



## Burnside Piling Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship GMSC Crail Summer Stages Post-Event Report

Our thanks again to Fiona Moir for extracting information from some of the competing STRC crews after the Summer Stages, as below, and she would be delighted to hear from you all with your pre & post event stories so we can share with the motorsport community. [fiona.moir7@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.moir7@gmail.com)

Championship updates and reports will be posted on facebook and the new 'go to' source of STRC information on the Sportity App password **STRC24**

Well, the unexpected, pleasant weather certainly made for an enjoyable day at Crail for the aptly-named Summer Stages organised by GMSC. Commiserations to those who didn't get to the finish, and well done to those who did, and managed to get their heads around the innovative extra splits and loops in Stages 3 and 4!

### Car 1 - Hugh Brunton/Terry Mallin

Hugh is currently lying 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Championship and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class 5. Terry is 5<sup>th</sup> overall Co-Driver, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class 5 Crail wasn't the best. We had some issues with the car with the front diff locked on and couldn't get car turned in. The handbrake was out of action too! We were happy to just get to the finish after a bad run.

### Car 7 – Drew Gallagher/David Crosbie

We were looking forward to Crail, always enjoy the venue and day there. I had played my "Joker" (kiss of death card) for the NETRC so was going to have a push in for a good finish. All went to plan, actually better than planned, when Joe McKeand broke his prop shaft at the start of stage 1. All I had to do was keep it clean enough to get a good placed finish. Caught some cars on Stage 3, the first of the "loop" stages, so dropped a bit of time there. Come the stop line at the end of Stage 4 I had no clutch and had to get a wee push over the line. Ian Hemming and Hoggy from Dom Buckley IRS did what they could to try and get me a clutch pedal and back out, but to no avail. We think the problem lies with the internal slave cylinder which blew its wee seals out. Needless to say, Joe was very sympathetic! Not!

### Car 9 – Ross McFadzean/Ewan Lees – 8<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class 5 on the event

Enjoyed a great day up at Crail. First couple of stages were a mess, with an off-road excursion up a bank, managed to get it together for the rest and had a blast!! **Thanks to all involved with running the event!**

### Car 18 – Ricky Wheeler/ Ross Callendar –

Ricky is currently leading the Drivers' Championship

Had new co driver Ross Callander for the event. He was great! Got on really well and he wasn't shy to push me on when I was really trying! Brave man! What a challenging rally! Thanks to the organising team and whoever came up with the double loop to extend the stage, it certainly kept the co-drivers awake! SS1 and 2, I was on wrong tyres had no turn in or grip on the really fast turns so dropped back to 4<sup>th</sup> from the class lead. Tyre change for 3, 4, 5, and 6 saw us with class leading times. We were 9 seconds behind with 2 stages to go, and took 5 seconds back so missed the class win by 4 seconds. Thanks to all the crews who got out of our way - we were doing the same for the leaders every stage as we were mixing it with cars 1 to 6.

We got the STRC class win, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in North of England Championship, so good result all round. My historic car does lose out on the really fast stuff, but it's bloody brilliant to drive!

### Car 21 – Cammy Williamson/Roscoe West

So, Crail Summer Stages 2024 – not my finest event to date! SS1 the fan stopped, and a minor overheat caused by a melted fuse for the electric fans. SS2 brake fade and a stone flicked up by a Mk2 pierced the radiator. Raked about for a repair and opted for the very old fashioned "egg white in the radiator" – which actually worked! No big dramas on SS3 apart from a brush with a bale and some barrells. SS4 half a mile from the end of a 14-miler we tried to bunny hop some stage furniture and broke a front driveshaft. Thought that was the end of our rally but Sean and the boys insisted they change the shaft which they did, and we were back in action. SS5 we had a puncture (you couldn't make

this up!) got it changed but were 7 minutes late. Put a new set of wheels and tyres on. Final stage – decided to get a run through for the finish, but the Subaru had other ideas and the gearbox went Bang! With only 3 miles of the event left, we crunched our way to the end and got our finish - 43<sup>rd</sup> overall! Car is in a million bits less than 2 weeks before the Argyll and Vikki keeps asking what the various 'motorsport' boxes are?!

#### **Car 22 – Bobby MacDonald/Martin McCabe – 18<sup>th</sup> overall**

The car ran faultless all day and we managed to finish 18th overall. Smiles all round! Just needs a wash and spanner check before the Argyll Rally.

#### **Car 31 - Owen Paterson/Calum MacPherson**

had a good run, with Owen in the driver's seat for a change from co-driving for Jock Armstrong in the SRC. Obviously picking up some tips, finishing just outside the top ten at an impressive 11th overall.

#### **Car 34 - John O'Kane/Meghan O'Kane - 50<sup>th</sup> overall**

First corner and clutch went to the floor - finished the stage just using 3rd and 4th gear. Took the gearbox out at Service after getting a thrust bearing and a nose cone from Brian Fraser (Beefy). Missed SS 2 but got out for SS3 and promptly ran out of brakes half way around - but we managed to finish and fixed a brake pipe at Service. The last 3 stages went well with no real problems and were a good bit of fun after all the problems, Really great, well run event. Good to be back in the Escort even with the problems!

**A big thanks to everyone for their help much appreciated. Thanks to all the Marshals.**

#### **Car 37 - Gavin Lloyd/Gordon Clark - 23<sup>rd</sup> overall /1<sup>st</sup> Class 1**

We had a great day at Crail, and were well chuffed with the result. Our day was fairly eventful, biffing a couple of chicanes on SS1 and the car up on 2 wheels after clipping a tyre. Got a talking to from Gordy after that! SS2 was a bit more sedate but the gear linkage started to play up affecting changes into 1st and 2nd gears. It was sorted quickly at Service though. SS3 Big Gordy suffered brain fade on the notes here but managed to get all of the splits right thank goodness. Boiled the brake fluid and drove the final few corners with no front brakes. Nice to be leading the class by 17 seconds. SS4 was a cracking stage, a good battle with Drew Barker, who had more pace on the straights - but we had him under braking! SS5 managed to spin crossing the finish line! SS6 was a nice clean stage to finish with and we are well chuffed with the Class win and overall placing.

**Thanks to all the Marshalls, safety crews and organisers for sorting out our fun!**

#### **Car 39 - Peter O'Neill/Eilidh Williamson - 14<sup>th</sup> overall /1<sup>st</sup> Class 2**

We had a great day and chuffed with our result. The wee Nova (and big driver) have put on an impressive show yet again! Started off a bit messy but SS2 was clean - and quick! During a break we spotted that the back stub axle was bent so a makeshift fix was put in place. Stages 3 and 4 next and we pushed on, but had to back off in SS5 when the quick fix began to become bothersome again. Kept it easy in SS6 to the finish.

**As always credit to the GMSC Glenrothes Motor Sport Club behind the scenes folks and superdooper orange army, we are so grateful!**

#### **Car 42 – Colin Hay/Steven Brown - 24<sup>th</sup> overall /2<sup>nd</sup> Class 2**

Very surprised to be 2nd in class after SS1 and 2, as I felt the tyres were going off. Changed to Pirelli hards on the front but lost over a minute when stopped in SS3 when the bonnet flew up and smashed the windscreen. Able to lean on the tyres with confidence but lost a further 30 seconds in SS5 as we thought we had a puncture. Glad to finish rally 2<sup>nd</sup> in class. Loved the two long stages.

#### **Car 48 - Kenny Moore/Fiona Moir - 42nd overall**

A very enjoyable day's rallying, back on familiar territory, and earning some useful points in the Championship. The car ran faultlessly all day and we enjoyed the challenge of the longer stages with the additional splits and loops.

#### **Car 49 – Chris Haw/ Alistair Haw**

Crail went great. Really loved it. My son and I started working well together, we moved up from seeded 49 to 18th place, then broke the inner CV joint on SS5 near the end so unfortunately a non-finish for us.

#### **Car 56 – Beefy Fraser/Jack Sutherland**

We were having a great time until the Diff broke! Repairs are underway though, and we hope to be out again in the not-too-distant future. Jack was superb in the co-drivers' seat. Great laughs all day 😊

#### **Car 59 – Alison Horne/Karen Horne 32<sup>nd</sup> overall**

We had a really good day. It was the first day out in the new mini so we were getting used to the car, but had loads of fun and we are really happy with it! Mach 1 next for us which will give us some really good seat time.

#### **Car 60 – Colin Christie/Gayle Whyte - 37th overall**

A new format for me with an extra loop per lap on stages 3 and 4 this made it quite exciting as a navigator to get it correct to get a good time.

Back out in the wee Suzuki, with the car all ready to go we headed to the start line for SS1&2. A decent start and a good pace. SS3&4 was a little different with an added loop on the inside of the stage each run. SS4 we ended up on stage with some of the big boys and we lost a few seconds slowing to let them pass, but that's just sometimes what happens on single venue rallies. Onto SS5&6 and feeling more confident there was a little bit of a push. SS6 Colin was on it and at one point though a wee bit fast but coming over the flying finish - 14 seconds quicker than our previous time so it was worth it. "Send it on lad" worked!

Thank you to the marshals and the organisers for a fab event.

#### **Car 64 – Fletcher Falconer/Ian Murray**

Good pace from the off in the near standard Fiesta, The car ran faultlessly over the 60 miles, needing nothing but fuel and tyres. It's a super nimble small car, and any real pace comes from bravery and commitment into the corners and technical sections. Some good tyre choices saw the team finish an impressive 29th overall.

#### **Car 65 – Ruan Lowry/Ian McRae - 38<sup>th</sup> overall**

A good day of "fun in the sun". Always room for improvement, and perhaps could have pushed harder, but this was the first run out after the mechanical disaster at Kinloss so the aim was to get to the finish in one piece. A very satisfactory result, and all on second-hand tyres. (Thanks, Des)

#### **Car 68 - Leonard Jones/Darrell Clark - 53rd overall**

First time co-driving at Crail was really enjoyable and challenging at some points for fast and flowing stages thanks to GMSC and my driver Lenny for a good event. An event I have been to 7 times and have never been around it properly - only on a test day at the start of February - but never competed, now I have and wasn't a bad one either!

#### **Car 69 – David Telfer/Hayden (Broonie) Brown - 48<sup>th</sup> overall**

Well .... what an event. Set off to do Stages 1 and 2, we started car 69 and after them we were up to 35th. Stage 3 we got up to 33rd then Stage 4 we got half a lap in the car felt held back and it was like the engine was struggling. It was, so we came in early and got the stage maximum. Started checking the car over in Service and discovered one of the plug leads popped off the coil pack and another was on its way off. Something simple to fix so got it ready for Stages 5 and 6. Loved the stages and had awesome runs through for valuable seat time.

Thanks to all Marshall's and organisers for a great event.

Fiona

### **(Round 5) Dunoon Presents Argyll Rally 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Next up is the Argyll Rally based in Dunoon, halfway point in the 2024 STRC. Always a challenging event with the additional Friday night stages. It's all still to play for! It's not too late to join the Championship, and especially since this event, is the first event of a new STRC Award, the West Coast Challenge which will be awarded to highest placed driver & co-driver upon successful completion of the 3 'West Coast Events', the **Argyll Stages**, the **Mach1 Stages** at Machrihanish and the **Mull Rally**

For anyone requiring decals at the event please contact either Fiona Car 81, or the Argyll Rally CLO Amanda Morrison, and for those wanting to register complete the registration form [STRC 24 Registration Form](#)

### **(Round 6) 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July Burnside Piling Mach1 Stages, Machrihanish**

Round 6, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the West Coast Challenge events, is the Mach1 Stages being organised by [www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk](http://www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk) Preparation is well under way for this popular event at this iconic venue, Supplementary Regulations published, [Mach1 2024 Regulations v4](#) entries are open <https://www.rallies.info/webentry/2024/mach1/webentry.php>.

The Juniors again this year, will also be enjoying approximately 90 stage miles for £395 over the 2 days of the weekend the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July. This event is also a counter in the Scottish Single Venue Rally Championship, the Back to Roots Rally Championship and the North of England Tarmac Rally Championship. As always the organising team will welcome assistance for Marshals and Radio Marshals , and we look forward to receiving your registrations [Mach1 Marshals](#) [Mach1 Radio Marshals](#)

The STRC would like to thank Burnside Piling, Carnegie Fuels and all our co-sponsors for their valued and continued support into 2024. Keep up to date with all the latest news on the **Mach1 Stages** and championship updates by visiting [www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk](http://www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk)

Should you have any queries in any way please feel free to drop an email to [strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk](mailto:strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk) and one of the team will come back you.

**Dunfermline Car Club & Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship team**