



## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 2 – 2024

### MALCOLM WILSON RALLY

#### FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW FORMAT – SAME RESULT!...

The traditional Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Gold Star® Championship opener, the Malcolm Wilson Rally, offered the 90+ entrants something different this year with the start on Friday evening and stages in Comb and Hobcarton under cover of darkness. Following an overnight halt and a later-than-usual restart on Saturday morning, the remaining five stages in Lake District favourites – Wythop, Grizedale & Greystoke – took the event to its traditional finish near Penrith.

Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) romped home to a convincing win, although it has to be said that, to start with, they didn't have things all their own way! Equal fastest time in Comb put Payne into the pound seats but Walsh – the 2022 BTRDA Gold Star Champion Co-driver reunited with Elliot who is out to try and make it three-in-a-row! – found himself tying with Hannah McKillop – in a manner of speaking! Then, she was the fastest BTRDA-registered co-driver through Hobcarton, her driver stopping the clocks marginally ahead of Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (Fiesta R5) and Series newcomer Vivian Hamill (VW Polo).



Vivian Hamill 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star



Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Star

Suitably revived by a night's sleep, Payne/Walsh set FTD on Saturday's first stage, Wythop, by the narrowest of margins from Hamill with, in BTRDA terms, a returning Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen (Fiesta R5) and Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Lancer EVO9) next. Hamill then claimed the first run through Greystoke for himself before Payne/Walsh moved up a gear to do likewise in both Grizedale stages, such that a relatively slow time – by their standards – on the final stage didn't affect the overall result.

Scott Beattie/Peredur Davies (Fiesta R5) were 5<sup>th</sup> overall (3<sup>rd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> BTRDA), having recorded Top Ten times on six of the event's seven stages, with Thompson/Link, Daniel Sigurdarson (Fiesta R5) and Hirst/Dear finishing line astern with a mere 18s separating the three cars. Liam Clark/Emily Easton-Page (Fiesta Rally2) arrived back at Penrith in 11<sup>th</sup> place, with Gunnar Johannesson/Isak Gudjonsson (Fiesta R5), Pat Naylor/Ian Lawrence (Lancer EVO9) and Daniel Hiorns/Rob Fagg (Fiesta S2000t) all claiming some valuable points. However, following an inversion, the Hiorns/Fagg Fiesta will require a degree of TLC before it is returned to its owner, Graham Coffey!

Andrew Purcell/Mark McGeehan's Polo succumbed to brake issues after the opening stage, while Protyre BTRDA Asphalt Championship regulars Neil Roskell/Dai Roberts were sidelined when their Fiesta Rally2 developed 'drive train issues' on SS5 which is where Daniel Moss/Samuel Davies (Lancer EVOX) also departed the fray when they slid down a bank! Sadly, Perry Gardener/Jack Bowen's return to the BTRDA Series didn't go as planned when their Fiesta R5 was pulled up (eventually!) with a lack of brakes and Steve Pawson/Liam Whiteley (Impreza) left it until the last stage before rolling!....

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Scott Beattie/Peredur Davies 3<sup>rd</sup> Gold Star Driver 2<sup>nd</sup> Gold Star Codriver  
 Everyone now has just over a month to dust themselves down and prepare for Round 2 – the Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages – which sees the BTRDA Series making the first of four visits to Wales during the year. The signs are that we’re in for another very competitive season – don’t miss it!

**PROTYRE BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

SUNBEAM LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT SKY!....



Andy Davison/Tom Murphy 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Star

Andy Davison/Tom Murphy (Sunbeam VXR) have started their 2024 campaign off in fine style with maximum points in Cumbria. While Murphy won the Co-drivers’ category in 2019, Davison has yet to have his name etched on the Silver Star trophy – so, no prizes for guessing what’s top of their agenda!... However, but for the addition of a one-minute road penalty to Ben Jemison’s time, the results would have looked somewhat different in that a Vauxhall Chevette HSR would currently be leading the Protyre BTRDA Silver Star® Championship!... In spite of this

setback, Jemison must take solace from the knowledge that his performance on the Malcolm Wilson Rally was sufficient to put him into the lead of the Reis Motorsport Insurance BTRDA Historic Cup at this point.



Ben Jemison 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Star & 1<sup>st</sup> Historic Cup

Keeping Jemison honest in both Silver Star and the Historic Cup following the opening encounter are Steve Ward/Phil Sandham (Escort MkII). One place, and three seconds behind them in the results, Agnar Sigurdsson/Valgardur Davidsson also claimed maximum BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup points in their Fiesta. The London-based Icelanders (one of several such crews who have registered for the BTRDA Series this year) finished ahead of the similar car of Garry Whitney/Karl Keating, but Lewis Hooper/Rhys Edwards’ hopes of joining them evaporated on SS4 when their particular example ground to a halt.



Steve Ward/Phil Sandham 3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Star & 2<sup>nd</sup> Historic Cup

Sam Mason/James Seymour’s plans to open their R2 account also came to nought when their Fiesta suffered damaged suspension in the dark on SS2.

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**FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP**

ANY COLOUR YOU LIKE – AS LONG AS IT’S BLACK!...



Callum Black/Jack Morton 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Star

Until shortly before the event, the entry list for the Malcolm Wilson Rally included 2021 Bronze Star Champion Steve Black in his Suzuki Swift, along with Jack Morton on the notes. Unfortunately a bout of ill-health forced a rethink and Steve’s son Callum, the 2019 1400 winner and current Protyre Asphalt Rally Champion, took over the entry – and co-driver! Very successfully, as it turned out as, notwithstanding intermittent power steering pump issues and a dodgy clutch, Callum & Jack brought the Suzuki home to take maximum points in the Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star (1400) Championship.



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

As you might expect, Nigel & Kaz Jenkins, who are defending their 2023 Bronze Star title in the familiar green Nova, weren’t about to give up easily. The final difference was 22s in the Suzuki’s favour, with the Nova of Will Banks/Matt Baddeley taking the final podium spot and

Class 1400C – albeit some way back! Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans (Micra) looked to be on course for the class but a driveshaft pulled out on the final stage and six minutes were spent effecting repairs. First one to say ‘that’s rallying’ gets it!...

Chris Greenall’s Nova was 3<sup>rd</sup> 1400S and then, having originally entered in their Samba, only for its head gasket to fail in the days leading up to the event, Mat & Dan Evans resorted to their Peugeot 205 and, coping with a minor engine malady on the final stage, arrived at the finish a mere three seconds behind it!

Ashley Francis-Adams/Mark Ammonds (Micra) were the only other finishers in Class 1400S following the departure of both Dale Glover/David Smalley (Alfasud Ti) and Chris Bush/ Robert Jones (Corsa) with mechanical bothers on SS5 & SS6 respectively.



Will Banks/Matt Baddeley 3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze Star

Giles Armitage/Josh Rhodes (Peugeot 205) took first blood in the battle for the BTRDA Rally First Cup, finishing almost exactly a minute ahead of the Fiesta of Alfie Hammond/Peter Williams.

**Reis MOTORSPORT INSURANCE MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**

FIRST AMONG EQUALS!...

The Reis Motorsport Insurance Motorsport UK English Rally Championship also took its first steps on the Malcolm Wilson Rally and with class rivalry, rather than outright power, at its heart, we can always expect more than one leader at this early stage of the season. Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) and Callum Black/Jack Morton (Suzuki Swift) journeyed home from Cumbria as joint leaders, with Ben Jemison (Chevette HSR) and Agnar

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Sigurdsson (Fiesta R2) also currently locked in mortal combat, one point adrift of the leaders, and Steve Link (Lancer EVO9) and Valgardur Davidsson (Fiesta R2) similarly joined at the hip as co-drivers!



Agnar Sigurdsson

The Border Counties Rally, in a couple of months, is the next opportunity for everyone to have a crack at altering the current pecking order but, with a total of six more rounds to go, there's plenty of time for whoever is to be 2023 Champion Ernie Graham's successor to make their mark!

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

### NIC QUINLAN-HULL

Everyone associated with the BTRDA Rally Series is devastated at the news of Nic Quinlan-Hull's untimely passing. As Vice-Chairman of Rallies Committee, she was an integral part of the management of the successful BTRDA Rally Series and her duties included the organisation of the hugely popular Annual Awards Evening.

Nic will be a hard act to follow and our thoughts are with Bryan and their family at this sad time.

We will be arranging a time when we can gather together on the Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages for a moments remembrance and reflection, details to follow

### CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **Protyre BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Malcolm Wilson Rally can be found in the Competitor section of [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) Likewise a list of **Reis Motorsport Insurance 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 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### 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 2024 Protyre BTRDA Rally Series.

Further details of the kit Kielder provide please visit <https://www.kielder.co>

On the Malcom Wilson Rally the award goes to the Highest Placed Driver in Class B10: **Michael Jenkins**

On the Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages the award will go the highest placed driver in **Class 1400S**.

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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 2024 Prot tyre 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 opening round of the Championship, the Malcolm Wilson Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- The winning driver in class H3/4: **Ben Jemison**
- The winning driver in class H1/H2 class: **No eligible finishers, prize awarded to highest placed B13 driver Russ Thompson**

The two awards on the Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages will be for **Class 1400C & B12**

At the end of the 2024 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2025 Prot tyre 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 Malcolm Wilson Rally, each of whom receive a FREE set of competition brake pads from Questmead Ltd, are: -

Randomly selected starter in the Bronze Star: **Will Banks**

Randomly selected starter in the Gold Star/Silver Star: **Sam Mason**

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 Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages it will be Ian Arden and Neil Cross (Friday only, the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

#### Severn Valley Rallynuts Stages – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Round 2 of the Prot tyre BTRDA Rally Series is the Rallynuts Severn Valley Stages. Based in Builth Wells, the 44-mile gravel event will take in classic stages in Myherin, Sarnau, Sweet Lamb and Hafren forests to test competitors to the limit. Approximately 27 miles of this will be first usage and the tests in Myherin feature roads not generally available for use.

Entries are now open, visit the event website for more information. [rallynutsrally.co.uk](http://rallynutsrally.co.uk)

#### Border Counties Rally – 11<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)

### 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 Prot tyre BTRDA Rally Series and the Reis Motorsport Insurance Motorsport UK 2024 English Rally Championship. 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 Neil Cross Tel: 07767773862 or the Championship representatives at each of the qualifying events in the Prot tyre BTRDA Rally Series.

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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](http://www.vitalequipment.co.uk/pages/btrda-rally-series-fuell-order-form)

### SPECIAL STAGE FILMING

The popular coverage of the **Protyre 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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