

# **BTRDA**

***75 Years 1938 - 2013***



# ***News***

***Platinum Jubilee Year***

***Spring 2013 No. 196***



# 75 Years

It was 1938, and a band of triallists met up on the way home from an event in the Cotswolds. The story goes that they were discussing the variance of quality in events, and so there and then the British Trial Drivers Association (BTDA) was formed.

Their ideal was to encourage a high standard of organisation, and to assist clubs to do so. The result was a BTDA Championship comprising the best club events in the UK, with a Championship to attract competitors and produce a worthy winner.

In those early years the only Championship was for Sporting Trials, but in the 1960's Production Car Trials (now Car Trials), Driving Tests (now Autotests) and Autocross were added. The now famous Gold Star Rally Championship had been running for some

years, and this joined the party, making the BTDA become the BTRDA - British Trial and Rally Drivers Association.

Rallycross and Allrounders Championships were added in the 70's and 80's, together with a variety of Junior challenges, and the latest venture into AutoSolo with a Championship and a Challenge for newcomers to motor sport.

One of the original founding members was the late Denis Flather, a wonderful character and one of only 4 Presidents since 1938. His ideal of enthusiasts promoting the best Championships for the best competitors lives on.

The current President, Mike Broad, promotes the BTRDA as "serious fun".

2013.....75 years on, over 100 events annually, 8 major Championships...

***BTRDA.....serious fun.***

## First BTRDA Champions

In our 75th Anniversary year, BTRDA Council thought it a good idea to list our first BTRDA champions. I wish it had been as straightforward as I had expected and, after a little bit of research by me and some others more experienced in BTRDA history than I, this is the list of our first BTRDA Champions.

1948	Sporting Trials Ken Wharton
1954	Rally (when 'on the road') Jimmy Ray & John Dixon (and, out of interest, current trialling member John Waddington was the winning driver for the next two years).
1958	Autotest - Ian Mantle
1960	Autocross Frank B.E. Prior
1961	Production Car Trial - Mike Hinde
1973	Forest Rally - Richard Illiffe & Stuart Illiffe
1975	Allrounders - Phil Darbyshire
1977	Rallycross - Trevor Reeves
2002	Asphalt Rally - jointly won by drivers John Price and Steve Hendy, with Caroline Price winning co-driver
2007	AutoSolo Challenge - Sam Williams
2012	AutoSolo Championship - Mike Biss

Simon Harris



## SPORTING TRIALS

In the '30s Trials was a big thing, there were factory teams, and magazines like Autocar published two full pages per event. In 1938 the Gloucester Trial was a shambles, only two cars climbed any of the hills, and the finish was six hours late. A group of drivers decided to act and the BTDA was formed to ensure higher standards.

The factories built works cars to suit particular events, and special cars were sold to "amateurs". Many of the successful cars were large and powerful, and some had mid front mounted engines between the legs of the crew. In the late '40s some amateurs built "lightweight" cars, based on Austin 7 chassis with Ford 10 engines. These were successful and the RAC decided to incorporate a formula for them in the Blue Book. This formed the basis for the Trials Formula we still use today. The critical "engine position" clause dates from that time. The size of today's trials cars mirrors the Austin 7 exactly. The 1954 Blue Book gives most of today's regulations including requiring a free diff; the modern sporting trials car is a direct descendant of those early Trials Formula cars, the improvements being due to detail development.

Dennis Flather on the 1954 Gloucester Trial in a Keystone Special



Eric Chandler. Date Unknown

Derek Clarke (Driving) & Maurice Clarke. Date Unknown



Pictured in 1958 copy of Autosport. An Austin competing on the North Midland Autumn Sporting Trial. 'Specials' competed on separate hills.

Other Sporting Trials Photos provided by Brian Stapleton



**Jack Williams in 2003**  
Photo: Simon Harris



**Colin Valentine in 2003**  
Photo: Simon Harris

## **(PRODUCTION) CAR TRIALS**

PCT's evolved as the "Sporting Trials" cars of the 1950's became quite specialised and "Standard Car Trials" gained their own following.

The PCT Championship with the Flather Production Car Trial Trophy as the major award dates back to 1961, the first winner being Mike Hinde in a VW Beetle. Many long-established trials, and trials clubs, remain active, as evidenced by the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the Cymru Trial last year by North Wales Car Club.

It comes as no surprise to see that by far the most successful cars that have won the Championship have had their engines over the driven wheels – the full list can be seen on the BTRDA History page of the Association's web site.

Held off-road, on mainly grassy hillsides, driver and a mandatory front seat passenger ("bouncer") skillfully persuade their production car to climb non-stop uphill in a series of tests - emerging from the top of the test being the objective. Successful crews will apply well honed techniques, to amaze the lay onlooker and all without the benefit or expense of a specialist car or knobbly tyres!

The BTRDA Car Trials Championship comprises a dozen or so events run by experienced motor clubs around the country, leading to an end-of-season Grand Final. Drivers are graded by previous successes into Gold Star<sup>®</sup>, Silver Star<sup>®</sup> & Bronze Star<sup>®</sup> Championships, these being contested in addition to Class and Overall Positions on events. Drivers can compete from the age of 14; minimum Championship requirements are: be a member of the BTRDA, registered for the Championship, plus a Clubman's MSA license.



**Jim Loveday 1977 Championship winner**  
Photo: Meg Harrison, year unknown



**Mac Hazelwood, Panther Lima**  
Photo: Meg Harrison, year unknown

## RALLYCROSS HISTORY THE EARLY DAYS

The new sport of Rallycross arrived in the Association during 1975/76. A few members had competed in a series of this new sport organised by West Suffolk Car Club and The Sporting Car Club of Norfolk, at Snetterton. Rallycross was approved by the RAC and following this BTRDA Council asked the then General Secretary Derek Smith to form a committee. Our Championship attracted full financial and publicity support from Castrol Ltd. Of that original Committee Bruce Bamber returned in 2009 in a Honda Civic. Dave Fuell presented a trophy for the Champion.

The sport was televised and screened on BBC and on the continent. Good names of the day were Roger Clark, Barry Lee, "Jumping" Jeff Williamson, Geoff Mabbs (after whom Mabb's Bank at Lydden was named), Jenson Button's dad, John, and Andrew Jordan (a Junior Rallycross Champion now in Touring Cars). The sport continued and grew in popularity.

Our first Champion in 1977 was Trevor Reeves - Mini, his engine built by Motospeed, who also gave a Trophy. Three members achieved double Champion status:- Bruce Rushton, Bill Skermer and Mike Turpin (now in Hillclimbing) and our only Lady Champion was Shelley Wakeling in 2010. A list of all the Champions appears on [www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com) under BTRDA® History.

Early venues were Tockingham near Swindon, Cadwell, Brands, Longridge, Knockhill, Lydden, Aintree, and Long Marston. Later Croft, Pembrey, Mallory and Blyton were included. Some venues have ceased to be available for Rallycross, but new venues are currently under consideration with Clubs eager to retain a club level form of Rallycross and to provide an entry level at an affordable cost. Sponsors have included SpaxShocks, Autocross Racing, Safety Devices, JonSpeed Racing, Lucas Oils and Autosport International.

Of the current committee Bill Skermer (Champion 1985/6), Phil Darbyshire and Mike Sones have been involved since 1984, looking after a sport which, for BTRDA members, is just a hobby

**1986 & 1987  
Rallycross Champion  
Bill Skermer**

**Pictured at  
Brands Hatch in the  
early 1980's**



### Photographs Wanted

I would like to include some old photographs, with BTRDA significance, in future editions.

If you have any suitable photographs please let me know.

(I can scan photographs and return them to you)

Pat Egger. (see inside front cover for contact details)

## ALLROUNDERS 1975 -

The history of the BTRDA Allrounders Championship is well documented on [www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com). Choosing Allrounders from the right hand column goes to [www.btrda.com/Allrounders/](http://www.btrda.com/Allrounders/). Also in the right hand column of the Home page is BTRDA® History and there you will find details of the Allrounders major award winners. Nick Pollitt and Phil Darbyshire have won all five major trophies.

As the BTRDA® NEWS Team was made up of representatives from each of our Championships they also took on the management of the Allrounders Championship and that arrangement still stands.

Originally scoring was based on overall positions with 30 for 1st to 1 for 30th. With autocross and rallies regularly attracting well over 100 entries qualification involved choosing events and cars to fit the bill. When scoring was changed to 1 point for 1st overall, 2 for second etc Trevor Smith won with a grand total of 6 points! Scoring changed again to recognise class rather than overall position with 20 points for a class win, 19 for 2nd in class etc and the Championship was regularly won on maximum points. The Class positions format was then changed to try to reflect numbers in the classes and the sliding scale we have today was introduced.

Initially it was six events to count with maximum two from any one Group until 2000 when we had a £2000 prize fund. For that year only the total number of events to count was eight with no more than four from any one Group. From 2001 the number of events to count reverted to six but with up to three from any one Group. For 2013 we have gone back to six events with no more than two from any one Group.



**The First  
Allrounders Champion  
Phil Darbyshire**

**Ken Wharton Memorial  
Autotest 1974**

**Photo Richard Yapp**

**Lomard RAC Rally 1975  
with  
Malcolm Oxborrow**

**Photo:  
Foster & Skeffington**

**Lombard**

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
FOSTER & SKEFFINGTON**

Photography by  
Foster & Skeffington

## 60 years of the BTRDA Rally Championships



Mini Miglia 1959

The BTRDA began life in 1938 as the British Trial Drivers Association but as motorsport developed there were many competitors who wished to do longer, more arduous events. To meet this demand the BTRDA Rallies Committee was formed in 1953 and it began the Gold Star and Silver Star Rally Championships. The original events included the RAC Rally, Circuit of Ireland, Morecambe Rally, Scarborough Rally, Scottish Rally and Rally of the Dams as these were the most challenging rallies in the UK at the time. As the championship developed so the events changed to include competitive night-time road rallies such as the Express & Star and the London Rally.

In the mid 1960's some events began to incorporate timed Special Stages in addition to a competitive night road rally. A typical example was the Dukeries Rally of 1968, which started with 6 special stages on the Saturday evening. A brief supper halt was followed by a full 200 mile Derbyshire / Staffordshire road rally with selectives timed to the second. At dawn the event changed yet again to a stage event and ran 6 stages in Sherwood Forest before a lunchtime finish.

By 1970 competitors and cars were beginning to specialise and 1972 was the last Gold Star Championship to use both stage and road events. From 1973 the Gold Star Championship was contested exclusively on stage rallies whilst the Silver Star Championship continued for road rally competitors. Both championships were very popular throughout the 1970's and 1980's with good events and huge entries including some of the best competitors from around the UK.

Because of a rising demand from club competitors the BTRDA introduced an additional Clubman Stage Championship in 1987 that placed more emphasis on lower cost forest rallies. That year also saw Ron Beecroft / Brian Kidd crowned as the final champions of the very competitive Silver Star and Motoring News Road Rally Championship; the demise of which is still much lamented.

The BTRDA Stage Rally Championships maintained their popularity throughout the 1990's with various innovations including eight successful years when the Gold Star championship was exclusively for Formula 2 cars and the Silver Star was awarded for non F2 cars. Since 2001 the BTRDA Rally Series has included a 1400 Championship and more recently has introduced BTRDA Rally First for standard rally cars.

The BTRDA Rally Series continues to be the most popular Rally Championship in the UK with hundreds of registered competitors participating each year. This success depends very much on the quality of the events and the BTRDA Rally Committee is very grateful for all the effort and commitment of the event organisers.

Howard Wilcock



Will Sparrow 1972 Targa Rally





**Richie Holfeld on the  
Wydean 1991**

**Trevor Smith in  
1971 or 1972**



**Richard &  
Stuart Iliffe  
Gold Star winners  
in 1973 on the  
Esso Uniflo/BTRDA  
Chieftain Rally**

**Picture from the  
cover of July 1973  
edition of the  
BTRDA Newsletter**

## ASPHALT RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Starting life as the EARS/Motoring News Tarmac Rally Championship (in deference to its sponsors of the day) in 1984, the series has evolved in the intervening 30 years to encompass some of the finest sealed surface events in the UK and, on occasions, Ireland. The championship has been run under the BTRDA banner since 2002

In the current calendar of nine rallies, there is a trip to the Isle of Man and, unusually, two to Ireland, plus the iconic Jim Clark National Rally (still the only closed-road event on the mainland. The Military Ranges of Epynt in south Wales and Otterburn in Northumberland also feature strongly.

Over time, the most successful driver has been John Price who has won the title on twelve occasions, but never more than two in consecutive years. Pete Doughty was the only person to take a hat-trick of victories (1994-96) in his Ford Escort Cosworth – until last year, that is, when Damian Cole joined him in the record books by taking his third victory in his familiar Get Connected Ford Focus WRC.



2012 was a record year in terms of registrations and, as the current season gets underway, the opening round, the Tour of Epynt, has received a full entry (120) + reserves for the first time for years. A very encouraging start to the Championship's 30<sup>th</sup> year!...

**John & Caroline Price  
pictured in 2007  
Photo: CMWI.net**

## BTRDA AUTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

From about 1960 and for the next thirty years or so Autocross was a widespread and exciting branch of motorsport. Racing on grass. Two abreast and four on the course at a time. Early events included relay/knock out races with teams of three or four cars, runners and, usually, much losing of the baton!

BTRDA was instrumental in the development of Autocross and events are covered extensively in issues of BTRDA NEWS of the day.

The BTRDA Autocross Championship was run over a number of qualifying events culminating in a Final where the Champion was the competitor who won by the greatest margin from his class opposition.

Championship winners between 1960 and 1997, when our Championship ceased, were F B E Prior, Ken Piper, Harold Parkin, John Gunn, Laurie Manifold, M E Dabbs, Tim Baker, Jim Taylor, Brian Moorcroft, John Bevan, Terry Smith, George Warren, Martin Barnard, Roger Burn. Ron Easton, Norman Bradshaw, Dave Humphreys, Malcolm Davies (won 4 times in 1981/95/96/97), Ron Hudson (remember his Rolls Royce tow car and the Woofits), Kevin Broadhurst, Charles Eveson, Brian Betteridge, Paul Brend, Chris Richardson, Mike Turpin (now hillclimbing), Neil Gillard, Phil Kempthorne, Paul Martin, Dave Evans and Gordon Rogers.

Just a few of the other competitors who went on to greatness in other branches included, in no particular order, Roger Clark (who used to get tyre squeal an grass!!!), Barrie "Whizzo" Williams, Charles Golding, Russ Ward, John Button, Paul Kerridge (Lotus 47 Europa covered in stick on felt), Tony Fisher, Colin Malkin, "Jumping" Jeff Williamson, Barry Lee, John Taylor (ex steeple chase jockey who drove for Ford), John Handley, Trevor Smith, John Sampson - and apologies to everyone we've failed to mention.

## BTRDA AUTOTESTS



A young Mike Sones in 1978 under the watchful eye of a marshal

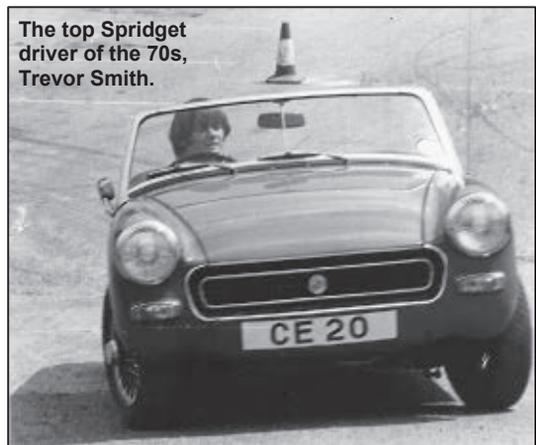
and a slightly older Mike Sones receiving the same picture on a mug at Curborough in 2013.



Autotests, or Driving Tests as were called until 1973, first started as tie deciders at the end of all night rallies. In 1958 the first BTRDA Flather Gold star championship ran with cars that were typically driven to the events. The winner was Ian Mantle in his Berkley sports car who then went on to be a very successful competition driver in minis. The same mini was later used in 1979 by his son John to win the Ian Mantle trophy for novices. In the late 60s the use of specials was discouraged by an additional 5% time penalty. However, there were some innovative cars such as Morris Bishops' four wheel steering car which also ran on LPG. In the 70's two groups scored points for the overall Gold Star winner, the top 5 open and closed cars. There were also awards for large vehicles based on wheelbase but when the Lotus 7 arrived this blew a hole in the class system. Len Gibson, Trevor Smith and myself were tasked to create a class structure without mention of any specific vehicles. Some 30 years later that basic structure still exists with the classes scoring points for the Silver Star whilst the top 20 overall score Gold Star points. With the 5% time penalty removed the specials were becoming more popular and there was the 8 year winning run from 1987 of David Haigh in his home built special which is not like to be beaten. Since 1996, with one exception, the winning Gold Star car has been a mini based special.



Dick Squire entertaining the crowds at the Felixstowe Eastern Counties event.



The top Spridget driver of the 70s, Trevor Smith.

# Get connected

MOBILES FOR MOTORSPORT

Visit our website to find your local store and be part of our 'walk out working promise' where we guarantee that we'll get your new phone up and running before you leave.



Visit [get-connected.com](http://get-connected.com)



[upgrademyorangemobile.co.uk](http://upgrademyorangemobile.co.uk)



## Want to Upgrade?

Get your Orange phone upgraded easily and safely with our no-hassle, user friendly website.

**UPGRADES FOR EVERYONE!**



[4Gmobilephonestore.com](http://4Gmobilephonestore.com)



Get the best in 4G technology and enjoy the fastest browsing speeds around.

Join us on the UK's first mobile 4G network.  
Watch TV, play live multiplayer games or stream a film on the move.

## REIS – Get Connected **BTRDA**® Rally Series

### HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT AN IRISHMAN AND A SCOTSMAN?...

With the news that 2012 REIS - Get Connected BTRDA Gold Star Rally Champion Shaun Gardener would not be defending his title while his Mitsubishi went on a weight-loss course and was stripped down to its last nut and bolt, thoughts immediately turned to his successor – and who that might eventually be.

So, to Chepstow Racecourse at the beginning of February and the traditional season-opener, the Team GMF Wydean Forest Rally. Seven stages, four different leaders and, from those, it was newcomers to the Series, Connor McCloskey/Francis Regan, who set a blistering time on the final run through Speech House in their ex Petter Solberg Subaru Impreza WRC to leap from 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> just when it mattered most. The Ulstermen put aside their lack of knowledge of the area to score a very popular victory and lead the Gold Star points table at the first opportunity.

Returning to the BTRDA Series, 2009 Gold Star Champion David Wright, co-driven by Michael Wilkinson, was second in his Mitsubishi Lancer EVO9, ahead of the Ford Focus WRC of 2008 winners Hugh Hunter/Andy Marchbank. Both crews had been leading the event at some time during the day but had, nevertheless, put up a good fight and went home with a healthy stash of points.

The fourth crew to top the timesheets in the

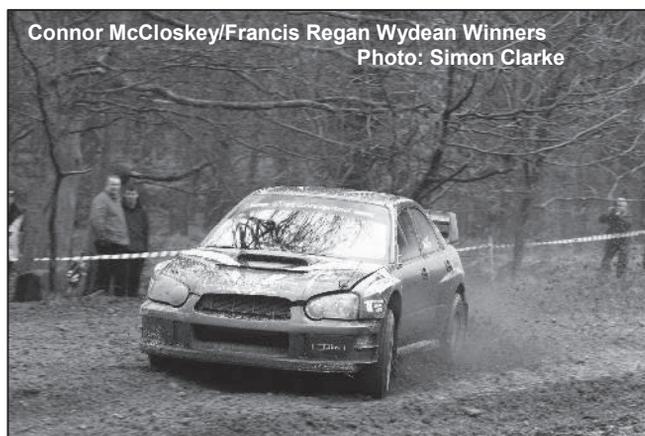
Forest of Dean were also new to the Series this year. Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton needed no introduction, especially to those north of the Border, as their Focus WRC has quite an impressive CV, including a win on the 2012 Jim Clark National Rally. However, although their trip down south was to end in disappointment (falling oil pressure prior to the final stage put them out), they had certainly done enough to put themselves on the radar.

Next stop Dovenby – M-Sport's headquarters for the pre-event formalities prior to the Malcolm Wilson Rally. All the 'usual suspects' were present, with that number swelled by the inclusion of 2010 Gold Star Champions Steve Perez/Paul Spooner and Stephen Petch/Ian Windress, both in Focus WRCs. Perez had entered the Wydean in his Lancia Stratos but the car was still in the bodyshop being restored to its former glory following an inversion during a test in Norway earlier in the year – hence, he was a no-show in Chepstow.

The day belonged to Thorburn/Beaton who held off some fierce opposition to take the win while, once again on unfamiliar territory, McCloskey/Regan 3<sup>rd</sup> place maintained their lead in the points by an increased margin. On the other side of the coin, Wright/Wilkinson were on their way home after SS2 when the Lancer shed a wheel and, having just set FTD

on SS3, Hunter/Marchbank joined them soon after when their turbo set alight on the next one.

Matt Edwards/Will Rogers (Lancer EVO9) and Charlie Payne/Craig Thorley (Focus WRC) are 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, behind McCloskey, after solid finishes on both events so far, while Group N is also shaping up into a good battle. Luke Francis/John Roberts finished one place ahead of Jamie Anderson/Ella Flynn on the Wydean,



Connor McCloskey/Francis Regan Wydean Winners  
Photo: Simon Clarke

## REIS – Get Connected BTRDA® Rally Series

with the roles reversed in Cumbria – just a handful of seconds separating them on each occasion.

Somerset Stages next – Hunter/Marchbank have been victorious for the past two years. What price a hat-trick?...

Will Onions/Dave Williams have begun their REIS – Get Connected BTRDA Silver Star Championship campaign as they mean to continue, planting their Escort MkII at the top of the pile on both events. Also Escort-mounted, Peter Smith/Patrick Walsh are next and Theo Bengry/Les Forsbrook, who were Onions' nearest rivals on the Wydean, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alex Parpottas (Ford Fiesta R2) took 2<sup>nd</sup> place points in Cumbria, his first outing of the season, and there are any number of drivers in a similar position (one score from two events) who could move into contention very soon!

Much to the annoyance of those trying to beat them, Julian Wilkes/Will Rutherford-Child are defending the Millers Oils 1400 Championship title that they won so convincingly in 2012! And the signs are that they're going to take some beating – two 'wins' so far, and a Top Ten finish on the Wydean, leave the others scratching their heads and asking 'just what do we have to do?'... Newcomers Mat Smith/Giles Dykes have been pedalling their Ford Ka as fast as its little legs will carry it to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wilkes each time so far. David Bennett/Alistair McNeil (Vauxhall Corsa) were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the category first time out but were sidelined by a broken trackrod end on the second. The Proton Satrias of Roger Priestnall/Jamie Forrest and Kris Farrell/Andy Ballantyne are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively, but 32 crews have already scored points and some of them may possibly have a say in the final reckoning!...

The BTRDA Rally First Championship has James West/Steve Eggington (VW Lupo) and Nick Carr/Joe Sturdy (Nissan Micra) slugging it out at the front. They are the

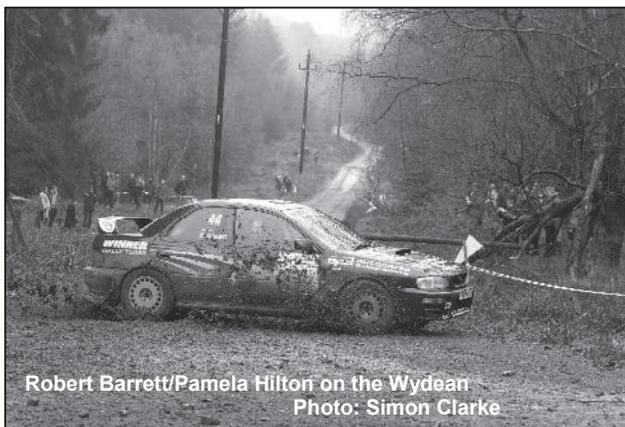
only two crews with a 100% finishing record to date, but what a difference a day makes – and that day could be 20<sup>th</sup> April when the Somerset Stages takes place!

The MG ZR Rally Challenge accounts for nine cars, with Chris Hellings/Glyn Thomas currently lauding it over Jayne & David Auden, but Rory Jones and David Fowler-Bishop have both served notice of intent on the events they have contested.

And so to the MSA English Rally Championship which follows the BTRDA Rally Series, round for round, for the first few months of the year. It's class-based and thus, after the first round, five people – one from each class – tie for the lead. Then, on each subsequent event, that number is whittled down to reveal an eventual winner – although ideally, with the final round in early November, it could be months before their identity is revealed! Having said that, even at this early stage, defending champion Julian Wilkes has established a slender lead over James West, Mat Smith and Theo Bengry. As many will testify from personal experience, 'slender' leads are not enough – especially when you're talking BTRDA Rally Series!

Full details of the 2013 REIS - Get Connected BTRDA Rally Series, incorporating the Gold Star, Silver Star, Millers Oils 1400 & BTRDA Rally First Championships are available on the Championship website : [www.btrdarally.com](http://www.btrdarally.com) while the MSA English Rally Championship has its own : [www.englishrally.co.uk](http://www.englishrally.co.uk)

**ANDREW HALL**



Robert Barrett/Pamela Hilton on the Wydean  
Photo: Simon Clarke



## REIS – Get Connected BTRDA® Rally Series

REIS @getconnected  
**Gold Star**  
 Championship

REIS @getconnected  
**Silver Star**  
 Championship

	Overall Driver	Points
1	Connor McCloskey	58
2	Matt Edwards	51
3	Charlie Payne	50
4	Luke Francis	47
5	Jamie Anderson	47
	Overall Co-Driver	Points
1	Francis Regan	58
2	Will Rogers	51
3	Craig Thorley	50
4	John Roberts	48
5	Ella Flynn	48

	Overall Driver	Points
1	Will Onions	60
2	Peter Smith	52
3	Theo Bengry	49
4	Daniel Wakefield	36
5	Alex Parpottas	28
	Overall Co-Driver	Points
1	Dave Williams	60
2	Patrick Walsh	54
3	Les Forsbrook	49
4	Jonathan Boucard	42
5	Keegan Rees	27



	Overall Driver	Points
1	Julian Wilkes	60
2	Mat Smith	56
3	Roger Priestnall	53
4	Kris Farrell	48
5	Chris Hellings	40

	Overall Co-Driver	Points
1	Will Rutherford	60
2	Giles Dykes	56
3	Jamie Forrest	53
4	Andy Ballantyne	49
5	Glyn Thomas	42

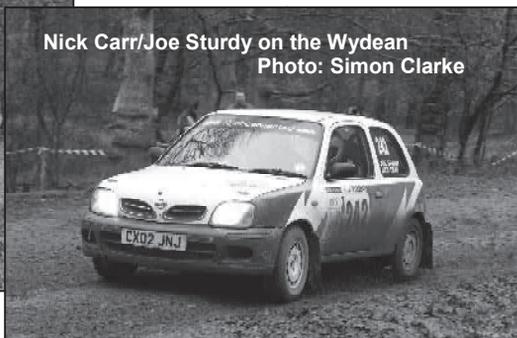
James West/Steve Eggington on the Wydean

Photo: Simon Clarke



Nick Carr/Joe Sturdy on the Wydean

Photo: Simon Clarke



# REIS – Get Connected **BTRDA**<sup>®</sup> Rally Series



Driver	Score	Co-driver	Score
Julian Wilkes	50	Will Rutherford	50
James West	48	Steven Eggington	48
Mat Smith	46	Giles Dykes	46
Theo Bengry	43	Les Forsbrook	43
Daniel Wakefield	43	Keegan Rees	43

## The Historic Cup



Driver	Score	Co-driver	Score
Peter Smith	38	Patrick Walsh	38
Theo Bengry	38	Les Forsbrook	38
Rex Ireland	17	Adrian Scadding	17

## The BTRDA Rally First Challenge



Driver	Score	Co-driver	Score
James West	62	Steven Eggington	62
Nick Carr	61	Joe Sturdy	61
Marko Jeram	32	Steve Green	32

## The BTRDA Production Cup



Driver	Score	Co-driver	Score
Luke Francis	37	John Roberts	37
Jamie Anderson	36	Ella Flynn	36
Scott Faulkner	32	Dominic Adams	32

## The MG ZR Rally Challenge



Driver	Score	Co-driver	Score
Chris Hellings	40	Glyn Thomas	40
Jayne Auden	34	David Auden	34
Rory Jones	20	Tudur Rees	20
David Fowler-Bishop	20	Tom Hughes	20

All results are shown following The Malcolm Wilson



# REIS.co.uk

## What REIS can do for you...

- Rally cars, service vehicles, classic and sports cars for the road and competition use.
- Motorhomes, trailers, tools and spares insurance, for the road, storage and transit.
- Motorsport motortrade, motortrade, combined commercial, public liability for teams, preparation companies, promoters, clubs and individuals.
- Personal accident cover for the whole season or for a one off event.
- \*Multi vehicle policies for motorsport enthusiasts\*
- Stand alone trackday cover for all types of vehicles and venues.
- On event accident damage cover
- Corporate events, TV and filming insurance.
- Motorsport photographers liability insurance - UK, EU and worldwide cover available.
- Special vehicle and prototype insurance for the road and track.
- Road section insurance for events, clubs and organisers large and small.

REIS is a trading name of Chaucer Insurance Services Limited  
Registered in England No. 02135730 Registered Office: Plantation Place,  
30 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3AD  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



Tel: 0115 965 1020 [reis.co.uk](http://reis.co.uk)  
Unit 4, Wheatcroft Business Park, Landmere Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4DG

## MSA Asphalt Rally Championship

### FIRST AMONG EQUALS!...

The 2013 REIS – Get Connected MSA Asphalt Rally Championship began in early March with the traditional season-opener, the Tour of Epynt and, after 75 miles of special stages over the icy cold Military Ranges, 2007 Asphalt Champion Steve Simpson and co-driver Patrick Walsh emerged victorious in their Subaru Impreza WRC – just!...

With one stage to go, Simpson/Walsh were 24 seconds ahead of the Ford Focus WRC of defending champion Damian Cole and co-driver Craig Drew, but sliding into a bale and stalling, coupled with a late charge from Cole, saw the two crews arrive back at the Llandoverly finish on identical times. This invoked the tie-break which stated that, in such a situation, the crew setting the faster time on the opening stage would be declared winners – Simpson had set FTD on SS1 and, consequently, he and Walsh were confirmed as victors. Cole, whose much-publicised switch to a new-build Ford Escort MkII for the new season had been put on hold, was credited with 2<sup>nd</sup> place points, with Paul Bird taking third after a very impressive run in his Focus WRC.

From a record entry of 117 crews, 66 were MSA Championship-registered and, from this number, 18 of the Top 20 finishers returned

home with points in various classes and categories.

Another superb performance by Simon Mauger/Brian Cammack saw their Ford Escort MkII take 4<sup>th</sup> place, giving them maximum points in the newly-instigated Millington Rear-Wheel Drive Challenge, while John Indri's Darrian T90 GTR wasn't far behind them in 5<sup>th</sup>. Next up was Washington James' Darrian but, with 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> places separated by just 40 seconds, it was all very close!

The Imprezas of Mark Worley/Hamish Campbell and Bob Fowden, the Ford Focus STI of Chris Jones/Ashley Trimble and John Stone's Skoda Fabia WRC completed the Top Ten.

In Group N Rob Tout/Dan Holley continued where they left off at the end of last season, bringing their Mitsubishi Lancer EVO9 home to a category win, ahead of the Impreza of a returning Chris Rice. Similarly, 2012 Front-Wheel Drive Challenge winners, Matt Beebe/Paula Swinscoe, pushed their MG ZR 190 to its limits to start their season off with a maximum. Their nearest challenger on this occasion was the Renault Clio of Ian Godney, with the Underwoods, Darren & Sue, claiming third place points in their rapid Nova.



Steve Simpson/Patrick Walsh on the Tour of Epynt  
 Photo: Ralliphotowales

As mentioned above, having been associated purely with Escorts and Darrians for the past couple of years Roy Millington, of Millington Racing Engines, has opted to ally his company with all the Rear-Wheel Drive cars in the Championship this time. In addition to the 2012 category-winning BMW M3 of Richard Felgate/Mark Mason, there were no less than sixteen Ford Escorts and six Darrians, with a couple of Toyotas



## MSA Asphalt Rally Championship

thrown in for good measure, in the start line-up on Epynt!

Other class winners on the event included Graham Muter's 1300cc Escort and Alex Laffey/Jack Morton's immaculate Fiesta S2000. On their first visit to the Epynt Ranges, David Earthy and co-driver Maria Rayner took Class A6 in their Citroen C2R2 – a feat for which 23-year old David was awarded the John Horton Motorsport Management 'Star Performer'.

Fuchs Titan Race are providing £50 worth of product on each round of this year's MSA Asphalt Championship to the driver deemed to have made the 'Best Improvement on Seeding'. To start the ball rolling Richard Bliss, who started at No. 107 in his Honda Civic, had moved up to 46<sup>th</sup> in the final results, thereby earning himself the inaugural voucher.

Having started in fine style, the REIS – Get Connected MSA Asphalt Rally Championship

now has a nine-week break – but make the most of it! The Manx and Jim Clark National Rallies both take place within a short period of time in May and, then, it'll be all hands to the pump as the season moves into full swing. Representatives of both the Irish events included in the calendar, the ALMC Stages (7<sup>th</sup> July) and Wexford Stages (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> September), were present on Epynt canvassing support for their respective rallies and the signs are that, once again, we are in for a very competitive year!

Further details of the REIS – Get Connected MSA Asphalt Rally Championship are available from the Co-ordinator :

Andrew Haill – Tel : 0121 313 1416/E-mail :  
andrew.haill@btconnect.com OR

By visiting the Championship website :  
[www.asphaltrallying.com](http://www.asphaltrallying.com)

**ANDREW HAILL**

### Situations Vacant

The positions of Treasurer and Awards Officer are becoming vacant at the end of 2013.

Both Boards would prefer the Association Treasurer and BTRDA Ltd Treasurer to be different people. Treasurer of the Association is not onerous and a place on the Association Board comes with the post. Treasurer of BTRDA Ltd is more involved with the working finances of BTRDA and will take more time. The Treasurer of BTRDA Ltd has a place on the BTRDA Board and Council. Bernard Baker, the current holder of both posts, is happy to talk through the, erm, ins and outs of what is involved. Mike Stephens will be continuing as day to day book-keeper and takes much of the load and nitty gritty away from the Treasurer.

Angela Danby is stepping down as Awards Officer after the 2013 presentation (at the January 2014 Luncheon). She has drawn up a 'job spec' (or perhaps a schedule of operations would be a more prosaic description). Again, she is happy to go through the detail with any prospective volunteer showing an interest.

**Simon Harris**





75 Years - We are having a party!



**Catton Park and Curborough**

10am – 4pm

Car Trials  
Sporting Trials  
Autotest  
AutoSolo  
*and speed!*

**Drayton Manor Park**

Evening Dinner Dance  
Reception 7.15pm

Special Guests  
Food  
Drinking  
Dancing  
*and fun!*

£45 per person

Accommodation is available at the Drayton Manor Hotel at discounted rates, just quote BTRDA

Booking form available from [www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com) or contact [Mike.Broad@live.co.uk](mailto:Mike.Broad@live.co.uk)

# BTRDA MEMBERS OFFER

## LOVE MOTORSPORT?

**TRY 6 ISSUES OF MOTORSPORT NEWS FOR JUST £6**

When your trial ends pay just £29.25 every 13 issues by Direct Debit - that's 25% off the shop price!



**6 ISSUES FOR JUST £6!**

## SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

[www.themagazineshop.com/MNEW/BTRDA13](http://www.themagazineshop.com/MNEW/BTRDA13)

## OR CALL 08448 488 834

QUOTING BTRDA13 OFFER ENDS 31ST JANUARY 2014

**Terms and Conditions:** This is an introductory trial offer open to UK residents only. Trial offers are limited to 2 trials per title within a 12 month period and we reserve the right to refuse any orders over this limit. Price is £6 for your first 6 issues then continuous Direct Debit payments of £29.25 every 13 issues. If you would like to cancel your subscription during your trial period we would advise that you do this before you receive your fourth issue as we will need to debit your account before the end of your trial to ensure you experience an uninterrupted service. Savings are based on the standard UK cover price of £3.00. Direct Debit rates are fixed for 12 months after which they may be subject to change, should prices change you will be informed in writing. The issues you receive during this trial period are covered by your first Direct Debit payment. You can cancel the subscription (your next Direct Debit payment) at any time during this trial period. However, once the 2nd payment has been claimed from your bank account, should you wish to cancel your subscription it will be cancelled on expiry of the current term which will not be refundable, other than in exceptional circumstances. Details of the Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. Offer ends 31st January 2014.

# BTRDA 2013 Championship Events

March 2013

ALLROUNDERS: With the exception of "invitation by qualification" events such as the Car Trials and Sporting Trials Finals all events qualifying for all BTRDA Championships within the calendar year (1 January – 31 December) will be qualifying events for the Allrounders Championship, together with any National A and National B Autocrosses, Rallycrosses, Sprints and Hill Climbs.

Note: Only AutoSOLO results from the Championship events count towards qualification (i.e. not Challenge results)

	Autotest	AutoSOLO	Car Trials	Rally - Asphalt	Rally - Forest	Sporting Trials
Mar	23					
	24					<b>President's Trophy</b>
						Southsea MC 02392 253732
	30/31/1					<b>EASTER</b>
Apr	6					
	7	<b>Herefordshire MC</b> Hereford Sue Underwood 01568 709158				<b>Raymond Baxter</b> NPTCC
	13		<b>Matthews Auto Salvage Trial</b> Anglesey Caernarvon & Anglesey Lee Matthews 01248 421 681			
	14	<b>CSMA NE London</b> Champ & Challenge	<b>Dennis Wells</b> Prestatyn, Clwyd Vale MC, Pete Dale 01745 857316			<b>J.B.Taylor</b> Sportingtrial.com 01732 359235
	20				<b>Somerset Stages</b> Incl. MSA English Minehead	
	21	<b>Warwickshire Drivers</b> Rugby, Mike Bennett 01925 727479				<b>Derbyshire</b> Lancs & Cheshire 0161 9735633
	27					<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>
	28					<b>Jacobean</b> London CC, 02072 630741
May	4					
	5		<b>Warwickshire</b> Gaydon Cov & Warks MC Hazel Stephens 01676 532337			<b>Cumbrian 2 Day Trial</b> Non Championship event
	6	Bank Holiday				
	10			<b>Manx Rally</b> Douglas, Isle of Man		
	11					
	12					<b>Four Turnings</b> Camel Vale
	18				<b>Plains Rally</b> Welshpool	
	19	<b>Wolverhampton &amp; SSCC</b> Wolverhampton Nick Darkin 01746 762276	<b>Oxford MC</b> Champ & Challenge <b>CSMA NW</b> Challenge only			
	25/26					
	27					<b>Bank Holiday Monday</b>
	31				<b>Jim Clark National</b> Kelso	
Jun	1					
	2	<b>CSMA NEL</b> Mike Biss 01525 720299				
	8	<b>Abingdon Car-Nival</b> Champ & Challenge				<b>Dukeries</b> Incl. MSA English Southwell
	9	<b>Ilkley Motor Club</b> Champ & Challenge	<b>Wyre Forest</b> Stourport, Kidderminster MCC Mac Roath 01562 752950			
	15					

# BTRDA 2013 Championship Events

March 2013

		Autotest	AutoSOLO	Car Trials	Rally - Asphalt	Rally - Forest	Sporting Trials
Jun	16	<b>Whitchurch MC</b> Market Drayton Helen Peren 01785851440					
	22						
	23		<b>CSMA NW</b> Champ & Challenge	<b>Wye Valley</b> Ledbury Ross & District MSL Simon Harris 01531 820761			
	29	<b>Caernarvonshire &amp; Anglesey</b> Paul Cross 01407 830289					
	30	<b>Knutsford &amp; DMC</b> Wrexham, Duncan Wild 01244 300511					
July	6						
	7				<b>ALMC Stages</b> Dublin		
	13					<b>Nicky Grist Stages</b>	
	14					Builth Wells	
	20	<b>Hartlepool &amp; DCC</b> Hartlepool Bob Clouston 01429 429672		<b>Cymru</b> Abergele N Wales CC Dave Thomas 01492 584872			
	21	<b>Alwoodley MC</b> Sherburn, Nick Middleton 01132 676021 07748 622365	<b>U17 MC NW</b> Challenge only	<b>HCC Wales</b> Prestatyn, Clwyd Vale CC Pete Dale 01745 857316			
	27						
	28		<b>Loughborough CC</b> Champ & Challenge				
Aug	3						
	4	<b>Owen MC</b> Birmingham, Simon Whittick 01785 823466					
	10		<b>Bristol MC</b>				
	11		Champ & Challenge		<b>Tyneside Stages</b> Otterburn		
	17						
	18		<b>Dolphin</b> Champ & Challenge				
	24						
	25		<b>AMSC</b> Challenge only		<b>Mewla National</b> Builth Wells		
	26						
	31				<b>Bank Holiday</b>		
Sep	1	<b>Loughborough CC</b> Pat Egger 0116 2364022				<b>Woodpecker</b> Incl. MSA English Ludlow	
	7				<b>Wexford Stages</b> Wexford		
	8		<b>Farnborough &amp; DMC</b> Champ & Challenge	<b>Gaby Mohr</b> Wolvs & SSCC, John Fox 07848 034852			<b>Robin Jager</b> NPTCC 01228 561308

# BTRDA 2013 Championship Events

March 2013

	Autotest	AutoSOLO	Car Trials	Rally - Asphalt	Rally - Forest	Sporting Trials
Sep 14						<b>Robin Alexander</b> Camel Vale
15		<b>Bolton Le Moors</b> Challenge Only				<b>David Ayres</b> Launceston & North Cornwall
21						
22		<b>Ross &amp; District MSL</b> Champ & Challenge				
28						
29	<b>Lancs &amp; Cheshire</b> Wrexham Dave Hensley 0161 9620836		<b>Ernest Owen</b> Burton on Trent Owen MC Mike Sones 01283 791368	<b>Patriot Stages</b> Caerwent	<b>Trackrod Rally</b> Pickering	<b>Warco</b> Peterborough 01733 252886
Oct 5						
6						<b>John Southern</b> NPTCC 01228 561308
12						
13		<b>Oxford MC</b> Champ & Challenge				<b>Pete Fear Pinfold</b> Ross & D MSL 01989 780469
19						
20				<b>Cheviot Keith</b> <b>Knox Rally</b> Otterburn	<b>Cambrian</b> Llandudno	<b>Mercian Trial</b> Cov & Warks 01676 532337
26						
27		<b>Knutsford MC</b> Champ & Challenge Final	<b>Grand Final</b> c/o Neil Mackay 0115 9291728			<b>Stone Trough</b> Y.S.C.C 01788 542694
Nov 2					<b>Tempest 2 Rally</b>	
3					MSA English ONLY	<b>November Sporting</b> Sportingtrial.com 01732 359235
	<b>Autotest</b>	<b>AutoSOLO</b>	<b>Car Trials</b>	<b>Rally - Asphalt</b>	<b>Rally - Forest</b>	<b>Sporting Trials</b>
9						
10						<b>Roy Fedden</b> Bristol 01454 238333
16/17						
23/24						
30						
Dec 1				<b>Championship</b> <b>Awards</b> <b>Presentation</b>		
7					<b>Championship</b> <b>Awards</b> <b>Presentation</b>	
8						
14/15						
21/22						

## BTRDA turns 75: Celebrate together on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013

The British Trials and Rally Drivers Association will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in style at Catton Park and Curborough on Saturday 27th April. All participation in the day's events will be completely free and you will be able to take part in a number of activities designed to reflect the variety of motorsport disciplines within the organisation. More details will be available on the website ([www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com)) but the day will include demonstrations, tuition and competitions for Autotests, AutoSolos, Car Trials, Sporting Trials. There will also be events for Rally cars. Catering will be provided at both venues.

The day will end with a celebratory four course dinner at Drayton Manor Park which will include interviews with special guests, music and entertainment from The Subterraneans ([www.thesubs.co.uk](http://www.thesubs.co.uk)), and genial conversation from 7.15pm onwards. Tickets are £45 a head and are available from the BTRDA website or Mike Broad ([mike.broad@live.co.uk](mailto:mike.broad@live.co.uk)). Discounted accommodation is available for those who book before the end of March; just quote BTRDA when booking with the hotel. There is also parking and facilities for motorhomes and caravans within walking distance.

demon tweeks

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [www.demon-tweeks.co.uk](http://www.demon-tweeks.co.uk)

CALL FREE **0800 854794** MEDIA CODE **QZ259A**

**NEW** Alpinestars SP **£284.97**

**NEW** OMP Dynamo **£342.03**

**NEW** Sparco Prima M-3 **£265.50**

**NEW** OMP First S **£34.67**

**NEW** Sparco Land L-3 **£38.70**

**NEW** Alpinestars Tech 1 Race **£59.97**

**NEW** Bell Mag 1 **£225.00**

**NEW** OMP Grand Prix 75 **£191.07**

**NEW** Arai GP-6S **£562.49**

**NEW** Alpinestars SP **£84.84**

**NEW** Sparco Speed SL-3 **£93.60**

**NEW** Alpinestars SP **£97.47**

**NEW** Alpinestars SP **£111.65**

**NEW** OMP TDS **from £109.02**

**NEW** FIA/MSA Rain Light **from £17.96**

**NEW** FIA Meter Switch **from £16.23**

**NEW** Roll Cages **from £382.50**

**NEW** FIA Harnesses **from £94.50**

**10% Pole Position membership number to qualify for Pole Position discount prices shown**

IMPORTANT: VAT must be added to all advertised prices unless otherwise stated. Express delivery £7.25 or economy service £6.25

75 Ash Road South, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, North Wales, LL13 9UG

# **Demon Tweaks Direct** **BTRDA® Autotest Championship**

---

## **FROM THE HOT SEAT**

Surely it can't be the start of another season already? Oh yes it can and having just completed the Secretarial duties for the first Championship round at Curborough, I hope the weather gets better as the year progresses. As you will read elsewhere at least we got off to a good, if not very cold, start with an entry of 34 (30 starters) a number of which did not take part last season although no Irish competitors (yet!). There was also a good split between the classes with 7 Minis, 8 Saloons (both of these classes were diminished last year), 6 Sportscars, 8 Specials and 5 Road going cars entered. So we are off to a flying start, next stop Hereford.

One innovation for 2013 is that the Autotest Committee and several of the others, is going to use the Survey Monkey system to get feedback from the competitors about each event. Those of you who are out competing during the year will get an e-mail after each event with a link to the Autotest Questionnaire which is in the main a simple tick box form to complete. The system will compile a score from the collected anonymous answers and will allow the Committee to pass on the results to our Organisers. It is a very easy and quick way

of getting your comments, so please support it by filling in the forms.

Finally, again as you will read elsewhere, this year sees the BTRDA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and in celebration the Autotest Committee will be running a fun Autotest and AutoSOLO at the Curborough Sprint Course during the day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, prior to the evening "do" at Drayton Manor Park. All are welcome to "arrive & drive" for a nominal fee, particularly any of our past competitors who we have not seen for a while, but it would be useful to have an indication of how many we might expect, so please drop me an e-mail (steve-allrounders@btrda.com) or a call (01527 878192) if you are thinking of coming. If nothing else just come for the craic!

By the way, regarding the marshal in that picture of Mike Sones at the Hagley Autotests held at the Whittington Inn in 1978, I keep thinking could it have been me (I don't think that I was ever that thin, but I did used to have hair and flairs!), or was it Martin MacKenzie, or..... ?

**Steve Layton**

## **FROM THE PITS – AND THE ARCHIVES**

It has always been my tradition for the first News of the year to welcome the new comers to the demon tweaks BTRDA Flather Star Autotest Championship. In 2013 there is a big welcome mat for two drivers whose home is well north of Birmingham, Joe Sturdy and John Waller. Joe is actually at uni in Oxford at the moment and in a busy motorsport year he is also co-driver for Nick Carr in Rally First 998cc Micra in the BTRDA Forest series. That part is going well after two rounds with the crew lying in second place overall in the Rally First Championship. The autotesting side for Joe will be in the Nova that dad Ken has built and looking at the YouTube shots it's quite a nippy machine. Joe showed his skill at the opening Hagley & DLCC round at the site of the jubilee activities, Curborough sprint circuit. Joe was the best novice finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a very competitive Class B for saloons. Class B also

hosted what could be called a father/son double billing with Joe and Ken in the blue Nova against the young Toby Cook with father Dave in the stripped out white 1300cc Micra – I say white one as there is also a blue one for the road going events down south. On the day it was Joe beating Toby but Dave beating Ken so we could say after round one it is Sturdy 1 Cook 1. No doubt there will be plenty more competition in 2013! Never mind the family contests, the contest for the first winner of a BTRDA silver spoon was intense with a very surprised winner at the end of the day when Steve Morten stepped up to receive Harry Yapp memorial trophy for FTD. Steve had driven his 1800 Striker consistently over the 16 tests and pipped the mini special of Roger Holder on the very last set by 4.1 secs. Steve wins only his third spoon, the last one being in



## **Demon Tweaks Direct** **BTRDA® Autotest Championship**

2008. It looks like it is going to be a very open competition for the 2013 Jubilee Gold Star.

One thing I hope there won't be more of in 2013 is the snow which fell on the Curborough sprint course driven by a biting wind. Having stood out all day marshalling (ok, I had the advantage of a cover in the sheep pen!) I can say that the hot driving of the competitors made it all worthwhile. I'm afraid I wasn't quite as slim as the marshal pictured watching a young Mike Sones in the 1978 Hagley event at the Whittington pub. The photo was actually used by the event organiser, and chairman of the BTRDA Autotest committee, Steve Layton to adorn the decorated china plates given out as the event awards. Just in case Mike didn't win one, which he didn't as the mini special's crank shaft bolt became loose leading to the only retirement of the day, Steve had a mug decorated with the photo and it was a very surprised and pleased Mike who accepted it. Now, what was not resolved was, who was the slim marshal in the picture? Anybody want to volunteer being the man – or boy or girl!

Looking through the pile of old photographs I came across several of characters from the 70's who are still very much part of the sport. The first is the one of Trevor Smith at what I thought was another Hagley event but the normal type of pylon suggests otherwise. From winning the autotest Flather Gold Star in 1972,73,75 & 77 he went on to win Gold Stars in the Allrounders and Forest Rally championships. Now in 2013 he is a director of the British Trials and Rally Association Ltd pointing the way the sport is going in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dick Squire is pictured at the

Felixstowe event performing in front of the crowds at Felixstowe, an event which was always popular with competitors. It started off with all cars being driven to the event and then on the roads between the 4 test sites. As time went on the sites available became less and also the majority of competitors were bring their cars on trailers needing some agile driving on and off trailers between the sites. Was this progress? I have my own thoughts that maybe it was not and I would still like to see all the competing cars look as if they could drive off the test site onto the road. I can remember driving back to London from Felixstowe without a clutch in my blue Sprite, having to judge the odd traffic light sequence in a time when motorways hadn't been invented and, perhaps, there weren't so many cars on the road. Back to Felixstowe which was run by the Eastern Counties MC for which Bernard Baker was a stalwart. I've mentioned Bernard because he deserves a big thank you from the autotesting community for his many years as secretary of the autotest committee and also treasurer of the BTRDA, a post from which he has only just retired from. Back also to the picture because a Ken Wharton event wouldn't be a Ken Wharton without Dick who often turns up in the very same Sprite in the picture. Dick is still a member of BTRDA and one of only 26 winners of the Flather Gold Star in its 55 year history.

How will the next 55 years go? An interesting thought as modern cars become so tied up with electronic gadgets and not many a young lad is wanting to, or willing, take the head off an engine and modify the ports etc. Perhaps it will be a return to cars being driven to the events.

Ah, that is more like the sport of AutoSOLO which is now I would say the more active side of club level motorsport. In the meantime I salute all those 26 Flather Gold Star winners who have earned their stars through sheer good driving and intense competition.

**Peter Cox**

### **FOR SALE**

VW POLO Mk 2 COUPE  
Built for Autotesting by John North  
55bhp / 1300cc / £300.00  
For Further Info and Photos  
Please contact Martin Beamish  
Mobile No 07711640546  
E-Mail martin.beamish@bt.com



# **Meath Engineering (tools) Ltd**

## **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> AutoSOLO Championship & BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Newcomers Challenge**

### **Going SOLO**

Well here we go again, a new year and, as I write this, 3 AutoSOLOs completed already! Even before we got started the MSA, under the Go Motorsport banner, were promoting AutoSOLO at the Autosport Show where Richard Egger and his team from Loughborough, aided by many of last year's competitors, gave nearly 600 passenger rides to interested members of the public. This was a terrific boost for what is genuine grass roots motorsport and a great way to hone your driving skills without incurring major costs. For the BTRDA the year has started well with 12 registrations for the Challenge and 20 for the Championship with one person being eligible for both at the start of the season. That is none other than 4 times BTRDA Autotest and 2 times BTRDA Forest Rally Champion Trevor Smith, who, under the Meath Engineering name, is sponsoring the Championship this year. It's been some time since Trevor danced amongst the pylons in his Midget or through the Forest in his Escort RS1800, so it will be interesting see how he gets on in, what I believe, will be a "borrowed" MX5. I am sure that a man with 6 Gold Stars to his name will soon get back into the groove.

Unsurprisingly the first round of both the Challenge & Championship in January took place in snowy conditions at the home of our

Challenge sponsor, demon tweeks, in Wrexham. Poor weather the day before resulted in a number of competitors pulling out

of the event run by Knutsford & District, so a depleted field tackled the tests in light snow showers, resulting in a fine performance by family Darkin in both events. In February we moved on to the Bristol MC event at Castle Combe, where thick mist was the problem as it shrouded the far end of the test site for much of the day. This did not prevent the AutoSOLOists performing, even though it stopped activity on the circuit until after lunch as the marshal post could not see each other. Once again it proved to be a good day for Dan Darkin in the Challenge, despite a major breakage of the car on the way to the venue and some hard bargaining to acquire some replacement parts from a damaged Saxo at the circuit and Kevin Belcher in the Championship. The next day saw the first Under 17 MC NW event at Blackburn, were David Graves and Roger Barfield scored maximum points.

So, as I write, Dan Darkin & David Graves lead the Challenge and Nick Darkin the Championship, but there is a long way to go yet and a lot will happen before season closes.

**Steve Layton**

#### **BTRDA Newcomers Autosolo Challenge 2013 Provisional Scores**

NAME	20-Jan-13	16-Feb-13	17-Feb-13	BEST 6 SCORES TO DATE
Roger Barfield	9B		10B	19B
Dan Darkin	10B	10B		20B
Stuart Eardley		6D		6D
David Graves	10A		10A	20B
Sam Karangatha		6B		6B
Graham Moore		5D		5D
Stephen Watts		8D		8D

#### **AutoSOLO Championship 2013 Provisional Scores**

NAME	20-Jan-13	16-Feb-13	Best 8 Scores
Kevin Belcher		10C	10C
Mike Biss		9D	9D
Nick Darkin	9B	10B	19B
John Fox		7A	7A
Kevin Hardwick		5A	5A
Ian Harrison		7E	
Stuart Harrison		10E	
Ben Heggs	8B		8B
Roger Holder		9A	9A
Sam Holder		1A	1A
Richard Yapp		4A	4A
Jamie Yapp		8A	8A

# BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Car Trials Championship

---

## LOW DOWN TORQUE

The time has come... to be more responsible – Oh! Don't be so silly - just continue to be yourself I've been told, even in this significant year for both the BTRDA and, to a lesser extent, yours truly. It is, of course, at times like this when one reflects but the mirror has definitely gathered some dust since I innocently assumed the chair of this committee in 1991 after six years on committee. Like all decent entities, we do tend to have a very slow turnover of personnel here, although I'm sure many of my colleagues would join with me in welcoming rather fewer years in office!

In the last issue I mentioned saying "au revoir" to Malcolm Brown; sadly in January we said "goodbye" at a packed Wyre Forest crematorium. Ann and Ruth, you know how much Malcolm will be missed.

In this edition, you will read brief commentaries on what the various championships have been up to over the decades. In (Production) Car Trials, not much has changed, really. There has forever been differing opinions on what is, or should be considered to be, "standard" or "production" in the context of the sport. But perhaps there lies the heart of the age-old test of reasonableness, given that we are dealing with motor sport for enthusiastic amateurs, not a competition between various manufacturers with homologated production cars. Invariably though, the (non-safety) rules and regulations come from a consensus pulled from the

competitors, and we move on. I would go so far as to say that it is healthy for boundaries to be pushed from time to time; it's stimulating and provokes debate – never a bad thing!

For some years now, the biggest challenge for organisers, specifically clerks of the course, has been to accommodate modern cars with their low fronts and wide, low-profile tyres whilst at the same time devising sections better suited to cars that are less susceptible to damage and invariably have more inherent grip. The concept of split routes and/or starts and the occasional use of re-starts have gone a long way to resolving these issues, as indeed have the more relaxed rules on wheel and tyre sizes. Quite where we will go with "alternative" fuel cars, or indeed electric powered cars, remains to be seen!

And now, with no apologies, another plug for the BTRDA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and Car Trials activities on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at Catton Park. We look forward to seeing old and new faces both during the day and in the evening. Now, where is a suitable car to bring along to Catton Park and...

I will see you there!

With best wishes to all and, of course, the collective BTRDA.

**Neil Mackay**

neil.mackay.home@btinternet.com

## Alan Houson Memorial Car Trial

This trial has been renamed and put back to its original February date at Great Brickhill; just the mention of the venue name can send shudders down the spine of many an experienced trialler, it can be very demanding. Even so entries were over-subscribed with a reserve list - not often that happens in car trials these days.

The weather forecast for the day was horrible and so it proved to be - persistent rain throughout. Those that are familiar with the site will know how difficult it is to get back up to the paddock when wet, but luckily a new access had been made at the top of the site easing this problem.

## Falcon Motor Club 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

8 hills had been laid out, all the Nat B competitors sent to start on hill 8 next to the paddock, a downhill start into a sharp gully on loose sand, those that didn't make it needed a tow from a Land Rover to get out, so this seemed to take forever.

Hills 1 to 6 were all in the grass field, high revving engines, cars being towed, just to get to the hills, hill 7 was at the lower end of the paddock area in the trees, but this soon rutted out.

Scores were amassing at high rate except for Duncan Stephens, who had a blinding round only dropping one point in the high revving Nova. Meanwhile in Class 3, Dave Oliver was

# BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Car Trials Championship



**Duncan Stephens at the 2013 Golden Springs Trial**  
**Photo: Barrie Parker**

12 up on Steve Courts, Howard Blackwell, on his own in class 4, retired after struggling to get across the site and was towed out.

After round 1 a welcome lunch break was called, the C of C, marshals and some competitors helped move all the hills onto easier ground in the grass field, so hopefully 2

more rounds could be run. The morning saw 10 retirements so this thinned the field somewhat.

Chris Judge on his own in class 1 had some spirited climbs to finish with a score less than some in class 2, Duncan Stephens was on a mission, again only dropping 1 point to Barrie Parker's 49. Dave O still managed to hold off Steve Courts.

By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round the poor marshals (and competitors) had had enough of the persistent rain so a halt to proceedings was called.

Duncan Stephens winning o/a dropping just 2 points,

Barrie Parker won class 2 and Dave Oliver class 3.

Falcon Motor Club officials and marshals must be commended for running the trial in such foul weather. It's a pity the regs didn't allow for the new class 8 in nat B, some of the classic triallers might then have been tempted to join us.

*DJO*

## Scorer's Snippets

There are 21 registrations for the Car Trial championship so far this year, spread roughly evenly among the three sections of our championship. Tim Beard is the only 'mover' this time, as his Bronze Star<sup>®</sup> win last year moves him up to Silver Star<sup>®</sup> this time.

Two events so far with an extremely wet Brickhill site followed by what I should imagine will have been perfect trialling conditions in Dorset yesterday (as I write this). Two wins for Duncan Stephens in different cars and classes. I can't remember seeing a lower index score than his 4.17% at Brickhill before, though it has been nearly matched with a 6.5% in 2006. I can also recall one (non BTRDA) event many years ago when four cars were clean for the

day. The organisers put on a final round with a stop-and-restart on one hill, which left three cars, all in different classes on zero. So we all got one added to our scores and the index calculations went to an Escort, while I, in my Golf, and a Beetle driver drove perfectly all day and didn't win overall. However, I can't remember what the index scores were, apart from very low.

The championship scores will be on the BTRDA website – usually updated by noon the day after an event. They are also displayed at most events – the ones I go to anyway! Alternatively, I can e-mail you a copy if so desired.

*Simon Harris*

## Malcolm Brown

Malcolm Brown, who died in January at the age of 79, was a long-serving member of the Car Trials and Allrounders Committees and the News Consortium.

Reluctantly retired from a successful career selling JCB's, Malcolm was driven by an enthusiasm for life and was forever warm and friendly, generous and unassuming. It transpires that following a prankish moment of "doing a wheelie" in a JCB there was born the inspiration for the now famous "Dancing Diggers" even though his boss was none too pleased at the time!

Passionate about his wife Ann and daughter Ruth, he also became thoroughly hooked on Car Trials, in which he competed initially in a "Frogeye" Sprite but mostly in his distinctive, blue Westfield. Whatever the weather, the car would compete with its roof down and the sight of Malcolm, with Ann at his side, attacking the hills with gusto, or gently, gently as sometimes is needed, will remain with us. As will the double "poop" of the car horn whenever he reached the top of a hill, giving him the nickname "Mr Poop-Poop". Malcolm had learned the ropes by passengering for Dennis Wells, an expert at the sport. He was soon hooked and, typical of his drive and determination, within 2 years was winning championship events himself.

In 1974 Malcolm joined the BTRDA, an association that was to feature in the Brown household far more than they could ever have imagined! In 2004 Malcolm achieved the much coveted accolade of winning the BTRDA PCT Championship outright, competing in rather muddy and slippery conditions in deepest Warwickshire, conditions in which he revelled. Malcolm won a championship event last April and competed right through to the 2012 Grand Final in October, fittingly at his home club, Kidderminster Motor Car Club's site at Heightington, near Stourport-on-Severn.

Malcolm was very generous with the time he gave to the BTRDA and was a long serving member of the Car Trials Championship Committee, only retiring in November when he could no longer continue as custodian of the sport's trophies – a role he had carried out tirelessly and diligently for an equally long time. He contributed in many other ways, including being an inspiring trainer whenever we held introductory or training days. And he gave his name to one of the annual class awards. Additionally, Malcolm served on the Allrounders Committee and News Consortium for many years.

Malcolm will be sadly missed by his fellow competitors, friends and family and our thoughts are with Ann and Ruth.

Neil Mackay

## Membership report

There is a good start to the Jubilee year of championship registrations with the numbers listed below. Already the AutoSOLO championship and Challenge have reached their 2012 totals, well done to the Autotest committee for picking on the right format and also attracting a new sponsor for the championship. At this point it is also worthwhile to thank ALL our sponsors for supporting the 2013 series of championships.

This News is going out to all 2013 members, a very warm welcome to all those joining for the first time, and also those from 2012 who have not yet renewed. The 2012 non renewals should still have their membership forms but if lost then they can be downloaded from [www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com) and sent with a cheque to us. However, the best way of renewing is at [www.btrdamembership.com](http://www.btrdamembership.com) where with online registration you will get instant acknowledgement of your membership and championship registration – ideal for that last minute decision to enter one of the 8 championships and their many rounds. It's not too late to enter. Just do it! Whatever way, we look forward to hearing from you.

2013 Championship registrations so far:

### 2013 Championship registrations so far:

Forest Rally	227	Allrounders	21
Asphalt Rally	125	Car Trial	23
Autotest	43	Sporting Trial	63
AutoSOLO Challenge	13	Rallycross	-
AutoSOLO Championship	20		

Liz & Peter Cox

# BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship

## BTRDA Sporting Trials Final 2012 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013

1	Duncan Stephens	James Tancock	Crosslé	GOLD	19	12	31	17	48
2	Ian Bell	Russ Sharp	Hamilton	GOLD	23	11	34	17	51
3	Julian Fack	Meg Marrison	Crosslé	GOLD	17	19	36	22	58
4	Thomas Bricknell	Sara Dyer	Crosslé	GOLD	26	12	38	22	60
5	Simon Gracey	Alan Flack	Crosslé	GOLD	21	22	43	19	62
18	<i>Pat Henson</i>	<i>Stuart Hancey</i>	<i>Facksimile</i>	<i>SILVER</i>	44	34	78	42	120
19	<i>Jason Daniel</i>	<i>Richard Bolt</i>	<i>Concord</i>	<i>SILVER</i>	58	32	90	33	123
20	<i>Arthur Carroll</i>	<i>Rebecca Lodge</i>	<i>Sherpa</i>	<i>SILVER</i>	52	39	91	34	125

*Silver Star runners in italics*

## Gold Star<sup>®</sup> and Silver Star<sup>®</sup> Championship Awards 2012

GOLD STAR <sup>®</sup> AWARDS		
Gold Star	Duncan Stephens	Champion
Bouncers Cushion	James Tancock	
Fack Brothers Trophy	Ian Bell and Russ Sharp	Second in the Gold Star
Lol Hurt Salver	Julian Fack and Meg Marrison	Third place in Gold Star
SILVER STAR <sup>®</sup> AWARDS		
Norman Overton	Pat Henson	Best performance
Passenger Award	Stuart Hancey	
Rex Chappell Trophy	Jason Daniel and Richard Bolt	Second Best Performance
Bernard Dees Trophy	Arthur Carroll and Rebecca Lodge	Third Best Trophy

### ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Ian Mackenzie Trophy	Thomas Bricknell and Sara Dyer	Best Southern Competitor
Cuth Harrison Trophy	Barry Hogg and Joanne Hogg	Best Northern Competitor
Lew Tracey	Andrew Bell and Eric Hamilton	Best Midland Competitor
E.F.Lawrence Trophy	Simon Gracey and Alan Flack	Best Northern Ireland Competitor
Pat Thornton Trophy	Josh Veale	To the highest placed member who has never won an award in the Gold Star
Peter Highwood Trophy	Paul Price	To the highest placed member who has never won an award in the Silver Star
Bill Pinckney Trophy	Lindsay Burke	To the highest placed Debutant at the final
Sidney Allard Trophy	Andrew Wilks	To the highest placed member driving a self built car
Kemp Lewis Trophy	Ian Bell	Highest placed member on age qualification
Best Trial of the Year	Mercian	Coventry & Warwickshire Car Club
Ian Bell Trophy	Ian Bell	Highest score over the year
Ron Faulkner	Josh Veale	Blue class winner
Green Class winner	John Cole	Green Class winner
Render Trophy	Sara Dyer	For The Highest Qualifying Passenger
Mike Harrison Trophy	Launceston and North Cornwall MC	Presented as a result of their great improvement in running the David Ayers Trial

## **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship**

---

The biggest news item at the moment has to be the forthcoming BTRDA 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary party, which will be imminent by the time you see this. The date is the Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and the venue is around Tamworth in the Midlands. The day takes place at two sporting centres, one at the Curborough sprint course, where autosolo, autotest and sprints will be demonstrated, and the other at Catton Park a few miles up the A38 where there will be a Historic Sporting Trial in the morning, followed by demonstrations of Car Trials (PCTs), modern Sporting Trials, and possibly a Grass Autotest in the afternoon. There should be opportunities to sample some of the cars, and there is hoped to be a very special personal challenge involving sporting trials between two well known World Rally personalities. The whole purpose is a celebration of BTRDA and everyone is welcome, especially former members and former champions. In the evening there will be a very fine dinner at the Drayton Manor Park Hotel, which is being subsidised. The dinner, like the rest of the day is intended first and foremost to be fun. It will not be formal and there will not be speeches or presentations, although there are bound to be a few who demand to be heard! If you have not booked your dinner tickets, do so right now or you might be disappointed.

Our biggest event of the year, the Gold & Silver Star Final, is always a bit of a nail biter in that the weather intervenes more often than not. This year January was incredibly wet and most trials sites would have been inaccessible, but Roland Uglow, top trials driver and owner of the coastal site at Delabole, was confident that we could run, and so it proved. The normal parking field was out of the question, but with a good deal of shuffling about in the farmyard the many road vehicles were accommodated on the hardstanding. The event itself ran well, the large field descended the steep valley from the farm down towards the sea, with instructions not to return until the event was over. C of C Dougie Parkinson, all the way from Cumbria, worked really hard to make it a decent event given the steep valley and the slippery ground, so slippery it was extremely difficult to walk the hills, and all but impossible in some cases. The eight sections were mostly fairly straight, and a good deal of power was deployed.

Basically very accurate driving at high speed in top gear was called for, if you strayed from the right line, even though the sections were very wide, you bogged down on the soft stuff, but those whose car control was on top form were able to hold the track and climb most of the hills. It was muddy, noisy and hard, and no surprise that Duncan Stephens and James Tancock came out on top at the end, closely followed by Ian Bell and Rusell Sharp, Julian Fack and Meg Marrion were third. In the Silver Pat Henson's ancient Facksimile took the award, a nice result after he lost it a couple of years ago when he ran out of fuel on the last section whilst in an unassailable position.

Our championship year has started, but sadly the Hagley Car Club's Geoff Taylor Trial had to be cancelled for the third time in four years. Hagley are very keen to run it and this year they requested it be delayed from the first weekend in February to the third, and they chose a different site, all to no avail, as usual the weather intervened and the landlord pulled the plug on the event due to waterlogged ground. The other early events ran without problems, at the time of writing the Jiggers Jug in Cumbria, the Loughborough at Melton Mowbray and the Walsingham in Kent have run successfully, albeit with smallish entries. As an excellent sign for the future, two young drivers, last year's MSA British Champion Thomas Bricknell, and BTRDA Gold Star Champion Duncan Stephens have been showing their potential once more in their state of the art Crossles, whilst another young driver Josh Veale in an older low cost live axled Sherpa has also been reaching for the top. Ian Bell's Hamilton has always been on the pace, but it is refreshing to see a few older cars doing well, not least the 30+ year old Facksimile of Steve Courts.

The Sporting Trials world is in a certain amount of turmoil at present, in common with some other BTRDA sports, with the notable exception of rallies. Some of our clubs seem to be losing interest in trials, at the same time as we are seeing a gradual decline in entries on events. This is not as dramatic as it appears, since numbers are pretty much the same as last year, but we are approaching the limit where running trials is not economic for our clubs. We

## **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship**

---

should not get too wound up about change however, my brother John and Duncan Stephens have been tabulating winners over the years on a spreadsheet and what is really shocking is the fact that we have lost 20 trials in my time, some a long time ago but many of them quite recently. 20 trials represents more or less a whole year's calendar.

The committee is working hard to understand what changes could reverse this trend, and one tool in their armory is Survey Monkey. This is a commercial online system for providing feedback. A link to a website is sent out by email and this takes you to a specific questionnaire, compiled by ourselves. The results are summarized and tabulated and sent back by email to whoever set it up. The advantage over the old paper based reporting system is people seem to be more likely to respond immediately by electronic means than to fill in a paper form, stamp it and take it to the postbox. So far it has been used for post event reporting and for a survey into support for trials. We are getting good levels of response, and it's use will no doubt spread to other BTRDA sports.

At present the results tend to show that the obvious reasons for our slow decline are not the most important. A couple of negative factors that spring to mind from the recent survey are "poles in the same places every year" and "other sports are occupying more of our time". You might have thought that the economic situation and the cost of travel would be the main problem, but things are much less straight forward than that. Cost of trials entries did not figure at all in replies. As might be expected there were a number of references to very expensive cars, but a glance at the results in the last year show that whilst the very top tends to be dominated by more modern cars, which happen to be driven by some of the best drivers, there are also a number of low cost cars regularly knocking at the door. In recent events Roger Bricknell, Josh Veale and Steve Courts have been on the podium with their old live axled cars.

One immediate change this year is the imposition of a new requirement for drivers to "officiate" and not to compete at one event per year. This is somewhat controversial as it

removes entries at the time they are most needed, and it is also problematic for those who live a long way from the centre of the country, such as Cornwall. However it does tackles the perennial marshal shortage, but most importantly it is intended to try and bridge the gulf between clubs and competitors, to encourage more club personnel to get involved in trials and drivers to be more involved with club matters. The most common reason given for lack of interest from clubs is "none of our members compete in trials!" Note that "officiate" for this purpose is defined as being a named official (secretary, C of C, scrutineer etc) or being a marshal on a championship event. In addition instructing at a training day also counts and any of the above qualify for 25 points in the championship. No doubt when the end of the season approaches there will be a scramble for opportunities to officiate, but the committee feel that this is a step in the right direction, even if some fine tuning is required for future seasons, such as a register of qualifiers, and some means of preventing a raft of drivers from opting to officiate at the same event.

There are two factors which affect our events and which can be altered without any real problems, Dual Permits and Calendar clashes. The recent Walsingham Trial ran dual permit and attracted less than half of the entry to the National B category. The advantage to competitors of the Clubsport Class is lack of the need for a license and a lower per capita fee. Obviously the disadvantage is you do not qualify for championship points of any kind. For organisers they can run events where there might be a lack of support for either category. It may well be that our clubs will want to promote more dual permit events in the future.

The calendar is notoriously difficult to organise, as clubs have a multitude of events to promote in several sports, and their hands are not free as regards dates. However there have been a number of cases recently where club level events have "poached" competitors from BTRDA events and vice versa, so both events suffer. Where there is a big geographical separation between locations this should not be a problem, but, for instance a North Midlands trial and a Northern one on the same day will

## **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship**

certainly cause a conflict, as happened recently.

Last year's roll over accidents showed up one problem with our sport, namely the excessive level of grip from our current tyres. When the old Vredestein Sprint+ became unobtainable, we rushed the decision to sanction another tyre. Looking at the Vredestein T-Trak is was "obvious" that it would not grip like the Sprint+. This was good news, but in practice the very ordinary looking T-Trak proved to be extraordinary in some conditions. Apart from safety this gives problems in finding suitable sites, even though we use tyre pressures universally these days. With the 165/80 x 15 size becoming increasingly rare we decided to start the research early this time. We found that the very slightly smaller diameter but wider 185/65 x 15 size has over 270 different varieties on sale and also we ran it on a non competing car in the recent Gold Star as a test. The particular tyre we tried proved to have a far worse performance than the T-Trak at that event specifically. Now we are continuing with the experiment at other events, to see how it performs under all sorts of conditions, with the

hope that it will do what we all need, to reduce grip. It is amusing to recall that for years we have been told that 15" wheels are on the way out and we should try something smaller, yet today the 15" wheel size is the most popular on the market, albeit in lower profiles. I was surprised to find that a new VW Up! I hired recently had 16" wheels, and this is one of the smallest cars on the market.

Ian Wright has found that pressure of business does not allow him to fulfill his duties as Chairman of the Committee. He has therefore decided to step down and at a recent meeting the members decided to ask Julian Fack to step back in as temporary chair, having recently retired after too many years to remember. Julian agreed on the basis that the committee would look for and find a replacement for 2015 at the latest, when he will retire finally at the age of 70.

That's all for now, I hope to see many of you on the hills,

*Julian Fack*

### **ST Short event reports**

#### **Jiggers Jug, 10th February NPTCC, Colston's Farm nr Penrith 16 starters**

1	Ian Bell	Russell Sharp	Hamilton	1 <sup>st</sup> Red	14
2	Martin Grimwood	Duncan Walker	Crossle	1 <sup>st</sup> Blue	36
3	Barry Hogg	Mathew Frith	Crossle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Blue	37
4	Simon Kingsley	Mathew Kingsley	Crossle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Red	49
6	Bryan Walker	Jackie Walker	Jedi	1 <sup>st</sup> Green	60

Ian Bell won the opening round of the BTRDA sporting trials championship in Cumbria, a trial he has won for the last three years. Bell drove brilliantly all day in wet ground but dry overhead conditions to finish less than half Martin Grimwood's score who won the intermediate class. Barry Hogg completed the podium ahead of reigning Cumbrian champion Simon Kingsley. Bryan Walker won the novice class in sixth overall ahead of top live axle driver Boyd Webster.

#### **Geoff Taylor, 17th February, Hagley CC, Upper Sapey, Worcs**

CANCELLED DUE TO WATERLOGGED SITE

## **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship**

### **Loughborough Trial, 24 February Loughborough CC, Eaton, Melton Mowbray, 20 Starters**

1	Thomas Bricknell	Sara Dyer	Crosslé	1 <sup>st</sup> Red	16
2	Ian Bell	Russell Sharp	Hamilton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Red	18
3	Roger Bricknell	Julia Bricknell	Facksimile	3 <sup>rd</sup> Red	18
9	Andy Wilks	Mark Smith	RCAP	1 <sup>st</sup> Blue	47
15	John Cole	Anne Cole	MJH	1 <sup>st</sup> Green	88

Reigning champion Tom Bricknell and his passenger Sara Dyer opened their 2013 account with victory on the Loughborough Trial, which kicked off the MSA Sporting Trial Championship season following the scheduled opener's cancellation.

The pair was unfazed by the slippery conditions and led by the midday halt, ultimately winning the round by two marks from 2011 Champion Ian Bell. Completing the podium was Roger Bricknell, the victor's step-father.

Duncan Stephens finished fourth just ahead of Josh Veale, who staged a remarkable fightback after dropping to 11 earlier on. The intermediate class victory went to Andy Wilks from George Watson and the novice category was won by John Cole, just ahead of the MSA's Jess Fack in her X-Factor, who also scored some valuable points for Allrounders.

### **Walsingham Trial, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 750MC, Horsmonden, Kent 11 starters in National B, 11 starters in ClubSport.**

1	Ian Wright	Mick Dibble	Sherpa Indy	1 <sup>st</sup> Red	13
2	Tom Bricknell	Sara Dyer	Crossle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Red	13
3	Arthur Carroll	Danny Jackson	Sherpa	1 <sup>st</sup> Clubman	15
4	Ian Bell	Russell Sharp	Hamilton	3 <sup>rd</sup> Red	16
7	George Watson	Victoria Watson	CAP	1 <sup>st</sup> Blue	26
8	David Zank	Barry Catt	Sherpa	1 <sup>st</sup> Green	36

In tight conditions Ian Wright won a dry Walsingham trial on a tie break from Tom Bricknell. Ian Bell completed the podium just three points adrift having hit an early nine post. George Watson (CAP) won the Intermediate class.

whilst the Novice class was won by David Zank (Sherpa). In the ClubSport Arthur Carroll finished with 15 marks, only bettered by Ian Wright and Tom!

# BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship

## Provisional Championship Table

Name	Class	Total	Trials	Average	Total Trials	Trial Wins	Jiggers Jug	Loughborough	Walsingham
Ian Bell	Red	87	3	29.00	3	1	30	29	28
Thomas Bricknell	Red	59	2	29.50	2	1		30	29
Joshua Veale	Red	52	2	26.00	2	0		26	26
George Watson	Blue	46	2	23.00	2	0		21	25
Steve Courts	Red	45	2	22.50	2	0		18	27
John Cole	Green	39	2	19.50	2	0		16	23
Richard Robarts	Blue	39	2	19.50	2	0		17	22
Boyd Webster	Blue	39	2	19.50	2	0	24	15	
Ian Wright	Red	30	1	30.00	1	1			30
Martin Grimwood	Blue	29	1	29.00	1	0	29		
Roger Bricknell	Red	28	1	28.00	1	0		28	
Barry Hogg	Blue	28	1	28.00	1	0	28		
Duncan Stephens	Red	27	1	27.00	1	0		27	
Simon Kingsley	Red	27	1	27.00	1	0	27		
Richard Waterhouse	Blue	26	1	26.00	1	0	26		
Peter Fensom	Red	25	1	25.00	1	0		25	
Ian Fulwood	Green	25	1	25.00	1	0		25	
Dave Rance	Red	24	1	24.00	1	0		24	
David Zank	Green	24	1	24.00	1	0			24
John Fack	Red	23	1	23.00	1	0		23	
Andrew Wilks	Blue	22	1	22.00	1	0		22	
Kevin Judd	Green	21	1	21.00	1	0			21
Andrew Bell	Red	20	1	20.00	1	0		20	
Jeffery Armitstead	Blue	20	1	20.00	1	0	20		
Julian Fack	Red	19	1	19.00	1	0		19	
Dave Oliver	Blue	14	1	14.00	1	0		14	
Philip Waterfall	Green	12	1	12.00	1	0		12	

# BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Sporting Trials Championship



## 2013 MSA British Championship Provisional Scores

by Janet Darbyshire,  
Championship Co-ordinator



**Tom Bricknell and Sara Dyer Crosslé, winning the Loughborough Trial at Eaton in February**  
Photo: Frances Gibbs

	Name	Car	L'borough	Walsingham	TOTAL
1	Thomas Bricknell	Crosslé	15	14	29
2	Ian Bell	Hamilton	14	13	27
3	Josh Veale	Sherpa	11	11	22
4	George Watson	CAP	6	10	16
5	Ian Wright	Sherpa Indy		15	15
	Steve Courts	Facksimile	3	12	15
7	Roger Bricknell	Facksimile	13		13
8	Duncan Stephens	Crosslé	12		12
9	Peter Fensom	Crosslé	10		10
10	David Zank	Sherpa		9	9
	John Cole	MJH	1	8	9
	Richard Roberts	RB7	2	7	9
	David Rance	Crosslé	9		9
14	John Fack	MSR	8		8
15	Andy Wilks	RCAP	7		7
16	Kevin Judd	Sherpa		6	6
17	Andrew Bell	Hamilton	5		5
18	Julian Fack	Crosslé	4		4

## **BTRDA® Clubmans Rallycross Championship**

Welcome to our 75th year as, initially BTDA (British Trials Drivers Association) and then BTRDA when Rally events and competitors formed a major addition to the Association's Championships. As you will have read in the potted history of Rallycross, the Association has been involved with this sport from 1975 onwards.

In January we made it to the Autosport Show, where two cars had pride of place, Gary Cook's MG ZR and Brian Jukes' Audi TT. To attract the visitors to our stand Dave Ewin set up a TV screen to show Rallycross DVDs of past and present events, including the Top Gear DVD which was later shown on the main large show screen at the live stage. The star of our stage appearance was the current Rallycross Champion Gary Cook who we now know can talk for England. A big thank you to all who made this happen and it was interesting to note BTRDA was the only Rallycross stand at this important show.

In the last News of 2012 we advised that, due to financial restrictions of hiring venues for Rallycross without definite numbers of competitors entering these events, the viability to promote such competition was in question. Since then your Committee devised a Challenge based on ALL proposed events due to be organised in the UK. This proposal with no defined calendar would enable our registered members to choose which events to enter, thereby deciding which events match either budget or location. As a Clubmans Challenge it has always been the BTRDA's approach to try and keep our sports affordable at this level of competition. However, following the late issue of Technical Regulations for the early events, which includes age restrictions on cars in some classes and the higher than expected entry fees the BTRDA Rallycross committee will be undertaking a review of the proposed Challenge and, as this article is being written for the News copy date of March 6th, full details will be on the BTRDA web site as soon as the committee have reconsidered this development.

Later in the year we hope to be part of an event at Croft, to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, with a Grand Challenge event based on the early days of Rallycross competition without a class structure, everyone against each other, with the fastest in each race going forward to the eventual final race ..... or something along those lines. Details later when the clubs promoting this event have put their heads together and decided the exact format.

The possibility of a winter series is also under consideration, mainly in the North East but maybe to

include at least one other in a different region, which would see us all into next year.

All in all the future of clubmans Rallycross becomes more attractive when you factor in the possibility of the new venues which are on the horizon and clubs willing to organise for club competitors. So click on to the website and see if we can get on with the **SERIOUS FUN**.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your motorsport.

**Phil D**



**The Clubmans Rallycross stand at the NEC**  
Photo by Dave Ewin

# BTRDA® Allrounders Championship Supported by REIS

## ALLROUNDERS – START UP

As we enter a new Championship year the first task is to record the 2012 award winners. This is required as our championship concluded after the publication of the last NEWS of 2012.

Champion	Peter Cooper Trophy	Duncan Stephens
Runner - up	Darbyshire Trophy	Jamie Yapp
Third	Margot Young Trophy	Roger Holder
One Car	Davijon Trophy	Jamie Yapp
Highest Placed Under 25	Duckhams Trophy	Not Presented

Congratulations must go to Duncan who, by winning the Jonson Sporting Trial at the end of November, just pipped Jamie who was in the lead up to that almost last event in the BTRDA calendar.

Well done to all our qualifiers - John Fox, Dave Oliver, Adrian Read, Kevin Hardwick, Stu Perren, Rich Yapp, Martin MacKenzie and Pat Egger. It was good to see so many of you attending the Awards lunch in January at the National Motorcycle Museum when all the Association awards are presented.



*Jess Fack and Laura Wilks - X-Factor –  
at the Loughborough Trial in February  
Photo by Frances Gibbs*

And so to this year, the Association's 75th Anniversary. We are delighted to retain the support of REIS Insurance as our championship sponsor. Their support of BTRDA Championships is invaluable and has spread into the Rally Series in a major way with their Championship to be seen on Motors TV with an even more enhanced production. So please, when looking for Insurance, make REIS your first contact.

As we do every year your committee has reviewed the regulations and decided to revert to earlier wording for qualification in this way:- "The best SIX performances gained from AT LEAST THREE different Groups with no more than TWO from any Group.....". The seven different Groups are detailed in the Rules - available on [btrda.com](http://btrda.com) or from me.

Copy date is a little earlier than normal for our first news of the year. There have been 9 events in the BTRDA calendar and current scores are on another page of this NEWS and will be on the web site. Registrations so far are lower than at this time last year but as Autotest and AutoSOLO begin and, hopefully, Rallycross, our numbers

# BTRDA® Allrounders Championship Supported by REIS

should increase.

To celebrate the Association's 75th Anniversary, on Saturday, 27th April there will be activities at Curborough, Nr Lichfield, for Autotest and AutoSOLO, as well as something to include Rally and Rallycross cars. On the same day at Catton Park, Nr Alrewas (up the road from Curborough) there will be activities for Car and Sporting Trial vehicles. Both venues are to run the days on MSA Taster permits, thereby allowing non-members to have rides or drives. In addition an event is to be run

by the Historic Sporting Trials Association for their members. BTRDA will be providing FREE refreshments at these venues to support the weekend of FUN. The Dinner in the evening is at Drayton Manor Park Hotel, not far up the road from the day's activities. More details in this issue on another page.

We look forward to this years REIS Allrounders Championship with interest and wish all our contestants well in the events they choose to enter.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your sport.

*Phil D*



## REIS BTRDA Allrounders Championship Provisional Overall Scores to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Duncan	Stephens	15.00	A	18.46	B	16.67	B	13.33	E	13.33	G	76.79
Roger	Holder	17.50	A	15.38	B	16.36	G					49.24
Matt	Beebe	11.43	C*	18.71	D							30.14
Martin	MacKenzie	10.00	A	12.31	B	5.45	G					27.76
Kevin	Hardwick	10.00	A	9.09	G							19.09
Jamie	Yapp	14.55	G									14.55
Adrian	Read	13.33	G									13.33
John	Fox	12.73	G									12.73
Jess	Fack	12.00	E									12.00
Jim	Pullar	9.23	B									9.23
Richard	Yapp	7.27	G									7.27
Dave	Walker	6.67	B									6.67
Siôn	Matthews	rtd	C									0.00

A - Autotest

B - Car Trials

C - Forest Rally

D - Asphalt Rally

E - Sporting Trials

F - Speed

G - AutoSOLO

\* Indicates Rally Co-driver

*Names in italics indicates Davjone score*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For advertisements, articles, photographs, reports and results in this issue of BTRDA NEWS the NEWS TEAM would like to thank:

Mike Broad, Simon Clarke [sc-photography.co.uk](http://sc-photography.co.uk), [CMWI.net](http://CMWI.net), Liz & Peter Cox, Janet, Julie & Phil Darbyshire, Julian Fack, Jonathan & Frances Gibbs, Andrew Hail, Simon Harris, Meg Harrison, Steve Layton, Neil Mackay, David Oliver, Ralliphotowales, Bill Skermer, Mike Sones, Brian Stapleton, Howard Wilcock, Richard Yapp and our sponsors

THE EDITORS DO NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED WITHIN THE VARIOUS REPORTS

BTRDA News is printed by Quorum Print Services Ltd Units 3&4 Lansdown Industrial Estate Gloucester Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 8PL

Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of The British Trial & Rally Drivers Association Ltd  
Held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at The National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull at 11.00 a.m.  
(66<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Association)

---

The Chair was taken by the President, Mike Broad, who welcomed the 45 members, and their guests, to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence  
Ann Brown, Angela Danby, Janet Darbyshire, Brian Midgley, Bill and Kathy Skermer, Hazel Stephens, Howard Wilcock, Ian Wright, Jamie Yapp, Richard Yapp.
2. To receive & approve the Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM were passed as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by the President.
3. To receive and approve the Directors Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012

The President advised the meeting that The Hon. Treasurer, Bernard Baker, had served notice of his retirement at the end of the current financial year. The Association was therefore seeking a successor treasurer or treasurers from the membership as we did not wish to outsource the roles.

The Hon. Treasurer responded with the comment that the time was right to pass the baton on and then went on to review the Financial Statements, noting that the Balance Sheet showed a net asset value of over £100,000 for the first time.

The President acknowledged the contributions made from the various championships, especially Rally, and the strong reserves were there to protect an uncertain future. However, from these reserves, the board had allocated what amounted to £100 per year towards the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, i.e. £7,500. The Annual Statements were then approved.

4. Election of a Director of The British Trial & Rally Drivers Association Ltd  
Neil Mackay was unanimously re-elected as a director of The British Trial & Rally Drivers Association Ltd; there were no other nominations.
5. Election of a Director of BTRDA Ltd  
The President thanked Mike Stephens for his long and unstinting service in many capacities, including General Secretary for so many years, as he reluctantly accepted his retirement from the board of BTRDA Ltd. Gemma Price was unanimously nominated for appointment as a director of BTRDA Ltd; there were no other nominations.
6. Election of Council Members of BTRDA Ltd  
Nominations for the two vacancies had been received from Peter Cox and Duncan Wild who were both unanimously nominated to be re-appointed as Council Members of BTRDA Ltd.
7. Other Committees  
Mike Sones read out the names of the directors of the operating company, BTRDA Ltd, and the members of Council. Special mention was made of Angela Danby, Pat Egger and Hazel Stephens for their invaluable roles as Awards Secretary, NEWS Coordinator and AGM & Luncheon Coordinator respectively; he went on to introduce the following representatives of the Specialist Committees who gave a brief resume of the activities of the various championships:

Autotests and AutoSOLO	- Steve Layton	Forest Rallies	- Norman Robertson
Allrounders & News	- Phil Darbyshire	Rallycross	- Mike Sones
Asphalt Rallies	- Andrew Haill	Sporting Trials	- Julian Fack
Car Trials	- Neil Mackay		

8. Any Other Business  
In a written question, Howard Wilcock had expressed disappointment that the Association's "who we are" article had not been published; Nick Pollitt mentioned that to some extent it was covered in our annual advertisement in the Motorsport press. The President undertook to resolve the matter.

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance, and the meeting closed at 11.51 a.m.

## SPECIAL AWARDS 2012 WINNERS

### The Stross Rally Trophy

Tom Cave

Awarded annually to the BTRDA member achieving the best performance(s) or individual result(s) on any International or National Special Stage Rally Championship/Event. This trophy is awarded upon the recommendation of the Rally Committee

### The Jack Twyford Trophy

Tom Cave

Awarded annually to the highest placed BTRDA member driving on the British round of the World Rally Championship or otherwise any event in the British Rally Championship

### The John Gott Memorial Trophy

Gill Cotton

A Special Award to be presented at the discretion of the Rallies Committee

### The Patricia Baldwin Trophy

Hazel Stephens

A Special Ladies Award to be presented at the discretion of Council

### The Automobile Club de Monaco Trophy

Peter Smith

Awarded to the winning driver in the Gold Star Series Historic Cup

## HONORARY MEMBERS FOR LIFE

**DEREK SMITH:** Joined the BTRDA in 1951, competing regularly, particularly in Autotests, and won the Flather Star in 1963. After three years as Secretary of the Autotest Committee he became General Secretary of the Association from 1967-1982 and was also Treasurer during the same period. As Chairman of the Rallycross Committee from 1976 to 1978, and a Group 1 RAC Timekeeper, he did much to improve the standards of timekeeping at BTRDA Rallycross and Autocross events

**PHIL and JANET DARBYSHIRE:** Phil and Janet have been actively associated with the BTRDA since the 1960's, and both served on the Autotest Committee and since the Mid. 70's on the Allrounders Committee. Additionally they have helped to edit and publish BTRDA News since 1977. It was the Directors and Council's wish, endorsed by the Annual General Meeting that Phil and Janet Darbyshire be appointed as Honorary Members for Life.

**BRIAN and MARGARET STAPLETON:** Though almost exclusively with Sporting Trials Committee, Brian and Margaret have also served the Association since 1974 with Brian acting as Committee Secretary and Margaret as a co-ordinator for the Sporting Trials Dinner. Both continue as competitors and event officials and it was the Directors and Council's wish, endorsed by the Annual General Meeting that Brian and Margaret Stapleton be appointed Honorary Members for Life

**MIKE and HAZEL STEPHENS:** Mike has been involved in BTRDA activities for over 40 years, primarily concerned with the Production Car Trial committee and was its champion many times over, but also as secretary to the Rallies committee during the period of greatest development of both road and special stage championships. Chairmanship of the Association was taken up in 1982, and only relinquished in 1988 to the more demanding role of General Secretary until 2004. Hazel has been in charge of the organisation of the AGM and Awards Presentation day since 1988, and between them, their household has looked after the distribution and posting of News and Clear Round since the early 1980's. They continue to be involved with various activities of the Association, including Rallycross, the Luncheon, book-keeping, News and Clear Round.

**HOWARD WILCOCK:** Howard joined the BTRDA Rally Committee in 1979 and has been involved with the BTRDA Rally Championships since 1987, firstly with the Clubmans Championship, and subsequently the Gold Star Championship, as Championship Co-ordinator. Throughout this period, his wholehearted commitment has been unstinting, his judgement and decisions taken about the format of the championship as a whole have been crystal clear, resulting in the Gold Star Championship being the pinnacle of clubman motorsport. He continues to be involved in the championship, and represents BTRDA on a number of MSA Committees

**BRIAN MIDGLEY:** Brian has been involved with BTRDA for over 40 years, principally associated with the production car trial world where he was committee chairman, and fierce competitor, for many of those years, whilst he was also responsible for the Association's awards for almost a decade. A constant and authoritative member of Council, he became a director of the Association upon its conversion to a Limited Company, and subsequently elected as President in 1989. His tenure of that position has seen the Association make great strides forward, both in its dealings with the MSA and in the motorsport world at large. His was the greatest contribution in the re-organisation of the Association into Holding, and Operational, companies that exist today.

# **Gold Star<sup>®</sup> Champions 2012**

Allrounders	Duncan Stephens
Autotest	Steven Ferguson
Car Trial	John Moffatt
Forest Rally	Shaun Gardener/Ben Innes
Rallycross	Gary Cook
Sporting Trial	Duncan Stephens

## **AutoSolo Championship** Mike Biss

### **BTRDA<sup>®</sup> Challenge Winners**

Asphalt Rally FWD	Matt Beebe/Paula Swiscoe
Asphalt Rally RWD	Richard Felgate/Mark Mason
AutoSolo	Paul Dallyn



### **Some award winners and their cars**

**Jamie Yapp, Jane Edgington, Gill Cotton,  
Duncan Stephens and John Moffatt**

Photo: Duncan Wild

[www.btrda.com](http://www.btrda.com)