



CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 9 – 2023

VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY

MRF TYRES BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

THOMPSON TURNS THE CLOCKS BACK!...

The final round of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series, the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally, took place on the last day of British Summer Time but, rather than waiting until 2.00am the following morning, Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Lancer EVO9) took the event by storm and arrived back at the finish in Llandudno as winners – by our calculations the first time a B13 car has won a BTRDA Series event since Luke Francis (coincidentally runner-up on this occasion) took his Lancer to victory on the 2016 Nicky Grist Stages!...



Russ Thompson/Steve Link 1st Gold Star

However, Thompson/Link didn't have things all their own way... Initially 2022 Cambrian winners – and No.1 seeds – Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) carried on where they left off by setting FTDs on each of the first two stages, from Thompson/Link on the first and Ian Bainbridge/Will Atkins (Polo) on the second. Then disaster struck – again! Getting (too!) up-close-and-personal with the scenery on SS3 (Brenig) damaged the Fiesta's radiator which ultimately led to their second consecutive retirement and, with it, any chance of a good end-of-season result went up in steam!...



Daniel Sigurdarson/Asta Sigurdardottir 2nd Gold Star

For their part, Bainbridge/Atkins also departed the fray at about the same time after their Polo developed engine trouble. So, in BTRDA terms, it was left to Daniel Sigurdarson/Asta Sigurdardottir, who had forsaken their Lancer for a Fiesta for the Cambrian, to follow the leaders home in the points - 4th overall in what was a strange car being a most commendable result.

Putting their Trackrod retirement behind them, Colin Minton/Bonnie Papper's Fiesta R5 was restored to full health once more such that they were able to end the season with a finish well inside the Top Twenty and earn themselves their highest Gold Star score to date. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to stop Lewis Hooper who, by taking a maximum in the MRF Tyres Motorsport Trophy, slightly increased his lead over them at the top of the table, earning the Micra driver four free entries and three sets of (MRF!) tyres for use in the 2024 BTRDA Rally Series. Congratulations – and see you next year!...



Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees 3rd Gold Star & 1st Silver Star

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MRF TYRES BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP
KERSHAW WINS THE BATTLE - BUT FRIEND WINS THE WAR!...

With both 2023 BTRDA Gold & Bronze Star winners known to us prior to the start of the final round of the Series, all eyes turned to the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star Championship to see how it would unfold. Although several different makes of car had featured in the podium photos during the season, when it came down to it, the question was 'whose Escort MkII would succeed that of outgoing winners Rob Wright/Mark Fisher to the title?'



Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons 2023 Silver Star Champions



Callum Griffiths/William Lewis 2nd Silver star

Boyd Kershaw/Keegan Rees arrived in Llandudno as leaders but, with six scores already, no matter how well they did, they could only improve on their lowest to date. Early leaders Ben Friend/Cliff Simmons, meanwhile, had had problems mid-season which saw them approach the finale with a score in hand over their rivals. Nevertheless, their 'good' days saw them with three maximums to Kershaw/Rees' one.

With just the final stage of the day to go, Friend/Simmons were actually in the Top Ten overall but a puncture on the 13 miles of Hiraethog Trail cost them over 3½ minutes to their rivals who, with a clear run, took maximum points in the category for a second time. But hold on a minute... Friend/Simmons still finished and some frantic mental arithmetic showed them to have pipped the 'Flying Kiwi' and his co-driver to the post by a single point. Phew!

Congratulations to both crews and, once again, we should point to the way in which the contest has been played out – 'Serious Fun' is our byline and 'Serious Fun' it's certainly been!...



Liam Griffiths/Daniel James 3rd Silver Star



Robert Proudlock/Steve Brown BTRDA R2 Cup Winners

On the day the Fiesta STs of Callum Griffiths/William Lewis and Liam Griffiths/Daniel James finished just 10s apart, earning 2nd & 3rd place Silver Star points respectively, while yet another class win for Ernie & Karen Graham (Escort RS1600) confirmed them as ending the season as 3rd overall in Silver Star and Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup Champions, with

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Friend/Simmons' resurgence over the second half of the season whittling the eventual margin in the latter down to a mere 4 points!

In order to maintain their lead in both the BTRDA Rallye R2 & Junior Rallye R2 Cups, Robert Proudlock/Steven Brown (Opel Adam) needed to stay ahead of arch-rival Liam Clark's Fiesta over the stages in North Wales. In the event, neither would make it back to the finish, preserving the status quo and ensuring that both trophies would head north of the border this year. Tony Simpson/Stefan Arndt's Fiesta didn't complete the opening stage after succumbing to mechanical maladies, leaving Michael Jenkins (Fiesta) to take top – and the only! – points on the day.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

JENKINS' FULL-HOUSE – AND TROPHY CABINET!...



Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 1st Bronze Star

Following the Trackrod Forest Stages, we already knew that Nigel & Kaz Jenkins were the 2023 Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Champions. They'd done it with five maximums and one 2nd place – Lewis Hooper (Micra) had the cheek to finish ahead of them on the Rallynuts Stages! – but a final hurrah on the Cambrian would see the husband-and-wife crew end the season with a maximum 180 points... Achieving their goal with a Top Twenty finish brought the curtain down on an almost perfect campaign.



Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans 2nd Bronze Star

Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans (Micra) were next up, cementing 3rd overall in the Championship and a Class 1400C win into the bargain. Ashley Francis-Adams' similar car and Luke Watts/Matt Rogers (MG ZR) were 2nd & 3rd on the event and in the overall class.

Ed James/Charlie Mason (Micra Kit Car) finished the year with a good haul of points while Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards (Micra) confirmed their runners-up spot in the Championship with a class win.



Ashley Francis-Adams 3rd Bronze Star

Giles Armitage/Josh Rhodes (Peugeot 205) took maximum points in the MRF Tyres Rally First Cup but 2nd was enough to confirm Danny Shalev (Fiesta) as the winner, with Josh as top co-driver!

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

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CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally can be found in the Competitor section of www.btrdarally.com

These points will become final on Thursday 9 November 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 8 (Final) *Best 6 scores to count.*

	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	22	123*
2	Colin Minton	Fiesta R5	7	18	20	20	20	20	20	1	20	119*
3	Daniel Sigurdarson	Mitsubishi Evo 9/R5	6/7	-	19	-	20	-	20	19	20	99
4	Daniel Shalev	Ford Fiesta ST	1	-	-	20	-	20	21	-	17	78
5	Martin Beech	Peugeot 205 GTi	4	-	20	-	18	21	-	18	-	77
6	Tony Simpson	Fiesta R2	3	-	21	21	-	1	21	-	1	65
7	Wil Armitage	Peugeot 306 S16	4	-	-	-	21	1	1	21	20	64
8	Ian Joel	Escort Cosworth	6	20	22	20	-	1	-	-	-	63
9	Giles Armitage	Peugeot 205 GTi	1	18	1	1	-	-	1	21	19	61
10	Alfie Hammond	Fiesta R2	3	21	18	18	1	-	-	-	-	58
11	Peter Bayliss	Mitsubishi Evo9	6	-	17	-	-	22	-	17	-	56
12	Will Banks	Vauxhall Nova	2	17	1	20	1	16	-	-	-	55
13	Nigel Jenkins	Vauxhall Nova	2	-	-	-	23	23	1	-	-	47
14	Liam Clark	Fiesta R2	3	-	-	-	1	22	-	20	-	43
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	-	21	24
22	Colin Griffiths	Subaru Impreza	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	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 Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally the award goes to the **highest placed driver in class H1/2: Ernie Graham.**

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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 Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- **The winning driver in class 1400C: Dylan Fowler-Bishop**
- **The winning driver in class B13: Russ Thompson**

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.

MINTEX / QUESTMEAD BONUS SCHEME

The winners of the Mintex Awards on the Visit Conwy Cambrian 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: **Ed James**

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.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Although the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series is now complete we still have the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK has two rounds to go. Entries are open for both events.

Wyedean Stages Saturday 18 November 2023 www.wyedeanstages.co.uk

The rally will consist of three legs of stages all within the Forest of Dean. During the morning competitors will attempt three stages followed by a service halt at Coleford, Competitors will then compete on a re-run of the three morning stages and return for a final service. This will be followed by a run through a single stage and a return to the Service Park for the finish of the event.

Scrutineering and documentation will be on Friday afternoon and evening

Grizedale Stages Friday 1 & Saturday 2 December 2023 www.grizedalestages.co.uk

"It's no secret that the 2022 rally went down spectacularly well with everyone so we thought we'd do the same again."

Friday evening through Grizedale East in the dark, and 4 decent length stages (all 8+ miles) in Grizedale West on the Saturday giving a total of 42.5 stage miles and 53.1 road miles.

Scrutineering and service will again be at Skelwith Fold caravan park near Ambleside, and the event starts from there on Friday evening. The start and finish on Saturday will be from Coniston village.

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, tickets will go on sale once the results have gone final.

Ian Joel and Graeme Wood have been fundraising for the Motor Neurone Disease Association all season and we will be holding an auction and raffle to support this worthy cause. An auction catalogue will be published before the evening, closed internet bids are permitted, and the auction and raffle will take place after the dinner and before the Awards are presented. Graeme would appreciate any items for either the auction or raffle.

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