



**SCOTTISH TARMACK
RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**



24th May 2026

Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship

Jim Clark Reivers post-event Report

The Borders Competitions Jim Clark Reivers Rally on 24th May was certainly an event not to be missed from both a competitor, and a tarmac rally fan perspective! The weather was more than kind; with sunscreen being the order of the day, making the atmosphere in the Service Park friendly and enthusiastic as the crews set off on their mission to conquer the lanes around Duns. The anticipated shake up in the points tables came to fruition and it's still anyone's to win or lose over the coming events. The battle could go down to the wire at the end of the season with points total changing after each event.

The current top 3 in the overall Driver's Championship are separated by only 20 points with Kenny Wood (51 points) now 10 points ahead of Ollie Forrester (on 41 points also our top Junior Driver), closely followed by Ross Carbry (39 points) and Ben MacDowall (36 points). The Co-Driver's Championship is developing a similar theme, with Greg Halfpenny on 51 points Jess Jamieson on 41 and John Shephard, John Marshall and Leesa Watson all still in with a shout on 36, 34 and 33 respectively.

It's close in the classes too, with Aileen Forrest now 2nd in Class 1 and Ben MacDowall 1st in Class 3 by 2 points from William Pollock. Kenny Wood maintains his strong lead in Class 5 and Ollie Forrester leads Class 7 from Ross Carbry by 3 points. Young, upcoming Co-Driver Jorja Campbell is lying 2nd in Class 2 Thomas Milne, another Junior contender is 2nd in Class 9.

As we now head into a hectic few weeks with 3 tarmac events within a 6-week period it could turn out to be a very exciting Summer (and that's without the backdrop of Scotland being in the World Cup!) Let's hope the weather doesn't disappoint, because the rallying certainly won't.

Here is what some of the Reivers crews had to say about their day:

Car 11 - Alan Carmichael/Anthony Nestor (Skoda Rally 2) 9th o/a

The new car was very good to drive. It's left-hand drive, not what I normally drive, but I want to get used to it as I don't want to change this new car over to RHD.

The Jim Clark was a great event, the weather was good and it was enjoyable to drive the new car in those conditions I was putting in a lot of good times by the end of the weekend.

Car 31 Kenny Wood/Greg Halfpenny (Ford Escort) 25th o/a

The result didn't come easy. We went a little too hot off the heels in Westruther with a fast 1R/C catching us out and having a big moment. It knocked the confidence back a little. It also brought us a bent steering rack and lack of power steering. Down but not out!! We used the rest of the day to build back up the confidence and fight back some places. Aim was to retain our championship lead while having fun at the same time. Car currently in workshop with a new steering rack fitted and looking forward to Crail in a week's time.

Car 39 Ben McDowall/John Shephard (BMW 130) 23rd o/a

The now infamous "slight excursion" into a wire fence which has been well documented on Facebook on Stage 1 was an extremely lucky butt clenching moment. We built the confidence back up on the rest of the morning loop. Back out for the afternoon and after a much better run through Westruther, we started to develop a vibration from the car at speed. Suspected it was related to the propshaft - so Ben just did his best to bring the car to the finish. Great day had in the red BM with plenty of laughs as always.

Car 40 Brian Watson/Sean Donnelly DNF

Waiting to go into the arrival control on SS7 and Brian realised he didn't have a clutch pedal, I (Sean) jumped out to check the fluid and found there wasn't any so we called it a day! Had it been the last stage we may have attempted running. We had had a good day up until that point. (note - Brian's version of events is currently unpublished!)

Car 44 Ricky Wheeler/Mark Casey (Ford Historic Escort Mk 2 RS2000) 28th o/a

A good, steady run, boosting Ricky's Class position to 2nd place.

Car 49 William Pollock/John Marshall (Ford Escort MK2) 39th o/a

Started strongly and straight into our rhythm setting some competitive class times with a few 'wee moments' over the morning loop. In the afternoon, we decided to back-off a little and get to the finish and were delighted with our result, in a very strong field. The car ran faultlessly throughout and a change in tyre compounds at Service certainly helped with the feel and balance of the car during the afternoon stages. The Reivers hasn't been kind to us in the past so just pleased to have had a clean run at long last!

Time to reset now and get the car ready for Crail next weekend.

Car 56 Alan Scott/Dan Forsyth (MG ZR) 34th overall

Delighted to have gotten to the end of The Reivers. It was a fantastic weekend and an experience that's for sure!! Thanks to all the lads for fixing the car after Stage 1 and also well done to Ben Macdowall and John Shephard for winning the fence limbo competition!

Car 64 - Craig MacIvor/Ian MacIvor (Honda Civic Type R) DNF

That's rallying I'm afraid. 13 years ago Craig said let's do the JCR together - I'll drive - you co-drive - so last weekend it finally happened.

For Craig's first closed road rally and first time on notes since Solway Coast back in the Junior days, he drove really well, getting more confident and faster all the time until something broke in the transmission on the last stage.

Car 65 James Gibb/John Bennie (BMW E30) DNF

Sadly not their weekend. James reports he is sick of dnfs!

Car 68 Ollie Forrester/Paul Gribben (Citroen C2 R2 Max) 36th o/a

Out on his first closed road event, a result of his being awarded the Scottish Rally Championship/Junior Ecosse funded prize-drive in 2025, Ollie just progressed as the day went on and was happy with the finish. There's plenty more to come.

Car 71 Angus Lawrie/Leesa Watson (Vauxhall Astra) 51st overall

A great day out, very enjoyable in "wee Annie" - she needed an extra gear though as those stages are fast! Also, another successful relationship test passed with flying colours!

Wee Annie is for sale now sadly though if anyone is interested?!

Car 72 John Marshall/Craig Wallace (BMW E30 M3) 48th o/a

Jim Clark Reivers was a steady run round after the National event on Friday/Saturday in preparation for Rally Barbados.

Car 73 Andrew Chalmers/Jorja Campbell (Subaru Impreza) 50th o/a

A brilliant day out for us. The whole day went smoothly. We went into the rally hoping for a clean finish and plenty of fun, and that's exactly what we got. The car behaved faultlessly all day, giving us the chance to really enjoy every stage. Another fantastic event and a thoroughly enjoyable day all round. Huge thanks to everyone involved and we're already looking forward to the next rally!

Car 75 David McIntyre/Eilidh Williamson (Citroen C2 R2 Max) 47th o/a

Had a great day at Reivers with Dave on Sunday. It was amazing to dip my toes back into pacenotes again. I loved the stages, had no scary moments, and enjoyed a nice clean run from start to finish - with a couple of championship points to boot!

Car 80 Niall Cowan Jnr/Gail Whyte (MG ZR) DNF

The first accident for both, unfortunately, hitting a pole, but thankfully they walked away from it and are grateful to the rescue, recovery and marshal crews. Not the end of the road though as "offs" are part of the sport, they'll be back out again soon!

Car 81 Finn Thomasson/Cameron Morrison (Peugeot 106) DNF

Although the Recce went well and the stages were looking good, lying 51st after SS1, a fast "off" on SS2 put an end to their event and the car is in the shed needing some serious TLC. The boys thankfully escaped unscathed.

Car 88 Gavin Lloyd/Gordon Clark (Vauxhall Nova) DNF

Not the best event for us. A slow start to the day after a few moments on loose gravel upset my rhythm on the first couple of stages. By Stage 4 I was getting my act together only to have an altercation with another crew when attempting to pass them. Returned to service to get the de-ranged steering sorted out. Tracking sorted, we headed out to the afternoon stages but although we had a good run through most of Stage 5 we retired shortly before the finish with no drive, clearly as a result of our earlier coming together. Bitterly disappointed not to finish what is usually my favourite event of the year.

Car 90 Ross Carbry/Jess Jamieson (Citroen C2) 73rd o/a

Definitely a "bucket list" event! Had a rocky SS1 getting to grips with route notes, and then an unfortunate coming together with a tree on SS2. We both got to the finish with smiles on our faces though.

Car 91 Bobby MacDonald/Martin Maccabe (Subaru Impreza) DNF

We had a good run through the first 3 stages and the car was going well until the clutch sleeve cylinder snapped off on Stage 4. Gutted to have to retire but onwards to The Argyll Rally next!

Car 92 Aileen Forrest/John Forrest (Ford Fiesta R5) 49th o/a

Really enjoyed the weekend. Started off with the shakedown on Friday which always blows the cobwebs away. Eccles always makes me a bit nervous, as with the Evo I always found the island in the village really difficult, but with the Fiesta it makes everything so much easier. Really chuffed with my result. Confidence well and truly high!

Car 93 James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson (Triumph TR7 V8) DNF

We were having a good clean run through the stages, but the drive gear for the distributor stripped its gear, so it was game over for us on the road section. Unfortunately, that means an engine strip down for us now before our next rally!

Car 102 Thomas Milne/Thomas Purvin (Nissan Micra) 64th o/a

We had a fantastic day, the first competitive outing in the car. First time on a closed road event and first time with Thomas Purvin co-driving. Very pleased to finish and be placed 1st in class for STRC. I really enjoyed the stages and would look forward to doing it again.

Car 117 Ruan Lowry/Ian McRae (Citroen C2) 63rd o/a

Having made a hurried and strong recovery from an incident on Friday Shakedown, we ended up making a strong reliable finish on the rally, after having the great team of Stark Motorsport looking after us. Thank you very much too to Des Campbell for the help. Our next rally is Argyll, so no more incidents keep it consistent and clean.

Car 124 Shona Hale/Violet Kydd (Vauxhall Corsa) DNF

First time on "proper" notes for Violet, and a "proper" bucket list event as well! Huge thanks to Drew for lending us the car and to Shona for trusting her "bestie" in the silly seat. We set off, and the first two stages were a steep learning curve. It all started to flow better on SS3 and SS4, but an unfortunate mechanical issue resulted in game over. This is definitely unfinished business and there will be more adventures from this pair in the future!

Well done to all the finishers and commiserations to the DNFs! The Championship moves to Crail next and then West to Argyll and Mach 1. No midges at Crail I would guess, but further West could be wild! ?

Thanks
Fiona

Our thanks again to Fiona Moir for extracting information from STRC registered competitors, and we encourage all registered competitors to contact her and share their event news fiona.moir7@gmail.com which can be shared with the motorsport community.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Crail on the 6th June for the AirTech Integrity Crail Stages, and as always we thank all our championship for their support and anybody requiring championship decals, or to register for the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship, there will be Championship representatives at Friday afternoon scrutineering, and at the event on Saturday.

Carnegie Fuels Gold Card STRC £250 Tyre Voucher 2025

A reminder that all competitors registered for the Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac 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.

Keep up to date with all Championship information, points table, reports, event information, on Sportity **STRC24**, facebook and www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk

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