



## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 8 – 2023

### TRACKROD FOREST STAGES

#### MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

##### TRACKROD ENDS NEWBY'S HOPES!...

The maths were simple – the practicalities not so!... If Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards were to keep their hopes of winning the MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star Rally Championship alive, their Fabia R5 needed to finish ahead of Series leaders Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn (Fiesta Rally2) on the penultimate round, the Trackrod Forest Stages. They'd done it on their previous outing, the Woodpecker Stages, but, whatever the outcome, we knew we were in for a fantastic battle on the super-fast stages on the North York Moors



Elliot Payne/Tom Woodburn 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star & 2023 BTRDA Gold Star Champions

Initially, the plan seemed to be working – Newby/Edwards set FTD on the opening stage of the day, Gale Rigg, and in spite of losing out to their rivals by 1.2s on Cropton, were still leading after two stages – by 0.1s! Payne then set FTDs on the next two stages and, in spite of Newby ending the day with fastest time through the 13 miles of Langdale, it wasn't quite enough to prevent the defending Gold Star Champion from becoming the

first driver since Ricky Evans in 1994/95 to claim back-to-back titles. Tom Woodburn, meanwhile, can now add a Gold Star to the Silver Star he won with George Lepley in 2018!

Congratulations from all at the BTRDA, not only for putting on such a good show but also for the manner in which it was conducted. The friendly rivalry extended throughout the whole season and it's worth mentioning

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that both cars finished all seven events – testament indeed to the standard of preparation from both teams.



Arron Newby/Jamie Edwards 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star

Staying out of the way of the battle raging ahead of them, 2022 Trackrod winners David Henderson/Chris Lees (Fiesta Rally2) were 3<sup>rd</sup> this time, with Russ Thompson/Steve Link's fabulous run continuing with 4<sup>th</sup> overall – a result which maintains their 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Gold Star table. The only crew who could rain on their parade are Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear whose Fiesta R5 failed to finish its second event in a row, such that they'll not be troubled by dropped scores and can count every point they earn on the final round in North Wales.

Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins' Polo was next – Top Ten times on all five stages earned them a points score equal to their highest of the season. Although Class B13 had already been claimed by Thompson/Link with a full-house of six maximum scores, Rob Wilson/Richard Crozier have now made sure of runners-up spot by taking their Lancer EVO7 to 8<sup>th</sup> overall, one place in front of the Fiesta Rally2 of Trevor Gamble/Phil Kenny.



David Henderson/Chris Lees 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star

Former BTRDA Production Cup Champions Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence's first appearance of the season their Lancer EVO9 netted 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class B13, with Steve Pawson's Impreza one place behind.

Among those for whom the trip to Filey wasn't 'Fiesta' time were Al Ginley/Craig Thorley whose Rally2 went out on SS3, shortly before the similar car of Steve Black/Jack Morton threw the towel in. Then erstwhile MRF Tyres Motorsport Trophy leader Colin Minton forfeited his place at the top of the table when his R5 suffered various problems towards the end of the event. Lewis Hooper's Micra is now ahead by a solitary point!...

### MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIEND – OR FOE!...



Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

A resurgent Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons took their Escort MkII to maximum MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship points on the Trackrod – their third such score of the season – and, while the similar car of Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees still leads the table, the fate of the title lies firmly in the hands of these two crews.

Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins (Escort MkII) scored their first points of the season, ahead of the MkI Escort RS1600 of Ernie & Karen Graham, with Kershaw/Rees right behind them. Upholding front-wheel drive honours, the Opel Adam of Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown finished a mere 7s adrift of the Silver Star leaders.

After a problematic day in Yorkshire, Andy Davison (Sunbeam VXR) clings on to runner-up spot in the Silver Star Championship but whether that situation will change before close of play is more in the hands of others, rather than the Middlesbrough driver himself...

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Ernie & Karen Graham 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star

The Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup® is finely poised as the season reaches its climax – Ernie & Karen Graham are the leaders but, should Friend/Simmons come out on top on the Cambrian, it's possible that a tie-break may be required to separate the two crews for the title...

Early-season front-runners Robert Gough/Paul Morris' challenge has been blunted by two consecutive retirements but a good run on the final round could elevate them into the Top Three of both Silver Star and Historic Cups...

As far as the BTRDA Rallye R2 & Junior R2 Cups are concerned, Robert Proudlock (Opel Adam) currently holds the bragging rights in both, but Liam Clark (Fiesta) is far too close for comfort, such that a reversal of the top two is a definite possibility. Cue chewed fingernails!...



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

**FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP**

DOWN IN THE FOREST SOMETHING STIRRED!...

Forest of Dean residents Nigel & Kaz Jenkins only contested the second half of the 2022 Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship but, even at that, their speed and commitment were there for all to see. So, what would a full season bring forth? Well, victory actually – albeit at the second time of asking! Four maximums and one 2<sup>nd</sup> from the first five events put them within one good result of the title – however, their hitherto ultra-reliable Nova's engine let go on the Woodpecker and, so, they had to wait for the Trackrod for another chance to put the matter to bed. They grasped the opportunity with both hands and yet another 'win' sealed it!



Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star and 2023 Bronze Star champions

Once again, congratulations on the victory and for the domination of the category this year – very impressive!...

Behind the husband-and-wife, Chris & James Greenall's Nova was next, putting them on equal points with Lewis Hooper (Micra) as the battle for runners-up spot continues. Aaron Rix/Abi Haycock (Escort) claimed their best score of the season in 3<sup>rd</sup>, ahead of Luke Watts' MG ZR.

Of those whose day didn't go according to plan, Paddy & Tom Homan's Puma stopped on the final stage after Ashley Francis-Adams' Micra had done likewise on the previous one.

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motorsport UK  
English Rally  
Championship



Chris & James Greenall 2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze Star

So, behind the Jenkins, not only are Chris Greenall and Lewis Hooper in the frame for the remaining podium spots but Dylan Fowler-Bishop, whose Micra was absent from the Trackrod but beat all-comers on the Woodpecker, could join them.



Luke Watts/Rhys Edwards 1<sup>st</sup> Class 1400C

Although absent from the Trackrod Forest Stages, Danny Shalev (Fiesta) still leads the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally First Cup but Giles Armitage (Peugeot 205) and Adam Quinn (Suzuki Swift), who both scored well on the event, have him in their sights!...

#### CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Trackrod 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 Friday 6 October 2023.

#### MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEACON UK

AS YOU WERE!...

In common with the BTRDA Rally Series, the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK, also took to the stages for the second time in a fortnight. On the Woodpecker Stages earlier in the month, Arron Newby (Fabia R5) beat ERC leader Elliot Payne (Fiesta Rally2) to narrow the gap in the table, only for the roles to be reversed on the Trackrod and restore the five-point margin between the top two!



Russ Thompson/Steve Link 1<sup>st</sup> Class B13

Russ Thompson (Lancer EVO9) is on equal points with Newby in 3<sup>rd</sup> place but, having missed the opening round, Ernie Graham (Escort RS1600) has scored maximums on each of the next four events...

The ERC calendar now moves away from the BTRDA Rally Series with the next stop being the Wydean Stages Rally in mid November and concluding on the Grizedale Stages at the beginning of December. With a total of 50 points still potentially available to each competitor, any one of the current Top Fifteen drivers could – on paper at least – emerge as the 2023 Champion!

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

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### 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.

Trophy standings after round 7

	DRIVER	Car	Class	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
1	Lewis Hooper	Nissan Micra	1/2	21	21	1	18	18	21	20		119*
2	Colin Minton	Fiesta R5	7	18	20	20	20	20	20	1		118*
3	Daniel Sigurdarson	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	19	-	20	-	20	19		78
4	Martin Beech	Peugeot 205 GTi	4	-	20	-	18	21	-	18		77
5	Tony Simpson	Fiesta R2	3	-	21	21	-	1	21	-		64
6	Ian Joel	Escort Cosworth	6	20	22	20	-	1	-	-		63
7	Daniel Shalev	Ford Fiesta ST	1	-	-	20	-	20	21	-		61
8	Alfie Hammond	Fiesta R2	3	21	18	18	1	-	-	-		58
9	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	17	-	-	22	-	17		56
10	Will Banks	Vauxhall Nova	2	17	1	20	1	16	-	-		55
11	Nigel Jenkins	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	23	23	1	-		47
12	Wil Armitage	Peugeot 306 S16	4	-	-	-	21	1	1	21		44
13	Liam Clark	Fiesta R2	3	-	-	-	1	22	-	20		43
14	Giles Armitage	Peugeot 205 GTi	1	18	1	1	-	-	1	21		42
15	Edward James	Micra Kit Car	2	19	21	-	-	-	-	-		40
16	Chris Greenall	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	20	20	-	-		40
17=	Andrew Wheatley	Ford Puma	2	22	-	-	-	-	-	-		22
17=	Pat Naylor	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	22		22
19	Ian Bainbridge	Fiesta R5	7	21	-	-	-	-	-	-		21
20	Simon Double	MG ZR	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	18		18
21	Michael Jenkins	Fiesta R2	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	-		3
22	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 Trackrod Rally the award goes to the **Highest Placed Driver in Rally First: Giles Armitage**

On the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally Rally the award will go the highest placed driver in class H1/2.

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### 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 Trackrod Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The Highest Placed BTRDA Junior R2 Cup: Robert Proudlock**
- **The winning driver in class B12: Andy Davison**

The two awards on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally will be for Highest placed Junior R2 Cup & Class B13

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 Trackrod Rally are:

1 <sup>st</sup> £150	Robert Proudlock
2 <sup>nd</sup> £100	Liam Clark
3 <sup>rd</sup> £50	no award

### MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Trackrod 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: **Chris Greenall**

Improvement on Start No: Gold Star/Silver Star: **Ernie Graham**

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 Cambrian Rally it will be Sarah Morris, Dave & Russell Thompson, Neil & Pete Cross (Friday only) and the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

### 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.

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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.



*Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 2023 Bronze Star Champions*

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