



**SCOTTISH TARMACK
RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**



**wheels
around**



Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship

Round 2 Condor MSC Autosave Components Kinloss Spring Stages Rally 21st March 2026 Post-event Report

Hard to believe that's two rounds of the 2026 Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship completed already, and the Spring break is upon us! It's early days, but close, in the points tables and as we have now a few weeks off before Round 3, the Jim Clark Reivers on 24th May, there's plenty of time for crews to develop their strategies and build up the battle for top honours at the end of the year.

The Autosave Components Spring Stages is becoming a very popular event, and an equally popular round of the Championship, with nearly 90 registered competitors from the 85 assembled entries making the journey to the event. The weather was very pleasant for Kinloss in March, particularly on the Friday, wall to wall sunshine, cloudier on Saturday, and with only a very small amount of rain first thing. Very different conditions to those experienced over the last couple of years. Top spot went to STRC crew Bruce and Teri McCombie in their Ford Fiesta, with Thomas Gray and Ricky Finlayson in their VW Polo R5 only 20 seconds behind, no matter what they tried and a brilliant drive from Thomas. Completing the podium in 3rd place overall were Andy Horne and Michael Hendry.

Our thanks once again, to Fiona Moir for extracting information from the competitors and compiling this report, and 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 strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk and you'll be included in the next report.

Here are some of the thoughts of the STRC registered crews who competed:

Car 3 - Bruce McCombie/Teri McCombie - 1st Overall Had a great rally, lots of bits to catch you out, car ran great. Had a wee scare on the last stage when we hit a kerb, but thankfully no puncture. Thomas kept us honest all day, and good to see Andy out in the ex-John Wink Hyundai. Thanks to Teri for sitting in the hot seat and keeping me pointing in the right direction Thanks also to our Service crew, and our sponsors. Also thanks to the organisers and marshals who do an incredible job to give us a great day's rallying. Special mention to my son Dylan who was competing in his first rally, ending up 48th overall alongside Murray Strachan, co-driver. A good day for BMB Motorsport!

Car 8 - Kenny Wood/Greg Halfpenny

Good day at a cracking venue.... a few niggles during the day, but we all have those. Had an overshoot on the first and last stages, but the positive is we never hit anything! Following our 6th overall from Round 1 at Knockhill, a suspension changes mid-week meant we were going out blind hoping to dial it in and get to the finish. Woke up to some nice blue skies and the ground was drying. Ideal for the Mk2 Escort. We struggled with suspension settings too stiff and soft tyre choices on the front. But the Chalmers Garage boys got it tuned in for the remaining stages. We kept the head down and pecked our way back up the board to take 6th overall and 1st in class. Some valuable points for the Championship and a bag full of confidence heading into the Jim Clark. Special thanks from Greg to Chelle Hunter who's forever keeping him in line with hotel bookings and paper print-outs!

Car 9 - Scott Mutch/Neil Shanks - 4th overall

A really unexpected result to be honest. After not being out in the car since last year's Kinloss Spring stages I thought I would spend most of the day trying to learn how to drive it again, and being really rusty, but we couldn't have wished for a much better result. First time with Neil Shanks co driving for me too so we must have gelled together. Like to thank all my sponsors and all the organisers/Marshalls for giving up their time to run such a great event.

Car 10 - Ben MacDowall/John Shephard – DNF

Another great start to the day with John in the car again! First two stages went well, although running too soft a tyre compound on the rear made for a tail happy rear end! Stage 3 was sadly where it would end when the prop shaft decided it wanted to let go at over 100mph... there were some rather interesting noises from both the car and the pair of us in it! Looking forward to the Jim Clark next to try and get some more points on the board!

Car 14 - Stuart Paterson/Owen Paterson

A very enjoyable day. Shame about a turbo problem on the last stage, and lack of brakes on the first stage - but enjoyed driving Owen's car with him in the navigator's seat. Hope to be out in my own car for a few more rounds this year.

Car 15 - Brian Watson/Sean Donnelly

Both Brian and Sean have come back to me with the same words! "Our failure at Kinloss was due to Team Manager Montana and Team Technician Drew. If I had left them at home, we would have got on grand!" LOL Sean adding that there is a board meeting this week to discuss their performances! (Best not to get involved I suggest and move on!)

Car 16 - Chris Thompson/Pete Gibson - 5th overall

What a venue!! It was a 6-hour journey to get to the rally, but Friday was a cracker of a day, and it was a stunning drive up to get to the vast stages of Kinloss military base. Saturday we bolted some slicks on - the first time in 6 months that we have not started on wet tyres - confidence high going into the first stage. We had a storming run to end up joint 4th, easily catching competitors ahead. We did what was possible without jeopardising a potentially strong result, and enjoyed the two tests in the afternoon. Chris remained committed and at the finish we placed 5th overall / 1st in class. Not a mark on the car which was beautifully turned out by Motoscope Northallerton as always. We came away with some strong points, but the battle will have to wait a while as we cannot do the next few rounds due to other commitments.

Car 17 - James Gibb/Amy McCubbin

Despite having taken a set of new tyres up the road, made a spur of the moment decision to purchase a different set from Tony's Tyres. On stage 1, only a few corners in, we clouted a barrel after a 4 wheel lock up ... not my finest moment! With a bent wishbone and sad looking wing we tried our best to continue but lost a lot of time. Stage 2 went better but I still wasn't feeling the grip level and drove conservatively. Stage 3 after softening off the rear we tried again but on the line the clutch went to the floor, so we were forced to use the paddles full stage. Probably the way the Drenth box should be used but having some mechanical sympathy I always clutch on down change. The hairpins were difficult as we couldn't handbrake but we managed. Mark, Chris & Tony took the box out during the lunch break and repaired the clutch fork and cylinder and refitted it all just in time! Absolute legends! Stages 5 & 6 were better, but we went wide on a fast R2 - and clouted another barrel with the rear quarter matching the front wing! A frustrating day but pleased with 16th overall.

Car 18 - Chris MacCallum/Stephen Clark – DNF

Stevie and I both really enjoyed the event, the stages were awesome, we had a really great day, despite thinking that our rally was over at lunchtime. The rear differential was making a serious clonking noise (even more than normal!) however after it had cooled down it was a lot quieter and we were able to complete the last two stages. Definitely needs further investigation.

Car 19 - Steven Street/Robert Wood

Cracking event and well run, with the weather on our side to boot. The car never missed a beat and the crew worked well together all day. We knew it would be a tough ask against some of the current field, but we're happy enough with how our own day went and how the car performed. Not chasing the championship this year, just out supporting it and enjoying time in the car.

Car 21 - Gordon Chalmers/Charlie MacKenzie – DNF

The car took quite a bit of work to repair over the winter. SS1 was a good start but in SS2 we broke a drive shaft approximately 2/3 way round when we were really getting some pace up, continuing the theme from Condor last year! SS3 we had a good run and managed to improve on our first stage time. SS4 the clutch pedal went to the floor and we couldn't change gear so trundled back into the service area. Sadly that was it for our day, despite the issues we had a great craic, thanks to the organisers for putting on a great event.

Car 22 - Alan Scott/Shaina Archibald - 9th overall

Cracking day out! Amazed with the performance of the wee Clio! Delighted with our result. Thanks to our Service crew and to Shaina for a quality job on the notes (Karaoke and Spotify playlist always good for a laugh!). Massive thanks to our sponsors and to the marshals and organisers for their hard work.

Car 23 - Alan Wallace/Veronica Wallace – DNF

Unfortunately, a stage maximum on the first stage scuppered any decent result along with intercom issues on the next two. Delighted to get to the finish of the event with decent stage times and the Escort running great.

Car 24 - Alison Horne/Karen Horne

Kinloss is definitely my favourite venue, so I always try to give it a good go here (once I had woken up!) Absolutely loved our day and really looking forward to Crail which I think will be our next event!

Car 25 - Mark McMinn/Richard Wardle – DNF

Having had the gearbox rebuilt after problems here at Kinloss last year, we spun the car and stalled at a hairpin. Then whilst selecting reverse, the gearbox decided to select 2 gears and jammed up. We managed to eventually get a gear but were unable to carry on.

Car 26 - Ollie Forrester/Chloe Fleming – DNF

A disappointing day for us. We showed great pace, apart from when we got a puncture. Brake issue on SS1, massive hold up on 2, misfire on 3, puncture on 4 and a clean run on 5. A day of what could've been!

Car 28 - Andrew Chalmers/Jorja Campbell

A really enjoyable day out at Kinloss, with it being Andrew's first event back since 2022 and my third time here. We hit issues early on, losing brakes in Stage 1 and then having fuel line problems in Stage 2, which made for a challenging start. Thankfully, Stages 3, 4 and 5 went much more to plan and we were able to really enjoy the car on a clean run. First time for me in a Subaru and it definitely didn't disappoint. Despite the early setbacks, we had a great day and I'm looking forward to seeing what the rest of the season brings.

Car 31 - Craig MacIvor/Ian MacIvor

It was a good run. Craig is getting the hang of the car now, despite not much seat time. We had a problem catching cars on most stages, but unfortunately Craig doesn't have the results to get seeded higher at the moment. Great event as always, looking forward to his first Jim Clark now!

Car 37 - Paul Ballantyne/Graham Bruce

We had a really enjoyable day, a cracking venue and relatively local to us. It helped that our last event was Kinloss last November. Had a relatively trouble-free run, gaining more valuable seat time and more confidence in the car. Big thanks to service crew, our sponsors, event organisers and marshals.

Car 42 - James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson

Due to finishing the build of the car the night before the rally after 3 weeks of late nights, I hadn't even driven it so we were going in blind having never driven a RWD car in a rally before never mind a TR7! We discovered a few teething issues on the first few stages, but we managed to get a couple of clean stages and saw what the car can do. Really enjoyed the day!

Car 43 - Gavin Lloyd/Gordon Clark

Great to be back at Kinloss after managing just half a stage on last year's event. A sluggish first stage meant we were on a big push on SS2. Unfortunately, out braked myself at one of the chicanes and clobbered some stage furniture. The result was bent suspension which hampered progress for the rest of the day and led to several agricultural excursions, including bypassing the flying finish boards completely on the last stage. In the circumstances, we were happy to reach the finish. Gordon adds - that just to say that he called the chicane that we scuffed, and it wasn't my fault! Had a great battle within our class and delighted to have bagged 3rd in class though also disappointed to have lost 2nd on the last stage - but that's rallying and we are all trying to beat each other. Stages were great and the schedule went well! Another fantastic Kinloss!

Car 45 - Kevin Paris/Gavin Paris – DNF

After our issues from Knockhill being fixed it was out to get a good finish at Kinloss. We then realise that if we didn't have bad luck, we would have no luck at all! A threaded rose joint snapped on the TCA which ended our day on stage 5. Anyway, it's still our favourite rally and looking forward to our next one. Thanks to the team involved for a well-run event as always.

Car 46 - Chris Haw/Alistair Haw – DNF

Unlucky with a random screw falling between the brake pedal box jamming all 4 brakes on! Car was going great on SS3 but with the crank oil seal leaking we decided to go home. Hopefully that's the last of the teething problems as the transmission is now reliable which was the Achilles heel.

Car 47 - Bobby MacDonald/Martin Maccabe

Not a great day for us unfortunately. We snapped a shaft on SS1 and needed recovered. Hit a barrel on SS2 and it was game over as far as a decent result went!

Car 48 - Ross Carbry/Jess Jamieson

I don't want to bore everyone with excuses! We had a rough start to the day, but we came back with positives and know what we need to work on for the next one!

Car 49 - Adam Horne/David Falconer

Had a great day, Adam drove great, getting used to suspension modifications over the winter break and getting used to braking later with bigger brakes fitted as well! Rally ran superbly and thanks to the marshals and organising team. Well done to Alison and Dad (Andy), shame for Ben.

Car 50 - Duncan Ferguson/Jamie McQue

Thanks to the organisers for hosting a well-run event. The stages were good, long and fast. One of our favourite events of the year. Thanks to all the marshals and we will see you all next time!

Car 54 - Aileen Forrest/John Forrest

Still smiling yet! Delighted to get my best result to date - 19th overall! A great event, well organised, and beautiful weather as well. Thanks to all!

Car 57 - Bruce Lindsay/Anthony Ayton

Kinloss Stages what an event.

Standard north of the border hospitality, fantastic organisation and mahoosive stages. Big thanks to the team. Ant on the maps did a sterling job. He arrived fully prepared, everything printed, multiple copies of documentation, everything marked and ready, was a bit overwhelmed on SS1 but got his head together, and was on it ... Cheers Ant onwards and upwards lad. Thanks to Jan and Sam for their commitment to the long drive to get here, and for servicing. Got us back out after #fezbomb decided to just stop after SS1 and didn't want to start. They didn't give up and are now fully committed to team Chonka Rallying and up for multiple events. Once again thanks TEAM. As for #fezbomb well it decided to break a miniscule linkage piece - the piece that I have as a spare in my box at home - but we can't take every spare part we have ...

Overall, a great weekend engine worked, suspension, we meddled with, and it worked. I've definitely got my rallying mojo back!

Car 58 - Finn Thomasson/Cameron Morrison

Another brilliant day in Kinloss ending up in my first top 30 finish! A perfect warm up for my new co-driver before some closed road action. Thanks to all for a great weekend.

Car 61 - John Robertson/Violet Kydd

Thoroughly enjoyed all the stages. Had an issue with no brakes on stage 3, but got that looked at in service. We also had a moment when we were up in the air on two wheels on the last stage but somehow managed to get her back on all four for a finish. Pleased with 32nd overall and 10th in class. Well done to all involved and the orange army of marshals.

Car 62 - Norma Walker/Lindsey Crombie

Had a great day and delighted to get a finish.

Car 64 - Ruan Lowry/Brian Foggo

I was going into this rally not knowing what to expect from the weather and from the driving! Somehow it managed to be a good day in terms of both, all down to the hands of Stark Motorsport who looked after me. A big thanks to Brian Foggo for Co-Driving, it was really great to have him on board and trust my driving skills. Thank you very much to all the organisers, Marshalls and everyone who took part in setting up and being part of the team. It is one of the best single venue rallies!

Car 67 - Ian Gray/Micheal Murray

What a rally - and great weather! Our home rally and it's worth every penny! The rally was really quick with flowing corners with a mix of tight and twisty bits. The wee Corolla went well and even had a kiss with the famous blue barrels. We are a wee bit underpowered but have huge smiles at the end of every stage and the delaminated tyre showing how hard we pushed the wee car. Massive thanks to the organisers and Marshalls for all their time and efforts.

Car 74 Brian Fraser/Gail Whyte

It was always gonna be hard going back to competing at Kinloss after losing Colin, but he'd want me back rallying with a smile, and no better person to do that with than "Beefy"! I had tears of laughter all during the day. Delighted to finish 46th overall and 3rd in class despite a couple of wee "oopsies" onto the grass!

Car 78 - Linda Brown/Leesa Watson

A great day, good laugh from start to finish. It was Linda's first rally with the new gearbox so took a bit to get used to but got there with it. A few skids and swearing at barrels "to keep away"! No major issues, just lots of laughs.

Car 79 - Fraser McCurdie/Liam McHue – DNF

Absolutely gutted, as we were flying and the wee car felt fantastic! We were really starting to enjoy ourselves when the clutch gave up. But as they say "that's rallying". We have already started stripping the car down to re prep for the Clark and are really looking forward to a crack at the closed roads.

Car 81 - Craig Wallace/Caela Wallace

Need more power! Just tried to learn what the car can do and build speed to show Caela what can be achieved. Caela enjoyed the challenge of reading the maps for the first time. We just had a laugh all day. First time I had driven the car, and Caela didn't shout at me – and we are still speaking! I only had the junior 1000 Toyo control tyres so might not have been the best. Weather was good, but maybe I could have done with rain to slow everyone else down! No plans yet, but I've got the bug! Might need to get the 1.3 swapped into her - or break open some piggy banks and build my 1.8 Yaris. Maybe stick to co driving - it's cheaper!

Car 82 - Stuart MacLean/Ruaraidh MacLean

With it being my first time driving a rally, and also the car, I found the venue very well set up and it's awesome to be getting 11-12 mile stages without splits and merges. The day wasn't all plain sailing right enough, hitting a water barrel at the end of stage two bursting the radiator, but thankfully the troops back in service managed to get it sorted and get us back out for the remainder of the day. Absolutely delighted with our result, our plan was just to learn the car and get a finish but to get a finish of 30th overall and 1st in class 9 topped off an awesome day's rallying. Shout out to all the orange army, recovery & medical crews as without their presence we wouldn't be able to do it. Ruaraidh added "this was my first time navigating on a stage rally. To win the class with my big brother was a huge achievement. It was a brilliant event, thanks to everyone that made it happen."

Well, done both, a fantastic result first time out!

Car 83 - Laurence Knight/Hayden Brown – DNF

Unfortunately, the bracket for the wishbone snapped! All I can say is that it's a great venue and a well organised event! Disappointed not to get a result but happy that the pace was building - not a bad effort for my first ever rally!

Well done everyone who managed to get to the finish, and commiserations to those who didn't.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next round of the Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship, the Jim Clark Reivers in Duns on 24th May! Entries open Thursday 9th April at 7pm

<https://jimclarkrally.co.uk/regulations-available-entries-opening/>

The annual championship starter is always a great way to bag some points early on and registrations are available on the Dunfermline Car Club website by following www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk

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