



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 7 – 2023

PHIL PRICE MEMORIAL WOODPECKER RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

MIND THE GAP – IT'S GETTING SMALLER!...

Although they didn't have things all their own way, Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards put up a superb performance in their Fabia R5 on the Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally, the sixth round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, to take victory from arch-rivals – and Gold Star Championship leaders – Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta Rally2) by a mere three seconds! However, this result has narrowed the gap between the two crews to four points with just the Trackrod and Cambrian Rallies to go – and, of course, dropped scores now come into play. Brace yourselves!...



1st Gold Star Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards

On a very hot, humid and dusty day, 121 crews left Ludlow Racecourse for the long run-out to the opening stage, Cwmysgawen, and, in Gold Star terms, it was Newby/Edwards who took first blood from Payne/Woodburn by 3s – sound familiar?... Equal with the series leaders were Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier (Lancer EVO7) with Al Ginley/Craig Thorley (Fiesta Rally2) one second adrift and then Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Lancer EVO9) a similar margin in arrears.



2nd Gold Star Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn

The event consisted of two loops of four stages and, at service after the first, Newby/Edwards had eked out a lead of 12s over the defending Gold Star champion. Following an incident on SS5, all the leading contenders were issued with notional times but then, after requiring some serious 'hydration' at halfway, Payne got the bit between his teeth and set fastest/equal fastest times on each of the final three stages, but it wasn't quite enough...



3rd Gold Star Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier

Wilson/Crozier came home in 3rd place, eclipsing Thompson/Link, who'd had a troubled day with anti-lag woes, by 6s to take the Class B13 win. However, now with five maximums and one second-place to their credit, Thompson/Link are this year's B13 Champions – well done, chaps!

Ginley/Thorley were 5th and Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins (VW Polo) finished the day in a highly creditable 6th place.

Although their past record on the Woodpecker is not the best, Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear were looking forward to the opportunity of consolidating – or even improving on – their 3rd place in the points. However, on leaving scrutineering, something went badly amiss under their

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Fiesta R5's bonnet and the engine lunched itself. No amount of phone calls were able to secure a suitable solution and the pair were forced to sit out the event. A look at the tables tells us that, even if they were to win the final two rounds and Payne & Newby fail to score, they'd miss out on the title by a single point. Life just isn't fair sometimes, is it?...

Wilson/Crozier are currently 2nd in B13 but cannot yet consider themselves as 'safe'. Daniel Sigurdarson/Asta Sigurdardottir (Lancer EVO9) finished 10th and are within reach of runners-up spot – with all the usual caveats! – as are Ian Joel/Graeme Wood whose Escort Cosworth was absent from the Woodpecker starting line-up.

MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIEND REUNITED – WITH MAXIMUM POINTS!...



1st Silver Star Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons

Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons started their MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship season off in fine style but an accident on the Border Counties not only meant nil points in Jedburgh but also a similar score from the Kielder Forest Rally as the car was still being returned to the shape that Ford originally planned! A promising run on the Nicky Grist set them up nicely for an outing on the Woodpecker and the subsequent return to the top step of the Silver Star podium. However, as with their four-wheel drive colleagues, it was close!

Having absented themselves from the Nicky Grist, Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown were back in their Opel Adam and, obviously relishing the conditions, arrived at the finish 3s behind the leaders to take runners-up spot in Silver Star, with Tony Simpson/Stefan Arndt's Fiesta 3rd. Next up were Ernie & Karen Graham in their Mk1 RS1600 which, with the early departure of Robert Gough/Paul Morris when their Escort suffered a double

puncture on the opening stage of the day, sees them take over top spot in the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup®. Gough/Morris are demoted to 2nd and Steve Ward/Phil Sandham (Escort MkII) are 3rd.



2nd Silver Star Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown

Andy Davison/Tom Murphy (Sunbeam VXR) were half a minute behind the Grahams, a result which moves the driver up to 2nd in the Gold Star table although, following his absence from the Nicky Grist, Murphy is further down the Co-drivers' section.

'But what of Silver Star leaders Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees?', we hear you ask. Their Escort's steering broke on SS4 and refusing to do as the driver commanded saw it finish up down (a bank) and out (of the rally), fortunately without injury to either crew member. The plus side – if there is one – is that they maintain their lead in their respective categories but by reduced margins.



3rd Silver Star Tony Simpson/Stefan Arndt

Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown lead the BTRDA Rallye R2 & BTRDA Rallye R2 Junior Cups, with nearest challenger in both categories, Liam Clark's Fiesta going

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OTL soon after the start of the second loop of stages. Tony Simpson/Stefan Arndt are hanging in there but, with the best will in the world, don't qualify for the Junior Cup!...

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

TO FINISH FIRST...!



1st Bronze Star Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans

Having scored four maximums and one 2nd place from the five events in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship so far this year, one more decent result would clinch the title for Nigel & Kaz Jenkins – but would the Woodpecker Stages provide that opportunity? Well, in theory, 'yes' but, in practice, 'no'!... Their hitherto extremely rapid Nova suffered engine failure on only the second stage of the day and that was that – at least as far as the Woodpecker was concerned. So, it's on(wards) to the Trackrod and up(wards) from Lydney to Filey for the next opportunity to put the matter to bed...



2nd Bronze Star Chris Bush

Taking maximum advantage, in more ways than one, of the leaders' woes were Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans whose Class 1400C Micra showed the others the way home - just! Chris Bush's Corsa was next, one place and 2s behind, to claim the bragging rights in Class 1400S on the day. Ashley Francis-Adams' Micra (1400C) was 3rd, 8s ahead of the Nova (1400S) of Chris & James Greenall.

Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards' Micra was 5th (3rd 1400S), moving the driver up to 2nd in the overall table at the expense of Luke Watts/Matt Rogers (MG ZR) who, by their standards, had something of a quiet day.

Joining the Jenkins on the list of retirements were Ed James/Charlie Mason whose Micra Kit Car had gone out with a broken wishbone on SS2 and Adrian & Matt Walk's KA that stopped after the penultimate stage of the day.

Following the Woodpecker, Danny Shalev/Shannon Turnbull (Fiesta) have one hand on the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup – one more result from the remaining two events should clinch it!...



3rd Bronze Star Ashley Francis-Adams

MRF TYRES MOTORSPORT TROPHY

TWO-HORSE RACE!...

The battle to win some tyres and entries for the 2024 BTRDA Rally Series continued on the Woodpecker, with Colin Minton (Fiesta R5) taking his fifth maximum score from six events to lead the table at this juncture. Although twenty drivers have scored points during the season, there is now only one who stands a chance of knocking Colin off his perch and that is Lewis Hooper whose Micra is less than one maximum score behind. However, with two events to go, it's far too early to start

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making predictions as to who will benefit from this very handsome prize! Watch this space!...

MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

THE USUAL SUSPECTS!...



Class winner Ernie & Karen Graham

As is the case in the race for BTRDA Gold Star honours, Arron Newby's victory on the Woodpecker Stages, the

fourth round of the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship in association with Seacon UK, in his Fiesta R5 has narrowed the gap between himself and leader Elliot Payne (Fiesta Rally2) and the two find themselves three points apart. Russ Thompson (Lancer EVO9) is one behind and, while these three have opened up a gap between themselves and the chasing pack, it should be remembered that there are still three rounds to go and a maximum of 25 points available on each!

Ernie Graham (Escort RS1600) took a maximum on the Woodpecker – his third in a row – and, were this level of performance to be maintained through to the conclusion of the season, anything could happen.

It's worth reiterating that, in this class-based Championship, it's not necessarily out-and-out power that pays dividends – rather each driver's performance against others in similar vehicles.

So, next stop Filey for the Trackrod Forest Rally at the end of the month...

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 Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages 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 Saturday 23 September 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.

Trophy standings after round 6

	DRIVER	Car	Class	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
1	Colin Minton	Fiesta R5	7	18	20	20	20	20	20			118
2	Lewis Hooper	Nissan Micra	1/2	21	21	1	18	18	21			100
3	Tony Simpson	Fiesta R2	3	-	21	21	-	1	21			64
4	Ian Joel	Escort Cosworth	6	20	22	20	-	1	-			63
5	Daniel Shalev	Ford Fiesta ST	1	-	-	20	-	20	21			61

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6	Martin Beech	Peugeot 205 GTi	4	-	20	-	18	21	-			59
7	Daniel Sigurdarson	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	19	-	20	-	20			59
8	Alfie Hammond	Fiesta R2	3	21	18	18	1	-	-			58
9	Will Banks	Vauxhall Nova	2	17	1	20	1	16	-			55
10	Nigel Jenkins	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	23	23	1			47
11	Edward James	Micra Kit Car	2	19	21	-	-	-	-			40
12	Chris Greenall	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	20	20	-			40
13	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	17	-	-	22	-			39
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	1			23
17	Ian Bainbridge	Fiesta R5	7	21	-	-	-	-	-			21
18	Giles Armitage	Peugeot 205 GTi	1	18	1	1	-	-	1			21
19	Michael Jenkins	Fiesta R2	3	1	-	-	-	1	1			3
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 Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in class B13: Rob Wilson**

On the Trackrod Rally the award will go to the highest placed driver in Rally First.

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 Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Robert Proudlock**
- **The winning driver in class B11: Geoff Phelps**

The two awards on the Trackrod Rally will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class B12

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 Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages Rally are:

1 st £150	Robert Proudlock
2 nd £100	no award
3 rd £50	no award

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Stages, each of whom receive a FREE set of competition brake pads from Questmead Ltd, are: -

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

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Tony Simpson**

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 Trackrod Rally it will be Ian Arden, Nic Quinlan-Hull, Dave & Russell Thompson, Neil & Pete Cross and the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be John Cooper.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally

Entries have opened for the final round of the BTRDA Rally Series the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally. The event is based in Llandudno at venue Cymru, Service will be at the Welsh Assembly Government buildings at Llandudno Junction. the competitive route is within the County of Conwy. Visit <https://cambrianrally.co.uk> for more information

Awards Dinner and Presentation

We are pleased to confirm the Annual Awards Evening will be held on Saturday 27 January 2024 at the Drayton Manor Hotel, further details will be circulated soon.

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.

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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