2023

The event will be based once again at Ludlow Race Course and will visit popular local stages in Haye Park and Hopton Wood, new stages for 2023 include Cwmysgawen and Ceri. Regulations will be published on Wednesday 19 July 2023 and entries will open on Saturday 24 July 2023, see www.woodpecker-rally.co.uk for more information

Trackrod Rally Yorkshire

Entries for the Trackrod Rally Yorkshire (22/23 September) will open on 4 August and the organisers are expecting high demand for places on one of the most significant gravel rallies in the UK this season. See www.rallyyorkshire.co.uk for more information

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.

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.

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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 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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