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CHAMPIONSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 4 – 2026

PLAINS RALLY

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA GOLD STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

PAYNE'S GLASS CEILING!...

The fourth round of the Protyre Autocare BTRDA Rally Series, the Plains Rally, was foreshortened due to a road closure by the police following an RTC. However, the results as they stand show Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) to have won, giving them their third consecutive maximum Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Gold Star Championship points score.

Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh 1st Gold Star

Defending Gold Star Champion Matthew Hirst (Fabia Rally2), reunited with winning co-driver Declan Dear for the first time this year, was 2nd, a mere two seconds adrift. Indeed, in spite of FTDs on four of the seven stages, such was the proximity of the competition that Hirst was unable to claw back the 3s Payne gained on the opener…

Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear 2nd Gold Star

Daniel Sigurðarson/Asta Sigurðadóttir (Skoda RS) maintained their 100% finishing record in the BTRDA Series so far with 3rd place in the points - more than sufficient to keep them as Payne/Walsh's nearest challengers. Having been absent from the Kielder Stages, James Wilson/Paul Mulholland (Fabia Rally2) rejoined the fray in Wales, coming home just one second in front of Liam Clark/Michael Gilbey (Fiesta Rally2) who, themselves, had Alistair Ginley (Skoda RS) breathing down their necks – three seconds being the final difference!

Daniel Sigurðarson/Asta Sigurðadóttir 3rd Gold Star

Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Fiesta) impressed with a Top Ten finish and yet another class win, with Dan O'Brien (Fiesta Rally2), Daniel Hiorns/Rob Fagg (Fiesta 2000t) and Trevor Gamble/Chris Davies (Fiesta Rally2) all within a minute of each other. Having tried – and failed! – on Rally North Wales, Rob Morris (Citroen C3 Rally2) was back for more. The Abergavenny driver did open his account but, obviously, there's a bit of work to be done before the upper echelons of the table beckon!

Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname (Lancer EVO9) finished 2nd, behind Thompson/Link) in Class 2, with Chris Gash/Dylan Williams (Impreza) 3rd. However, names you very rarely see on the 'Retirements' list are those

of Pat Naylor/Tom Bishop whose normally dependable EVO9 threw in the towel on the opening stage…

PROTYRE AUTOCARE BTRDA SILVER STAR® CHAMPIONSHIP

KIWI TASTES THE FRUITS!...

Boyd Kershaw/ Keegan Rees 1st Silver Star

Having registered a 'failure to agree' on Rally North Wales, 'Flying Kiwi' Boyd Kershaw/ Keegan Rees and their Escort MkII have set about putting the matter to rights and, so far, the results are encouraging – very encouraging! Maximum Protyre Autocare BTRDA Silver Star® Championship on the Kielder Forest Rally and now the Plains have set the team on an upward trajectory – in fact, from only two scores, they are currently in 3rd place overall!...

Max Utting 2nd Silver Star driver

Long time, no see! Max Utting (Fiesta ST Max) made his first appearance on a BTRDA Series event for ages and, in no small way, proved he still had the measure of the opposition by taking 2nd place in Silver Star – not to mention finishing 4s behind his (non-BTRDA registered) Dad, Wug in an Impreza!... Also recovering from an earlier DNF, Ben Jemison/Adam Burkill (Chevette HSR) were 3rd – a result that moves them back into the Top Ten.

Proving that consistency pays off, the top of the Silver Star table is occupied by two crews who've finished every event so far. Rian Walker/Paul Cribben (Adam R2) not only find themselves in the exalted position of leading, but their efforts have also paid dividends in the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup and the BTRDA Junior Drivers Cup. In spite of having to give best to Michael Jenkins/Jordan Joines (Fiesta) on the Plains, both categories have Rian's name at the top!

Ben Jemison/Adam Burkill 3rd driver 2nd codriver Silver Star

Behind Walker/Cribben, Steve 'Korky' Ward/John Millington (Escort MkII) move up to 2nd place in Silver Star but, at the same time, assume control of the BTRDA Historic Cup. Erstwhile leaders Baz Jordan/Arwel Jenkins, who were absent from the Plains, drop a place and are met on the way up by Ben Jemison/Adam Burkill. For their part, the Chevette crew has demoted Bryan Jardine's Escort which, having finished 2nd to Jordan's Galant VR4 for the past two events, failed to reach the end of SS3 on the Plains.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS BTRDA BRONZE STAR CHAMPIONSHIP

BRICKS WEDGED BETWEEN CHAMPIONS!...

Interest in this category was particularly high as the Plains Rally was the first Championship event that 2025 Fuchs Lubricants BTRDA Bronze Star Champions, Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans (Micra),

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and 2023/24 victors, Nigel & Kaz Jenkins (Nova) had both competed on since last year's Cambrian.

Dylan Fowler-Bishop/Dan Evans 1st Bronze Star

On the day it was Fowler-Bishop/Evans who came out on top of a very well-patronised field. They completed the available stages almost a minute ahead of the Jenkins, but it was Dave & Freddy Brick (Nova) who were the leaders' closest challengers, finishing 2nd and almost equi-distant between the two crews. Geraint Williams/Ifan Rowlands, in another Nova, were one place and 4s behind the Jenkins, while Dale Glover/David Smalley (Alfasud TI) were also in very close attendance.

Dave & Freddy Brick 2nd Bronze Star

Co-driver Marc Morgan, with an unregistered driver, was right behind them with winners last time out – and category leaders – Luke Watts/Matt Rogers (MG ZR) a further 4s and one place down the order!

Making their first appearance of the season, Ed James/Kevin Lane (Micra Kit Car) were holding their own, but a loss of 2½ minutes to the category leaders on SS7 saw them call it a day shortly afterwards.

Nigel & Kaz Jenkins 3rd Bronze Star

KINGFISHER INSURANCE MOTORSPORT UK ENGLISH RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO – FOR THE MOMENT!...

Following the Plains Rally, the third round of the Kingfisher Insurance Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, two crews – both of whom have two maximum scores to their name – share top spot. Russ Thompson/Steve Link (Fiesta) and Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh (Fiesta Rally2) have seen off the opposition in their respective classes to position themselves as joint 'Kings of the Castle' – for the next month, at least!

Rian Walker/Paul Cribben BTRDA Rallye R2 & Junior R2 Cup

Daniel Sigurðarson/Asta Sigurðadóttir (Skoda RS) are 3rd, five points behind the leaders and one in front of Geoff Phelps (Escort) who is 4th.

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Some relevant statistics from this point of the season: The top fifteen drivers have all finished every event so far, while the first eighteen are separated by 25 points (a maximum). With four rounds still to go, there is a total of 100 points still to be allocated. In this way, it's quite possible that somebody who produces a late charge – that we've not even thought of yet! – could work their way up through the ranks to emerge victorious after the Grizedale Stages at the beginning of December.

Watch this space!...

Photos by Kevin Money & Malcolm Almond

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: Competitors to check!

A full list of all the **Protyre Autocare BTRDA Rally Series** points after the Plains Rally can be found in the Competitor section of **www.btrdarally.com**

A full list of all the **Kingfisher Insurance Motorsport UK English Rally Championship** points after the Plains Rally can be found in the Competitor section of **www.englishrally.co.uk**

Both sets of points can be found on the Sportity channel BTRDA2025

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 2026 Protyre Autocare BTRDA Rally Series.

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

On the Plains Rally the award goes to the Highest Placed Driver in Class 10: no finishers awarded to Class 6 – **Max Utting**

On the Nicky Grist Stages the award will go the highest placed driver in **Class 9**.

ETS RACING FUELS & VITAL EQUIPMENT PRIZE

Premier competition fuel suppliers Vital Equipment Ltd and ETS Racing Fuels continue their initiative to support Britain's most popular national rally series. On every round of the 2026 Protyre Autocare 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 Plains Rally the prizes were awarded to: -

- The winning driver in class H1: No finishers awarded to class H6 – **Ben Jemison**
- The winning driver in class 2: **Russ Thompson**

The two awards on the Nicky Grist Stages will be for **Class H6 & 6**

At the end of the 2026 season the highest placed Junior Driver who returns to the 2027 Protyre 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 Plains Rally, each of whom receive a FREE set of competition brake pads from Questmead Ltd, are: -

Randomly selected starter in the Bronze Star: **Geraint Williams**

Randomly selected starter in the Gold Star/Silver Star: **Rian Walker**

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 Nicky Grist Stages it will be Andrew Haill, Norman Robertson & Ian Arden, the BTRDA Eligibility Scrutineer will be Geoff Doe.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Nicky Grist Stages Rally – Saturday 11 July

Running their tried and tested one-day Event that will feature the classic WRC gravel stages in the Halfway and Crychan forest and military land over Eypnt. The Event will comprise 42 stage miles and 90 road miles with a mid-day service halt in Builth Town Centre. Rally Headquarters returns to Builth Wells Town Centre, setting up in Strand Hall. Entries close for seeding on Friday 26 June and finally close on Wednesday 8 July 2026. Visit www.nickygriststages.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 Protyre Autocare BTRDA Rally Series and the Kingfisher Insurance Motorsport UK 2026 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 Protyre Autocare BTRDA Rally Series.

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 ETS 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

Once again Special Stage will be **live streaming** from the Stages on every BTRDA Rally Series event this year, bringing all the action to our screens across several media platforms. For more details follow them on X or check out their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/specialstage

Scan the QR codes to access the Facebook Page and YouTube Channel

Facebook Page

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Championship Team

The 2026 **Championship Co-ordinators:**

Neil Cross	Email: trec1.nec@btinternet.com	Tel: 07767 773862
Bryan Hull	Email: hqmsport@gmail.com	

Neil will be at every event supported by other members of the BTRDA Rally Series

https://webapp.sportity.com/channel/BTRDA2025

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Multi-Vehicle Insurance Through Our BTRDA Partnership

As we head into the 2026 season, we know many BTRDA ERC competitors are preparing their vehicles, schedules, and budgets. At Kingfisher Motorsport, we're here to make at least one part of that easier for you - your insurance.

Running Multiple Vehicles? This Will Sound Familiar

Preparing for a season often means managing more than just the race car. Tow vehicles, service vans, trailers, and support cars all need cover - and keeping them on separate policies can quickly become time-consuming, especially when renewal dates and admin demands don't align.

With expenses climbing and plans changing week to week, it's more important than ever to have cover that's flexible, efficient, and built around the realities of the motorsport industry.

Here's the Good News...

To keep up with the pace of competition, our Multi-Vehicle Insurance puts everything under one roof. One policy covering the whole fleet and built with motorsport competitors in mind. With the ability to swap vehicles in and out as your season evolves, and even add extras like tools, trailers, or kits.

It's simpler, often more cost-effective, and backed by a team that genuinely understands how motorsport works. So, should you ever need help, our dedicated motorsport team is on hand to keep you moving.

Why Competitors Choose Multi-Vehicle Insurance

You'll have one policy, covering every vehicle, giving you total peace of mind.

What you'll get with our multi-vehicle cover:

- ✓ Cover everything under one roof - competition cars, support vehicles, storage, transit and more
- ✓ Enjoy one simple renewal date for maximum convenience
- ✓ Save more with every vehicle you add through our multi-vehicle discount
- ✓ Work with a team that understands motorsport and tailors your policy around your passion

Ready to Get Started?

Get in touch with our dedicated motorsport team to discuss your needs, and we will look to tailor insurance to match them.

We look forward to supporting you and your fleet through the 2026 season!

Kingfisher Motorsport Team

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