

Blackwood Plant Hire Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship

March Report

2016 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS

10 th Jan	Grant Construction Stages, Knockhill	www.borderecossecarclub.com
2 nd April	DCC Stages, Ingliston Edinburgh	www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk
18 th June	Crail Summer Stages, Crail Airfield	www.glenrothes-msc.com
2 nd /3 rd July	Mach 1 Stages, Machrihanish	www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk
6 th Aug	Solway Coast Rally, Dundrennan	www.solwaycarclub.co.uk
7 th Aug	Tyneside Stages, Otterburn	www.alnwickmotorclub.co.uk
11 th Sept	Pendragon Stages, Warcop	www.pendragonstages.co.uk
14 th /16 th Oct	Beatson's Mull Rally, Isle of Mull	www.mullcarclub.co.uk
5 th Nov	Kingdom Stages, Crail Airfield	www.glenrothes-msc.com
Presentation of Awards Dinner Dance (Date and Venue to be confirmed)		



Round 1 Grant Construction Knockhill Stages 10th January

With the bubbles barely settled from the 2015 championship prize giving champagne it was time to warm up those engines for the first round of the 2016 championship at Knockhill racing circuit in Fife organised by Border Ecosse Car Club.

The weather forecast for the day was dry and bright with occasional showers and as usual Knockhill micro climate proved them wrong with temperatures hovering around zero all day with rain/sleet and heavy snow at one point, this did not put off the bumper entry of over 70 cars, unfortunately last year's winner Michael Glendenning was unable to defend his title due to ill health and last year's 2015 champion John Marshall was also missing due to having a new car being built in time for the STRCs 2nd round at Ingliston.

There was also a record number of STRC championship registrations with a total of 69 being registered proving just how popular this series has become. With a healthy contingent from the SRC also attending this event as a test ahead of the Snowman Rally.

The event consisted of 8 stages over the rally stage/perimeter roads and circuit, the first few stages were all down to tyre choice and this became evident at the first service when the time started to come through.

Stuart Walker took an early lead in his new Skoda Fabia with the 2 Escorts of Gary Adam and Alan Kirkcaldy choosing the right tyres and clipping the heels of the mighty 4wd car.

As the conditions worsened it saw Championship Sponsor Tom Blackwood spin out the Escort Cosworth and with it unable to restart it was an early bath for Tom.

There was a slight delay due to the Nova of Donald Bowness and Ian Parker hitting a vertical steel post from 50MPH to zero proving just how important FHR devices are. The car has already been stripped and is going to be ready for Ingliston, Donald's only concern is the new Engine which he hopes wasn't damaged in the impact.

At the lunch halt the weather didn't ease up and continued to snow in between the sleet showers but this didn't put off any of the crews for the afternoon stages.

A special word of thanks must go to the army of over 50 Marshalls who stood out in these atrocious conditions all day.

A healthy contingent from the Borders also registered for the STRC and was great to see Sean Robson and Gareth Whyte out to name but a few, an old timer from many years ago also showed his face in the name of Gerry Kilmurphy who also announced he was a grandfather, congratulations Gerry.

As the daylight started to fade but the determination increased this saw James Gibb suffer a puncture dropping him down the leader board, Booby Irvine suffered fuel pump failure and had to push the last mile to the finish but rectified the wiring fault at service and re-joined. Murray Coulthard also suffered and clutch failure was his demise.

Tom and Sue Hynd decided at the last minute after spending the last 30 years competing in the woods to register for the STRC , Tom said *'my plan was to do selected Tarmac rallies this year so off to Knockhill to test my new gearbox, , by the half-way point I was up to 15th overall and third in class, so lost a bit of time and dropped down to 18th, so decided to go back to Mr Sensible and drive for the finish and was delighted to finish 16th overall and 3rd in class'*.

Going into the last couple of stages it was all or nothing for the top three and there was nothing going to stop a full on attack, Gary Adam was confident of the tyre choice and said as long as he keeps it neat and tidy he can do no more, Stuart Walker was just going to “ go for it” !! Alan Kirkcaldy was also focused on the last couple of stages hoping for a decent run.

Event Award Winners

Overall

1st overall 2 Gary Adam / Gordon Adam Ford Escort MK2 2500cc 4 49:32
 2nd overall 9 Alan Kirkcaldy / Garry Muir Ford Escort Mk2 2500cc 4 50:13
 3rd overall 5 Stuart Walker / Julie McGuire Skoda Fabia 1995cc 5 50:18

Class 1

28 Angus Lawrie / Heather Grisedale Vauxhall Corsa 1389cc 1 54:05

Class 2

19 Sean Robson / Ben Diamond Citroen C2R2 Max 1592cc 2 51:36

Class 3

12 Stephen Thompson / David Crosbie Ford Escort Mk2 1800cc 3 52:05

Class 4

71 Gareth White / Harry Marchbank Citroen DS3 R3T 1598cc 4 51:26

Class 5

3 Ian Paterson / Alan Paterson Subaru Impreza 1998cc 5 51:11

Blackwood Plant Hire Scottish Tarmac Championship standings after Round 1

Drivers	Car	Class	points
Steven Hay	Vauxhall Corsa 1389cc	1	22
Sean Robson	Citroen C2R2 MAX 1592cc	2	22
Stuart Walker	Skoda Fabia 1997cc	3	22
Ian Paterson	Subaru Impreza 1998cc	5	22
Navigators	Car	Class	points
David Crosbie	Ford Escort Mk2 1800cc	3	22
Allan Paterson	Subaru Impreza 1998cc	5	22
Steven Brown	Vauxhall Corsa 1389cc	1	20
Gordon Adam	Ford Escort Mk2 2500cc	4	20

The next round of the Championship is the DCC stages at Ingliston on the 2nd April being organised by Dunfermline car Club who were delighted with the response from competitors when the online entry system opened. Within 30 minutes, over 80 entries were received and within 2 hours the maximum entry allowance of 75 plus a reserve list of 25 was reached. With another 10 competitors registering for the Championship, it is a great start to the season.

As well as organising and planning for the DCC Stages and the Mach 1 Stages, many of the organising team of Dunfermline Car Club have been attending training days for Rally Marshals and Officials organised by the MSA and SACC, to ensure the implementation of the Rally Future guidelines.

We were also delighted to be involved with the exiting event GoRally and thank all those who came along to assist with the Blackwood Plant Hire Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship stand. Thanks go to those who brought along their rally cars, our current STRC champion John Marshall, Dunfermline Car Club chairman Fergus Gray, who has been competing both as driver and co-driver for ..em.. a number of years, and Phil Jeffress, a newbie to competing, who brought along his self-prepared Peugeot 206. Phil was able to give a lot of helpful advice to potential newcomers to the sport.

On the 19th March at RM Condor, Arbroath, is the first round of the Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge, Although this is not a round of the STRC many registered competitors are competing or assisting, and we wish Glenrothes Motor Sport Club every success with this new venue and event.

Trix Grant

on behalf of Dunfermline Car Club, promoters of the Blackwood Plant Hire Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship