Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship

Round 9 Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally post-event report

Here's the post Mull Report for you ....

The 2025 Mull Rally, penultimate round of the 2025 Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship did not disappoint (perhaps only with the exception of the crews who didn't manage to make it to the finish!). The demanding route, albeit a trimmed down version of previous events, due to the unfortunate landslide on a crucial part of a connecting road section, was well received; compact enough to keep competitors and their support crews on their toes. That, combined with the for once favourable, albeit changeable and dampish, weather conditions, making the road surfaces greasy and unpredictable - and correct tyre choice crucial. It certain did not diminish the renowned toughness of this event, which lived up to its reputation as being one of endurance, and that's before the Sunday night assault on the Tobermory Main Street bars began!

Here's how the STRC crews who finished the event got on: delighted with the weekend and cannot thank everybody enough who helped out making the result at Mull happen!

Car 48 - Alan Scott/Rachel Matheson (10th overall)

Absolutely delighted with the weekend and cannot thank everybody enough who helped out making the result at Mull happen! Weekends in the car don't get much better! Think we will be smiling about this weekend for a while. A fantastic drive from Alan in the mighty MG and delighted to finish in the top 10 and be awarded the Allan MacKay Trophy for Best Entertainer Award. Big thanks to our service team who kept us going all weekend, we couldn't have done it without you all.

Car 10 - Ross Hunter/Chris Dodds (15th overall)

A steady drive, securing 2nd in Class 5 and glad to be mixing it with the "top Scots".

Car 30 - Steven Smith/Ewan Lees (20th overall)

That's the Mull Rally 2025 all done and dusted. A fantastic drive bringing the car home despite total clutch hydraulic failure on the final stage, meaning no clutch for about 6 miles! Steven's first time competing on Mull, and the first time back on proper pace notes, secured the most successful Team Award.

Car 26 - Joe McKeand/Charlotte McDowall (27th overall)

Delighted to get to the finish of a tough event.

Car 52 - Ross MacDonald/Matthew Johnstone (32nd overall)

Decent finish in the end. Unfortunately, we struggled with confidence on the Friday night but slowly got into it over the weekend, so we were happy to come away with a finish and not a scratch on the car!

Car 57 - Martin Crombie/Peter Carstairs (34th overall)

Head gasket blown 2 weeks before Mull was speedily repaired. Got the car mapped and ended up going back up the road during Storm Amy, and a tree that was blowing down smashed the windscreen of the Evo on the trailer and hit the towing car! Managed to source a screen which was fitted Tuesday morning before setting off for the ferry. During the second Shakedown run the clutch let go. After a few frantic phone calls Lewis Gallagher came to our rescue with a plate. Martin and the boys replaced it and we were ready to start with an hour to spare! Felt fine to get a finish!

Car 31 - John Marshall/Craig Wallace (35th overall)

Taking first place in the Historic Class in the immaculate BMW.

Car 99 - Alasdair Ingram/Bernard McSweeney (41st overall)
Friday night started well for us, and it was unfortunate that Stage 5 was cancelled, as it's my favourite bit of road. The notional time given unfortunately put paid to our Class contention aspirations. Saturday afternoon was mixed, getting the perfect tyre was next to impossible, and a bit of a moment when we hit the Pallet force Escorts back box in Calgary, which made progress difficult. Saturday night on the start line and the main light bar refused to work so it was fog lights only for the next 3 stages, sorted them at Service, and a nice clean run home.

Car 112 - Charlie Knight/Laurence Knight (44th overall)
The Mull Rally went really well for us. We went pretty hard on Friday looking to get a good lead on the other STRC guys in our class. We were leading by a good few minutes after Friday night so we just took the rest of the rally fairly easy and ended up getting all the points we wanted.

Car 60 - Norman MacPhail/Sean Douglas (48th overall)
Finished a satisfactory 4th place in class 9.

Car 80 - Sarah Hunter/James Bones Braithwaite (52nd overall)
A controlled drive, Sarah ending up as the highest placed lady driver.

Car 51 - Jim McDowall/Shona Hale (54th overall)
Started the event with high hopes to improve on their seeding. Unfortunately, this was not to be. A broken front strut and the centre diff giving up the ghost, leading to the car running in 2WD only meant they finished up 54th and 10th place in the amalgamated Class 2 - and very disappointed to have their Group N car being plonked in the same class as those with clicky boxes! Jim is hoping Santa can bring him a new suspension!

Car 71 - Paul Daniel/Robert Wood (55th overall)
A creditable 2nd place in the Historic class.

Car 72 - Fraser MacNicol/Charlie MacKenzie (56th overall)
We had a fair few dramas unfortunately, burst a front shock on one of the jumps, and were absolutely gutted to have lost our second in class with having to stop and change a puncture, costing us 4 and a half minutes. We were just glad to get a finish. This was the first Mull Rally in Fraser's newly acquired Melvyn Evans built Historic Ford Escort. There were some major differences to the old car most notably no power steering, no clicky box and no active suspension. Fraser struggled a bit with heavy steering and a little play in the rack on Friday night but was happier after a bit of fettling from Tommy MacKay, but felt the car was still understeering a little. We then picked up a Notional time that robbed us a bit and we were on a push in Calgary when we took a puncture on the offside rear that lost us about 5 minutes and pushed us back down to 3rd in class. Saturday night we changed tyres on the front and seemed to be getting back into a rhythm and clawed our way back to just 27s off the 2nd in class. We really had a blast in the final stage and both of us were feeling like we wanted to do more stages. A lot learned with the new car – it is just awesome!

Car 123 - Fraser Macleod/Eoghan Anderson (57th overall)
Delighted to have made it over to Mull and have a clean run and get a finish! Will hopefully be back for more next year!

Car 106 - Scott MacDonald/Angus MacNeil (61st overall)
Our run up to the rally wasn't too bad, just some small jobs to do. Got over to Mull on Thursday and did recce in the evening. Friday night didn't go well as Scott was sick in a few stages and felt terrible, which continued into Saturday, felt horrendous all day and night. On the last stage he was determined to get it to the finish and the wheel bearing started to collapse halfway through the last stage, but after the weekend I'd had, there was no way I was letting that stop me from getting to the finish. Managed to get over the line at Tobermory and it completely went. Phoned my team and got the trailer down to take it back to the hotel. Thanks to everyone that helped me over the weekend, it was very much appreciated.

Car 63 - Gavin Lloyd/Gordon Clark (63rd overall)
Where to start.... Pre-event issues with the brakes jamming on meant a non-start was looking possible. However, that got sorted, and we made it to the start. Both driver and navigator took a few stages to get dialled in, and we were further down the order by the end of the first night than we would have liked. Saturday stages felt better, although the changeable weather kept things exciting and we were trying hard enough to have a couple of significant moments, but the car also started to make ominous transmission noises and high-speed vibrations. Noises and vibrations got worse, and we were both crossing everything going into the last long stage on Saturday evening. Surprisingly, nothing broke, and we were both chuffed to finish a tough event 63rd overall and 7thin what was a very competitive class with few retirements.

Car 107 - Graham MacDonald/Claire Tilley (64th overall)
We had a really enjoyable rally and enjoyed the route/stages. Slight issue with the brakes sticking on but we got that fixed. Always a great feeling getting to the finish of one of the most challenging events of the year. Thanks to all the organisers/marshal/radio teams for all their hard work.

Car 105 - Wattie Warwick/Darrell Clark (65th overall)
Had a really good and clean run around Mull. Hopefully it was a good points haul for the Championship and looking forward to Kinloss in a couple weeks' time. Lindsey absolutely loved her first rally on pace notes. Thanks for everyone's help, and especially to my driver for the opportunity.

Car 36 - Martyn Douglas/Mark Thurley (70th overall)
Mull was a challenge this year, with a combination of wrong tyre choices from myself, and constant change in weather, we somehow made it to the finish. Thanks to our amazing service team.
Can't wait for the next one!

Car 111 - James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson (71st overall)
We had a good time on Mull - loved it! We did exactly what we needed - an easy run - no heroics and a finish to gain some much-needed points and no damage to the car! Already looking to book again for next year!

Car 120 - Kenny Watt/Gail Whyte (80th overall)
What a weekend at the Mull Rally! It's such a unique and challenging event, a true endurance rally. Our goal was simply to get a finish (the car's not built to win), but I definitely won in the amount of fun we had! Kenny gave it everything — the wee Mini was flying, and apparently, you could hear us coming from miles away with that engine scream! No issues all weekend and even some dry weather!

Car 20 - Michael Harbour/Cameron Dunn (82nd overall)
A frustrating end to the season unfortunately. The top times were there, but sadly a few issues sent us in to the Super Rally part.

Car 85 - Steven ODonnell/Ian MacDougall (85th overall)
We had a very enjoyable Mull Rally but it wasn't without its issues. Unfortunately, we retired after SS3 when the fuel regulator sheared off the fuel rail ending our run on Leg1. Back out for Leg 2 on Saturday afternoon after getting the car repaired just for some mileage and some fun, Clean enough run but had to stop mid stage on Tuath when the gearstick came away in my hand, we lost 4 minutes trying to reattach that. Leg 3 was the best run of the event and the reason I go rallying! Loved every bit of it, the car and I behaved. Mk2 back in the garage ready to go again!

Congratulations to the finishers, and Commiserations to those who didn't. Back better and stronger next year!

Remember, if you have something you'd like to tell the rest of your fellow competitors (pre, or post event), some craic, some woes, some photos, you can contact Fiona at fiona.moir7@gmail.com or davidh@foxconstruction.co.uk and you'll be included in the next report.

Round 10 Autosave Components Kinloss Winter Stages, Kinloss Barracks 1st November
The spotlight now turns to the final round of the Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship, the Kinloss Stages being organised by www.condormsc.co.uk With a bumper entry, it is going to be a great climax to the 2025 Championship season and look forward to seeing many of you at this popular venue.
There will be representatives from the championship at the venue, so any queries give them a shout, and remember, no championship decals, no points, so let us know if you are needing some.

Carnegie Fuels Gold Card STRC £250 Tyre Voucher 2025 A reminder that all competitors registered for the Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship who start each event will be entered into a draw for a Carnegie Fuels £250 Tyre Voucher, so keep your eyes out on the STRC facebook page for the announcement of the lucky winners.

Awards Night 17th January 2026 Grange Manor, Falkirk The Championship awards night is a fitting end to the 2025 Championship when we honour award winners, marshals, officials, sponsors and all those who have contributed to a great rallying year. We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship 2026 The organising team are already planning for the 2026 season, and as always, we welcome your thoughts, suggestions and inspirational ideas on how we can make any improvements to the Championship, so please feel free to drop an email to strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk and one of the team will come back you. Keep up to date with all Championship information, points table, reports, event information, on Sportity **STRC24,** facebook and www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk