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E - News

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The Rallycross BMW Mini class at Blyton Park

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President's Notes

Wednesday 14 September. 2022

A friend of mine sent me a message yesterday, it said "I am much sadder than I thought I would be" and I agree.

I am of the age that I can remember the Coronation of the Queen in 1953, so she has been my "constant" throughout my life. An amazing lady who has made such a difference to this wonderful country we live in. We have been privileged to live in her time.

We are approaching the busiest part of the motorsport calendar year. Most of our Championships are still "up for grabs" whilst all of our Committees are already looking towards the 2023 season. Rules, events, dates, have all got to be sorted in time for the announcements later.

From that point of view, every committee is looking for help so if you think you can help support the sport you love, then please get in touch with me.

All disciplines are in need, as I found out a couple of weeks ago when I officiated on two events on the same weekend, and both had full entries but we only just had enough officials on the day to run the events. Without organisers and marshals we have no sport so even if you can only help part time, please think about supporting us by joining a committee.

Congratulations are in order for both our Rally Championships. The Forest series has been re-awarded the Motorsport UK English Rally Championship title and the Asphalt series has been re-awarded the Motorsport UK Asphalt Championship title, both for the next three years. Well done to Neil Cross and Paul Morris and their teams.

The MRF Forest Championship passed another milestone recently when they received the 200th registration for this year making it the most popular rally championship in the UK.

At our last Board meeting we confirmed that the AGM will be held by a Zoom meeting in late January and we shall confirm the exact details in the next BTRDA News.

We shall be having our usual Awards Luncheon on February 5th 2023 at the Drayton Manor Park Hotel near Tamworth. Please make a note and we shall confirm timings etc in due course.

Finally may I congratulate Garry Preston, who has won the Motorsport UK Car Trials Title for 2022. By June he had wrapped up the series with some outright wins and class awards. He was a very close friend of Mike Sones, and fittingly, Garry had Mike's flat hat on the passenger seat on every occasion, now all he has to do is win the final of the BTRDA Championship to have the full house, as he says "Sones would have been very proud"

Mike Broad

BTRDA[®] Sporting Trials Championship

This copy of the BTRDA news catches Sporting Trials just as it gets its season underway again following the traditional summer break. We finished the first half of the season in good spirits with the superb festival of trials rounding off the first part of the season in some style. As previously reported it was a first half of the season dominated by Thomas Bricknell in his reliable Crossle, and he has kicked off the second half in a similar vein winning both days of the Cornish weekend.

He hasn't had it all his own way though with Ian Veale making the trip up to Cumbria a successful one, winning the Robin Jager to take his first win of the year. You would be a brave man to bet against Thomas for this year's Championships as he has now stood on the top step 8 times in BTRDA events this year, with his worst finishing position of 4th showing a remarkable level of consistency. I'm sure someone can delve into the record books to see what the record for the most trial wins in a year is and indeed the most points scored in a season. If Thomas keeps up this run of form, he surely won't get too far away from it being a season for the history books.

There will of course be a number of drivers keen to upset Thomas and his march to glory this autumn. Richard Sharp is the closest challenger in the tables and will be keen to keep Thomas honest, the Veale's, Ian and Josh will be looking to add to their win tallies and Simon Kingsley will no doubt want to add to his success at the Stuart Butterfield.

In the Live Axle classes new father Arthur Carrol brushed off the new daddy tiredness to have a successful weekend in Cornwall and continues to lead the way over Matt Sharp in the championship, with Sam Beare chasing them both hard. We look forward to seeing which of these Sherpa drivers will come out on top at the end of the year.

Sporting trials continues to bounce with championship registrations on the way up and we look forward to seeing some healthy entries as we move into the midlands swing of the Autumn events. Talking of the Midlands, the Gold and Silver Star Finals will hopefully be returning to the middle of the country this January, and with so many championship registrations, trialers may have to qualify for the final this year which will be great to see. So, if you are thinking of competing in this year's final then make sure you get yourself out on the hills this Autumn to make sure you have enough points to qualify.

Sandy Veale

BTRDA[®] Car Trials Championship

This year has flown by and we've concluded all of our planned qualifying events, bar the Wyre Forest which had unforeseen issues with the venue.

As you will have seen from our Gold Star table published on the Car Trials "About" page, we have 14 championship contenders eligible to compete in the Grand Final Trial on the 23rd of October and with our scoring system, nothing is a foregone conclusion.

We can look forward to another challenging day at the Prescott Speed Hill Climb venue (we were there a couple of years ago), where we will naturally not be competing on the asphalt surfaces.

At the time of writing, progress has stalled on the proposals to refine car classes but ahead of the December edition of News, we will be updating competitors through Newsletters and no doubt in the background through social media.

Congratulations to Garry Preston for winning the 2022 Motorsport UK British Car Trials Championship. After dominating in his trusty Fiat 127 Garry relaxed and tried one or two other cars, about which we may hear more of in the winter edition.

Once again, apologies for the brief content. But also a reminder that vacancies exist on the championship committee. Anyone with enthusiasm for the sport and the time to put something back into it, just contact me for any further information.

Neil Mackay

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Nick Pollitt at Wolverhampton's Gaby Mohr
Car Trial

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Autosport International BTRDA® Clubman's Rallycross Championship

Presented by Cooper Tires

THE SECOND visit of the 2022 season to Lincolnshire for the Autosport International BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship saw a slightly smaller than the expected field of around 50 cars assemble across the eight classes, although with fuel prices and other uncertainties this was perhaps not a surprise. Sunny summer weather greeted the field, but delays early on due to the late arrival of medical cover and a volunteer marshal, unfortunately, being taken ill meant that one of the three rounds of heats had to be cut from the programme, but all classes achieved their full compliment of Finals.

With recent dominator Lee Wood absent it was open season in the Melius Pre-'95 Classic category and Jamie McBain impressively took a maiden heat win for his Peugeot 205 with John Cross in the Stratos replica winning the other. Cross blasted off from pole position in the A Final while an early shemozzle in the opening two turns saw Ryan Stutchbury's 205 out with a broken driveshaft, while Dave Crockett's Chevette made a fine start to chase Cross pursued by Richard Moroney's Escort and the Nova of David Attiwell. McBain was another first-lap casualty with some front-end damage from the fraught opening exchanges, while Crockett tried to close down the leader until he encountered an errant straw bale in the middle of the track, earlier dislodged at the Hairpin. Contact with the obstacle sent the Vauxhall spinning down to fourth place and left Moroney and Attiwell to chase down Cross but the veteran clung on to win by just under a second ahead of the Escort, Attiwell taking his best result of the season in third.



TV Broadcast Information

Every round of the BTRDA Championship can be seen in 2022 on the following broadcast channel's;

Motorsport TV – Online platform – Free subscription in 2022

**Freesports – Freeview/TalkTalkTV/BT TV Ch:64, Sky Ch:422, Virgin CH:533,
And Freesat CH:252**

Front Runner – Sky 468 & 469

Premier Sports – Sky 412 in HD & 435 / Virgin 551 & 552

Showcase and Sporty Stuff on Sky will also show each event along with SamsungTV

**In Addition to the above broadcasters and once the coverage has been aired it can
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Autosport International BTRDA® Clubman's Rallycross Championship

Presented by Cooper Tires

Fourth was enough to move the recovered Crockett into the points lead with B Final qualifiers Thomas Edmunds (Corsa) and David Ewin completing the finishers, the latter still in his backup Fiesta with the famous Fiesta Evo not ready for a return. Helen Crooks meanwhile was eliminated in the B Final but continued her run towards another Classic Mini title. Cross also led home a clean sweep for the Classics in the programme-closing Superfinal, with Crockett, Moroney and the repaired Stutchbury his placemen.

The seemingly impenetrable armour of AS Performance Super Modified dominator Darren Bleasdale showed a chink as Darren Scott (C2) narrowly beat the VX220 in heat one, but normal service was soon resumed as Bleasdale took the second heat before running away with the A Final to make it five out of five this year. Scott was some 16 seconds back in a lonely second while Gary Cook (Fiesta) capped a fine day by holding off reigning champ Phil Chicken's C2 for third, the pair being closed down by Todd Crooks who after problematic heats with the BMW Mini did well to bring it through for fifth from the back of the grid. Dale Ford's Corsa and the pink Porsche of Michelle Swallow completed the runners.

Will Ovenden and title holder Owen Robbins shared the Cooper Tires Junior heats and were level into the first turn of the A Final, but the Kentish driver ran wide allowing Robbins and Corey Padgett through. The latter pair enjoyed a bit of door handling through the infield section, but Robbins pulled away and Ovenden snatched second midway through the race. Robbins took the flag just over a second clear while Padgett had to work to hold off the impressive Tyler McAlpin for third place, an effort which left him just one point behind Robbins in the points chart. Holly Woolley and James Hawkes completed the finishers.



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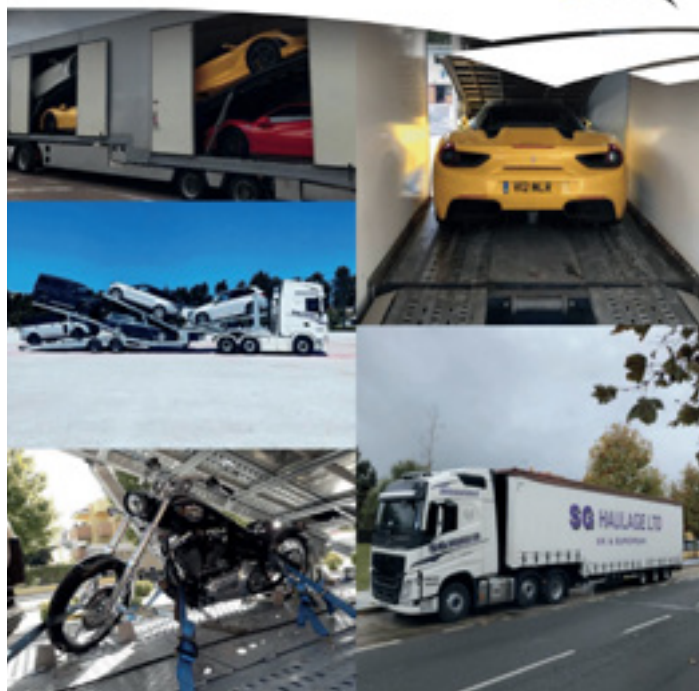
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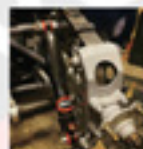
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Autosport International BTRDA® Clubman's Rallycross Championship

Presented by Cooper Tires

There was plenty of drama in the A Final for the Bone Street Autos BMW Mini class, the first attempt stopped when Andy Bennett came to a halt while into turn one for the second time Abbie McGuinness clipped fellow heat winner Nick Abbott who slid into championship leader Andy Hawkes delaying both but they were able to rejoin. As the field reached the Hairpin Bennett's car stopped again and he was clipped by Abbott who flipped over for another red flag, the latter thankfully unhurt. The third attempt, minus Bennett, Abbott and B Final victor Harvey Harman, was more straightforward and saw Hawkes lead from green to chequered to extend his points lead, McGuinness enjoying a good battle with newcomer Harrison Barnes to take second. The latest member of the Bleasdale family to hit the tracks, Steve, took fourth ahead of B Final runner-up Ansko Pitkanen, while Michael Amlin and Wes Wickens were the unlucky losers in the B Final. Barnes completed the day by being the only BMW Mini driver in the Superfinal, but he dropped out.

It was an early bath for one of the favourites in the SG Haulage Production category as Charley Moroney rolled in heat one, the team and several helpers trying their hardest to repair his Saxo but sadly he was out for the day. Karl Jarvis and Cai Mainwaring made it one-all for Citroen and Peugeot in the heats and it was the former who led throughout in the A Final despite Mainwaring's best efforts, their finishing positions echoed at the top of the points standings at end of play. Behind the French hatchback duo, Alfa Romeo man Mark Henry completed the podium with B Final winner Charlie Titcombe holding off returnee Martin Peters for fourth in an all-Saxo scrap, the finishers completed by the 206 of Dan Cofield and Sam Noye's Saxo, the latter also having come through the B Final which saw Ryan Green's smart Fiesta knocked out. James Ashe's misfortunes meanwhile continued as his C2 stopped on the last lap of the A Final, while Jarvis went on to take sixth in the Superfinal.

FIA Cross Car battlers Luke Holly and Paul Batson resumed their duel from Lydden Hill, the latter changing his clutch to make it out for the A Final but he was no match for Holly who survived a spin at the Hairpin to hold onto his large lead and make it back-to-back A Final victories, Batson also spinning on the last lap en route to second. Alex Fletcher meanwhile scored a clear hat-trick in All Tool UK Modified in the Loughborough College Civic, the A Final re-run after his only rival Alan Laidler (Saxo) came to a halt at the Hairpin first time out as Fletcher took a dominant win to close in on absent points leader James Avison. In Cooper Tires Production 4x4 Subaru pair Chris Baker and Paul Davis shared the heats, but the former failed to start the A Final and Mitsubishi man Tomas Ramanauskas ran away from Davis to make it three different winners and extend his points lead.

Despite the delays everyone enjoyed a fine day, and all are hoping the summer weather bestows the Championship again when it returns to Pembrey in September.

Dave Goddard





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Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship



Battle for the 2022 Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship set for exciting finale



The battle for the 2022 Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship is set for an exciting finale, with no class titles yet confirmed and an array of drivers still in with a shout of picking up the prestigious BTRDA silverware.

Having had four different winners in the first four rounds, James Williams became the first driver to score overall maximum points more than once this season when he claimed the full 30 points for a second time on the Get Connected Rali Ceredigion.

Giving the Hyundai i20N Rally2 its UK rally debut, Williams finished 1 min 53.1 secs ahead of Ruairi Bell/Max Freeman (Škoda Fabia R5), while his fellow west Walian navigator Dai Roberts takes the lead in the overall Protyre Asphalt co-drivers standings.

It is Steve Wood that stands on top of the Protyre Asphalt drivers' standings after producing another strong performance and taking third-placed points in his City East Ford Fiesta RS WRC. Co-driven by Dale Bowen, the local driver mastered the extremely challenging 85-stage mile route with a solid drive through Saturday night's dark stages and a full day of flat-out competition on Sunday over the drying roads of the Cambrian Mountains.

Wood now heads to the sixth and penultimate round of the series – the Hills Ford 3 Shires Stages on Sunday 18 September – with a three-point advantage, having knocked the absent John Stone (Volkswagen Polo GTI R5) off the top spot.

Neil Roskell has dropped down to third in the drivers' standings after he and Andrew Roughead retired their ND Civils/Burdens Ford Fiesta R5+ on the Aberystwyth-based closed road event after breaking a driveshaft leaving the start line of SS5 – which was the 17-mile Llanfihangel stage, which opened Sunday's action.

He remains very much a title contender, as does Mark Kelly who – together with Neil Colman on the route notes – scored fourth-placed points in his Roccia Tiles & Bathrooms/Tilemaster Global Škoda Fabia R5+. Whilst Wood, Stone and Roskell have dropped one score, Kelly has already dropped his mandatory two scores – and whilst the pressure is on to finish the last two rounds, unlike his rivals he can count both scores.



Steven Ormond-Smith/Claire Williams
(Picture: Russ Otway)



Steve Wood/Dale Bowen
(Picture: Russ Otway)



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Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship

One of the stars of the 2022 Protyre Asphalt season is Brad Cole. Despite admitting he'd struggled to commit on the night-time stages, that certainly wasn't the case in daylight as flew to fifth-placed overall points in his Hydrolite Solutions Escort Mk2. Co-driven by Jamie Vaughan (who is second in the overall co-drivers standings), Cole has extended his lead in both class B13 and the Ford Escort Challenge after once again coming home as the top two-wheel drive competitor.

William Mains (co-driven by Emily Easton-Page) won class B9 and took home to Llandysul sixth-placed overall points after another giant-killing performance in his WCS/Roy Thomas & Son-sponsored Vauxhall Nova.

There was more than a fair share of misfortune for a number of Protyre Asphalt crews as the demands of Rali Ceredigion took their toll.

Triple Protyre Asphalt champions Jason Pritchard/Phil Clarke rolled their North Road Garage/Get Jerky/J&S Handling-backed Volkswagen Polo GTI R5 into a field, Roger Moran/Den Golding were forced out with electrical problems in their Škoda Fabia R5+ and David Henderson/Chris Lees hit a bank after a heavy and awkward landing on SS10 and broke the rear suspension on their Michelin-shod Keco/PAR Petroleum-backed Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Defending class champion Adrian Spencer (co-driven on Rali Ceredigion by Ashley Trimble) continues to lead B14 in his RED Industries Subaru Impreza WRX after none of the class title contenders finished the event.

Richard Clews remains second in class (with Carl Williamson leading the co-drivers section) despite a very rare off in his ITG Subaru Impreza STi, while Steven Ormond-Smith (navigated by Claire Williams) remains third despite coasting to a halt with low oil and fuel pressure in his new Manx Rally Sport-supported Proton Satria S2000.

Lewis Gatt/Callum Young still lead class B10 despite retiring their Gatt Speed Ford Escort Mk2 on SS7 after hitting a fence and breaking a half shaft while class B12 frontrunners Jonathan Stepney/Aled Davies were forced to withdraw their 1.9-litre engined Griffiths/Gavin Griffiths Group-backed Peugeot 205 GTi after the driver became unwell.

Others to retire included Chris Ford/Matt Daniels (clutch problems with their Citroën C3 Rally2), Olly Hunter/Dan May (HES Electrical Contractors-backed Ford Escort Mk2), Mark Holmes/Mark Perryman (Ford Fiesta S2000), Rob Tout/Terry Martin (punctures aboard their ABC Hire Services Mitsubishi Evo 10), Damian and Charly Cole (Get Connected Škoda Fabia R5+), Huw James/Dafydd Evans (Ford Escort Mk2) and Jay Stanley/Elgan Davies (Tina Pedro Boxers Escort Mk2).

Geoff Glover/Keith Barker suffered transmission problems in their Vauxhall Astra Mk3 RWD but did pick up the Dynamic Fluids best-presented car award.

Live streamed action footage from the Rali Ceredigion (which received over 60,000 views during the event) remains available to view on the Special Stage TV Facebook page, with commentary from Mark James and special guest presenter Hugh Hunter.

Paul Evans

Protyre Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship



Geoff Glover/Keith Barker
(Picture: Russ Otway)



Brad Cole/Jamie Vaughan
(Picture: Russ Otway)



James Williams/Dai Roberts
(Picture: Marl Sims)



Mark Kelly/Neil Colman
(Picture: Marl Sims)



William Mains/Emily Easton-Page
(Picture: Russ Otway)

BTRDA® Allrounders Championship Supported by Crystal Images

It's the time of the year when many BTRDA Allrounders competitors are looking at their scores and thinking, "If only I could find a Sprint/AutoSOLO/Car Trial/Sporting Trial that I could squeeze another 5 points from I may be able to win the championship".

Back to the real world and it is Jamie Yapp who heads the list with a total of 99.13, just 0.87 points short of the difficult target of 100. These have come from AutoSOLO, Targa and Sprint events.

In second place is John Fox with 94.54 points from exactly the same split of events. And, to make the similarity even more similar they have the same Targa points as Jamie navigated for John in the Clio for both to record an 8.89 points score! There could be a chance for better points at the Knutsford Targa event at Three Sisters at the end of November so the question of who drives/navigates for whom waits until then. I could be free!

Bob Milligan has a good lead in the DAVIJON award for the best one car with his Mini having been used for AutoSOLOs, Car Trial and Targa events. Another small car, the Micra of Alan Wakeman follows with a third one-car qualifier for 2022, Richard Yapp in his MX5. It does show how well the Allrounders championship fits in with the other BTRDA championships for members wanting to have a go at several branches of motorsport.

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BTRDA® Allrounders Championship Supported by Crystal Images

I haven't mentioned Sporting Trials yet and this is a true winter sport when the lack of grip on wet surfaces searches out the top quality of the driver and car. Alastair Moffatt has the opportunity to improve his low score of 4.00 here and if so could get ahead of both Jamie and John.

It's all a case of ifs and buts as to who will get the prestigious Gold Star!

Amongst the other 22 championship entrants who have scored points the top under 25 driver is Charlie Titcombe who has been doing well in Rallycross events. He is young enough to have a few more years in this Allrounder's category and win the Duckhams Trophy.

Keep up to date on the positions at www.btrda.com.

Peter Cox



Charlie Titcombe (401)

2022 BTRDA® Targa Road Rally Championship



After what seemed to be a LONG break during the Summer, Targas returned with a vengeance.

The Ystra Targa at Grafton restarted proceedings in late July. After a great deal of Stage Rally organisational experience, this was the Dukeries Club's first Targa, they didn't disappoint.

In the Championship battle, it was very much kept in the Davies family. John Davies/ Nick Bloxham took the early lead but were pushed hard by Ethan Davies/ Dafydd-Sion Lloyd. Overshooting a finish line on Test 2 gave Ethan/Dafydd a penalty which knocked them back significantly with such tight competition.

Many picked up penalties for incorrect manoeuvres, especially at the end of Tests where it was very tempting to follow the lines of the previous test! There were many tales across Championship contenders, with Martyn Taylor/ Bob Hargreaves suffering from a failed master cut-out switch. The bodgery to overcome this problem was impressive!

Martin Freeman/ Katherine Woodward were out in the Skoda Favorit for probably the last time, with a new car on its way to preserve the Skoda. More later. Robert Milligan/ Ben Amos found that the Mini was suffering, being a steering arm and losing the exhaust, but they still battled to end after repairs.

Tim Tordoff/ Ian Frazer suffered from driveshaft problems but still made the finish. Elliott Sharp held the lead in the Drivers' Championship with Lewis Ayris not far behind. Sam Weller was still leading the Navigators.

John Davies/Nick Bloxham picked up a puncture on the first Test. Ethan Davies also collected a puncture with a used bullet casing in the tyre! Dan Morris/Geth Johnson were finding the conditions slippery, but a change to gravel tyres on the front seemed to make the difference and provide some protection from the infamous Caerwent kerbs.

Many were finding navigation difficult on the intricate roads of the old ordnance factory. Caerwent is always hard on the Navigators, the constant acceleration, braking, navigating and dealing with Controls made many breakfasts reappear!

Kerbs inevitably took their toll with several cars having their tracking rearranged. A great day of Rallying. Congratulations to all who finished and congratulations to Dan Morris/Geth Johnson for the overall win.

2022 BTRDA® Targa Road Rally Championship

After many delays due to military activity, the Mr Tyre Motorsport BTRDA® Targa Road Rally Championship finally visited Weeton. Several BTRDA crews retired from the event, but there were also some excellent points scores for many.

The 061 Targa didn't make too much difference to the current Mr Tyre Motorsport BTRDA Targa Road Rally Championship tables, but the points will make a difference to the eventual results.

David Ginn moved into second in the overall Drivers' Championship, with 15-year-old Sam Weller almost making the Navigators' title his. But none of the Class or Overall positions were taken at this stage, there's more to play for ...

The Kent Forestry Targa at Mereworth Wood was fantastic, with the lead changing on every Test. Ethan Davies/Mathew Smalley and Dan Morris/Zak Linham swapped the lead on every test, with John Davies/Nick Bloxham snapping at their heels.

After five Tests, Dan Morris and Zak Linham took the overall win by 15 seconds, despite collecting 40 seconds (4 cones) of penalties during the day.

Ethan Davies moved into the lead of the Drivers' Championship, just ahead of Elliott Sharp and Bob Milligan on the same points score. David Ginn and Lewis Ayris are only a few points behind.

Sam Weller maintains his lead in the Navigators' Championship despite not obtaining a run on the Kent Forestry Targa. Sandra Loton-Jones holds second, but if Nick Bloxham can take a maximum score on the next two events he could steal the overall Navigator's Title.

It's also great to see young competitors doing well, with Ethan Davies, Lewis Ayris and Dan Morris all being under 25. The Navigators are similar with 15-year-old Sam Weller leading and Aidan Thompson and Llinos Davies chasing.

With two rounds left, it's not all over, positions can still change, and others can still take the Championship positions with some good results. It's going to be a great finish to the season.

There are many stories to tell of other Championship crews, but space is limited. Visit the BTRDA Targa Road Rally Championship Group and the BTRDA website for more detailed information. Feel free to add details of your own exploits in the Championship Facebook Group.

See you out there!
Alan Wakeman



2022 BTRDA® Targa Road Rally Championship



Ethan Davies & Dafydd Evans



Darrell Denning & Sophie Buckland



David Ginn & Glynn Hayward



Dan Morris & Geth Johnson



Rich Jones & Otis Gane

MRF Tyres BTRDA® Rally Series



SIX EVENTS DOWN – TWO TO GO!....

But first things first! Following the Nicky Grist Stages in July, Billy Grew (Fiesta) was confirmed as the 2022 BTRDA Rallye R2 Junior Cup Champion and likewise, with three events to spare, Lewis Hooper (Nissan Micra) has made the MRF Tyres Rally First® Cup all his own. Congratulations to them both on their success...

For the rest of us, the Phil Price Memorial Woodpecker Rally marked the three-quarter stage of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series and suffice it to say that there is plenty of unfinished business to be sorted between now and the end of October! A 100% finishing record sees Richard Hill/Pat Cooper (Lancer EVO9) leading the MRF Tyres BTRDA Gold Star Championship but, as dropped scores now come into play, Elliot Payne/Patrick Walsh and Matthew Hirst/Declan Dear (both Fiestas) have two event wins apiece which should put them in good stead, come to the final reckoning. However, especially in rallying, there's many a slip!...

Consistency also sees Nick Dobson (Escort) in charge of the MRF Tyres BTRDA Silver Star® Championship at this point. Rob Wright, Michael McDaid, David Crossen and, most recently, Boyd Kershaw (all Escorts) have each taken one, or more, maximums but, once again, there is no outright front runner. To be continued!...

Grant Inglis/Gavin Chisholm lead the Jordan Road Surfacing BTRDA Historic Cup in their Escort, but a non-finish on the Woodpecker Rally just goes to underline that they're not having it all their own way! Similarly, the BTRDA Rallye R2 Cup has seen five different 'winners' from six events – Jonathan Jones (Fiesta) currently holds the upper hand but he knows that that could change...

The Fuchs Lubricants Bronze Star Championship has Ed James/Charlie Mason (Micra Kit Car) in the top spot, while Pete Gorst/Mark Twiname (Nova) have already taken three maximums and were well on their way to a fourth on the Nicky Grist Stages before an off on the final stage put paid to any thoughts of a finish...

The Motorsport UK English Rally Championship, in association with Seacon UK, has reached its halfway stage and Richard Hill (Lancer EVO9) is a mere one point ahead of Nick Dobson's Escort. Then Ian Joel (Escort Cosworth) and Stephen Petch (Fiesta Rally2) are only two points adrift – etc etc! This one culminates in Ambleside on the Grizedale Stages at the beginning of December and there is still a considerable amount of jockeying for positions to be undertaken before then!

Andrew Haill



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MRF Tyres BTRDA[®] Rally Series

The calendar for the 2022 MRF Tyres BTRDA Rally Series is as follows :

DATE	EVENT	BASE
March 12th	Malcolm Wilson Rally	Cockermouth
April 9th	Rallynuts Stages	Royal Welsh Showground
May 14th	Border Counties Rally	Jedburgh
June 18th	Kielder Forest Rally	Hexham
July 9th	Nicky Grist Stages	Builth Wells
September 3rd	Woodpecker Stages	TBA
September 24th	Trackrod Forest Stages	Filey
October 29th	Cambrian Rally	Llandudno

Meanwhile, the calendar for the Motorsport UK 2022 English Rally Championship is :

March 12th	Malcolm Wilson Rally
May 14th	Border Counties Rally
June 18th	Kielder Forest Rally
September 3rd	Woodpecker Stages
September 24th	Trackrod Forest Rally
October 15th	Wyedean Forest Rally
December 3rd	Grizedale Stages



Billy Grew & Simon Rogers



Lewis Hooper & Steven Brown



Nick Dobson & Phil Sandham



Richard Hill & Patrick Cooper

Demon Tweeks Direct BTRDA® Autotest Championship

Testing Times

In my last report, I bemoaned the difficulties that some of our organizing clubs were having with venues and the issues that this was causing, and so things have continued. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate the revised date offered by Caernarfonshire & Anglesey MC for their round of the Championship, due to a change of availability at the Anglesey Circuit.

Then, rather bizarrely and despite our best efforts, we were unable to get any response from the Rhyl & District MC who were due to run an event in August, which therefore we had to assume was not running. However, the Alwoodley Motor Club came to our aid and kindly offered to organise a replacement event on the same date, which they did very successfully.

Finally, the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II understandably resulted in the cancellation of the Coventry Motofest and therefore the Loughborough Car Club event which was to have been part of it.

So, the 2022 Championship has now been reduced to eight rounds, with the second Knutsford & District event still to come, from its planned ten and now it is the best 5 scores to count. This means that the Championship and Class positions are already decided, but I am sure that this will not prevent a healthy entry to Knutsford, and I think it only fitting that these are not reviewed until the end of the season.

With regards to the events that have run, the enthusiastic team at Alwoodley put on two excellent events, using the same test layouts for both events resulting in some bemusement amongst the competitors who thought that they would be quicker the second time and were not. Knutsford used the familiar Demon Tweeks car parks to significant effect and South of Scotland returned to Lockerbie this year in glorious sunshine.

With thoughts turning already to 2023 the Committee would be interested to hear competitors' thoughts on date changes, Clubs running multiple rounds, new events to be considered, Class structure, rule changes, etc. so please let us know about your ideas.

Finally, some good news about venues, the Hagley & District Light Car Club have a new site for the Ken Wharton Memorial Autotests, which will return on the 8th of October after a two-year absence. They thank the Management of the Pear Tree Inn and Country Hotel at Smite, near Worcester, for accommodating the event this year. To round off the year, all the top Championship contenders will be competing, along with our friends from Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Steve Layton

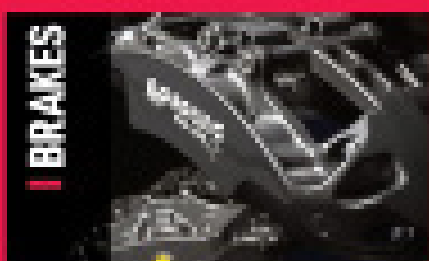
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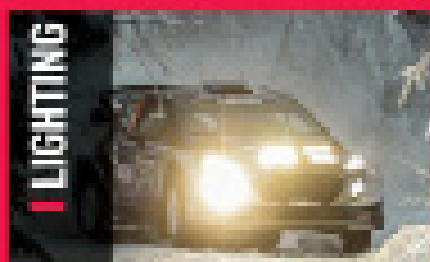
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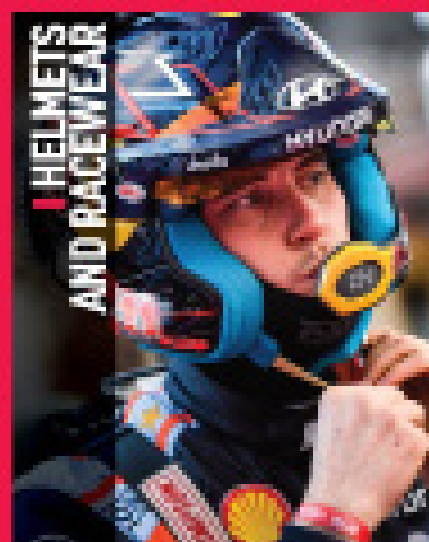
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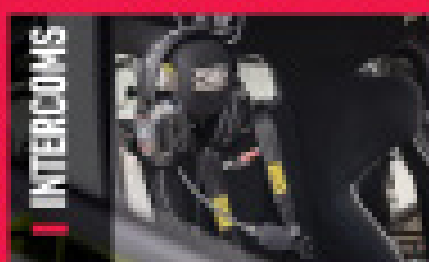
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Demon Tweaks Direct BTRDA® AutoSOLO Championship

A few weeks ago, Neil Jones after scoring top points at the Devizes & DMC Kemble event said on the Facebook Autosolo Forum “That’s win number 7 this year and with it the maximum points possible for the BTRDA Autosolo Championship. I don’t think anyone can beat or tie with me but I will be looking at the remaining events and working it out for sure.” He also put a link (<https://youtu.be/gLc5uPRDcbo>) of his in-car views of driving the 4 tests which are well worth looking at – it all looks so easy! But then, a smooth drive on an AutoSOLO will always be rewarded by a quick time rather than a run with the wheels spinning and the back end sliding.

Following that, I can confirm that indeed Neil will be collecting his very first Gold Star at the 2022 luncheon.

It was going to be a double header of events at the weekend with Coventry and Wroughton but the sad passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II meant the Coventry Motofest was cancelled. A full mark of respect was made at the Bristol MC Wroughton event with a full 2-minute silence before the competition began. The event turned out to be an example of top-class AutoSOLOs with places consistently changing in the sports car class. I hope the pictures of Steve Conner will show how close to the margin you have to go to get good times. I can assure you that Steve collected no penalties with his close shaves – I should know, I was marshalling at the spot!



Steve Conner missing the cone with his
offside rear wheel...



...and missing the cone with his
nearside rear wheel

Demon Tweeks Direct BTRDA® AutoSOLO Championship

The Wroughton event also brought out a past champion whose son is trying to emulate him. Kevin Belcher last won the BTRDA AutoSOLO championship in 2013 in his Subaru Impreza. The sticker from that year is still on the car – see the picture! Since then Kevin has been doing other things but now that his son, Kieran, is starting to do well in his Renault Megane R26 (as seen in the picture lifting a rear wheel at Kemble), he thought he might like to see what the current scene was.

Well, once a good driver, always a good driver! Kevin started off using his old spare set of wheels/tyres but after one run decided that probably his current road-going tyres were better – they were! How did it all end up? A magnificent 4th place overall and winning Class C. And how did this compare with Kieran? At lunch, Kieran was a mere 1.7 secs behind but then car problems meant he dropped a little bit further back by the end of the day. So, maybe a score draws here. With Kevin sounding as if he could be tempted back into a full season, that would mean there could be no less than 5 champions out (Jamie Yapp, Neil Jones, Alec Tunbridge and Steve Conner being the others).

I'm looking forward to 2023 already!

Peter Cox



Kevin Belcher's Subaru in 2022 with a 2013 championship sticker



Kieran Belcher lifting a rear wheel

Honorary Members for Life

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. Phil is still a member of Council and has served on the Rallycross committee since 1984. Additionally, they have been involved in the production of the BTRDA News.

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 to take an active interest in the BTRDA.

MIKE and HAZEL STEPHENS: Mike has been involved in BTRDA activities for some 50 years, initially as a Production Car Trial committee member and many times PCT Champion. He was Secretary of the Rallies Committee during a period of great development in road and stage championships and he became BTRDA Chairman in 1982. He then took on the demanding role of General Secretary in 1988 through until 2004. Hazel oversaw organising the AGM and Awards Presentation event from 1988 right through until 2013, between them Mike and Hazel's household performed the distribution of BTRDA News for some 30 years.

HOWARD WILCOCK: Howard joined the BTRDA Rally Committee in 1979 and has been involved with the BTRDA Rally Championships since 1987, firstly with the Clubman's 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 MSUK 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 was subsequently elected as President in 1989. His tenure of that position saw 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.

BERNARD BAKER: Bernard joined the Autotest Committee, representing event organisers, when Eastern Counties MC won the best event award for their Felixstowe round in 1977. He subsequently became committee secretary in 1980, a role he finally relinquished in 1997. His accountancy skills also brought him to the attention of BTRDA Council, when he was asked to take the role of Treasurer during 1994, a position subsequently confirmed at the AGM in 1995. He continued in the role until the end of 2014, having successfully reported on the financial affairs of both the Holding and Operational companies for 20 years.

SIMON HARRIS: Simon joined the BTRDA in 1994 and has been a member of the Car Trials (formerly Production Car Trials) Committee since 1997, whilst his other motorsport interests include our Allrounders and AutoSOLO championships and the HRCR/HERO Historic Rallying series. In November 2003, when the company restructure took place, Simon was appointed the first Company Secretary to BTRDA Ltd, a position he held for the next 15 years. Alongside this role, Simon took on the now unofficial role of General Secretary, acting as committee secretary to BTRDA Ltd and to Council, together with being a central contact point for the BTRDA brand. Simon finally retired from this position in November 2018, where the breadth of his duties and responsibilities have had to be divided between several other individuals!

PAT EGGER: Since the mid 1970's Pat has been an active competitor and organiser. Driving on Autotests, AutoSolos, Car Trials, Autocross events, and co-driving on gravel and asphalt rallies mainly with her husband Richard. In the autumn of 2004, she took over the collation and production of BTRDA News from Janet Darbyshire a role she continued for 16 years until her last edition, the Winter News 2020.

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Autotest

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Rallycross

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Alastair Moffatt

Trevor Moffatt

Garry Pearson

Niall Burns

Jason Bleasdale

Simon Kingsley

Auto Solo Winner

Targa Rally Winning Driver

Targa Rally winning co driver

Alec Tunbridge

John Davies

Sasha Heriot

Edited by Jennifer Wardle