



Burnside Piling Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship Mach1 Stages post event report

Round 6 of the STRC saw the crews making the long, but spectacular, journey down to Machrihanish at the southern end of The Mull of Kintyre. The weather did not disappoint, and there was a relaxing holiday vibe going on for most.

Before we delve into the crew by crew reports we would like to thank entire management team of Dunfermline Car Club for their co-ordination and planning for this event over the past number of months, and also the following who without their help the event would not happen. We applaud especially the set-up team who had been at the venue all week setting up the stages in horrendous weather. The organising team were supported by Marshalls, Radio crews, Senior officials, Scrutineers, spectator control, rescue, recovery, paramedics, doctors, the Farming community of Kintyre, Highlands and Islands Airports, Jim Martin Supplies and a special mention must go to MACC Business park for allowing us to use the facilities and last but by no means least, Argyll Bakeries, for the weekends catering and also for winning the Spirit of the Rally award for the excellent food and Carvery on the Saturday evening. Another big thank you goes to Competitor Jamie Miller for organising the re-grading of Poodles path.

Photos from the event are available from Gavin Brown of www.westcoastphotos.co.uk

And let's not forget all the competitors that enter the rally, it's all very much appreciated....

Car 3 - Barry Groundwater/Ashleigh Will - 2nd overall/2nd Class 5

A really enjoyable event. Car behaved all weekend. Had to resort to buying hard compound Hankook's on Sunday from Drew Gallagher in order to beat my ginger friend! Ashleigh's first time at Mach 1 and she was very impressed with the set up and organisation of the event which showed how much effort went in by the organising team - hats off to them! Socially, this is a fab event - I'll be back for the carvery!! Baz had a great drive all weekend, barring the small chat he had with a bale at one point, nothing a couple tie wraps and grinder can't fix though!

Car 6 - Drew Gallagher/David Crosbie - 26th overall

Obviously very disappointed to have had problems only 2 stages in, but with great help managed to get back into the next stage and away at it again. Nothing to fight for, other than making sure we beat Brian Watson's new 2.9ltr escort in every stage! We ran the same tyres which made the last few stages like being at Driftland!! Fantastic venue, brilliant work by the setup team and Marshals....we will be back!

Car 8 - Joe McKeand/Amanda Morrison - 16th overall

This was Amanda's first time out again after 8 years away from co-driving. Fantastic result and weekend! Can't wait to get back out again.

Car 10 - David McIntyre/Darrell Clark - 30th overall/3rd Class 2

Very tricky event because of our issues of two punctures and a broken gear lever. Very organised and well thought out event. Thanks to the organisers and the marshals!

Car 12 - Ben Macdowall/Alan Scott - 9th overall

Couldn't have been a much closer battle with Ricky (Wheeler) after 2 days of rallying! We had a great weekend; it was the first time the crew had rallied together and to get a top 10 finish was fantastic! The car didn't put a foot wrong all weekend other than destroying all our slick tyres leaving us no other choice than to run wets on the front, and questionable 'hards' on the rear for Sunday's stages which certainly made for some interesting handling!

Car 14 - Jamie Miller/Ian McCulloch - non finish

Car 15 - Keith Richardson/Jackie Richardson - non-finish

Saturday morning went well we were happy with 4th overall after 4 stages. Saturday afternoon still went ok but we dropped to 6th but still were more than happy with that. Sunday morning set off slowly and just progressively got worse problems on stages 10 & 11 eventually leading to our retirement with a suspected broken drive shaft! We had a great weekend at a great venue well done to everyone involved

Car 16 - Michael Harbour/Jamie McQue - 10th overall/2nd Class 3

Great event as usual, small stages were awesome. Co-driver was recruited from the Service Crew. Had a good battle with Ricky Wheeler over the weekend.

Car 17 - Chris McCallum/Stephen Clark - non finish

Car 18 - Steven Smith/Ewan Lees - 6th overall/3rd Class 4

A good event for us. We lost a good bit of time in stage 2 on the wrong tyres, a big spin and the car cutting out on us, I think altogether we lost about 50s there. Other than that, there weren't any dramas. It was only Steven's 4th event in the car so he was still learning it and we were getting quicker and quicker all the time

Car 19 - Simon Jennings/ Greg Bates - 18th overall

We had a steady run but did have some problems on the last stage as the engine was overheating so we backed off. We're planning to tie a tow rope to the back of Ricky Wheeler's Escort next time in order to try to keep up with him!

Car 20 - Alan Wallace/Veronica Wallace - non finish

Car going really well and really pleased to be sitting 13th after Saturday. I missed the split on stage 1 and will admit it was totally my fault as Veronica was screaming "split right!". I was concerned about the alternator belt as it had lost two of the five ribs with no spare. With only three stages to go I decided to play safe as I was concerned that the belt might throw the dry sump pump belt. It was good to get a chance to watch Amie in the Juniors.

Car 22 - Peter O'Neill/Eilidh Williamson - 33rd overall

Not the result we'd hoped for. Co-driver was struggling feeling unwell and Driver with car setup on Saturday. On Sunday we unfortunately earned a maximum time on one of the stages, but had some great times on the others to end the event on a more positive note.

Car 25 - Ricky Wheeler/Fiona Moir - 8th overall/1st Class 3

Had a brilliant weekend. Kept things steady, the Driver being threatened with "no heroics" so as not to jeopardise his position in the overall STRC Championship leaderboard. Climbed up from 12th on Saturday to 8th on Sunday, swapping overall positions with other crews up to and including the last stage.

Car 28 - Bobby MacDonald/Martin MacCabe - 23rd overall

Really pleased with the result, off the back of a good finish on the Argyll. Mach 1 is fantastic, but also quite hard on cars and tyres. We took 10 tyres and came back with nothing, including the 2 brand new ones. A faulty sensor on the opening 4 stages put us down on power with the antilag not fully working. Managed to get a replacement from a friend who stores his car on the base at the lunch break, and car was back to normal. Swapping times with Cammy Williamson and Gary Salmon throughout the event, great fun, and the weather completed the ambience. Good craic with surrounding teams and the food in the hanger, what more could you ask from an event. Pendragon up next, back to notes and fast flowing stages.

Car 29 - Brian Watson/Sean Donnelly - 43rd overall

Brian has a new Escort which we would be using for the first time at Mach 1. A higher-powered engine from the last Escort. First 4 stages went really well and Brian got to grips with the new car setting top 10 stage times. When we got in the car after the lunch break, Brian put his foot on the clutch pedal which went straight to the floor. That was us out for the day. Managed to get going again for Sunday. Again, setting some top 10 stage times. Pendragon next for us.

Car 31 - Neil McAllister/Stephen Lang - 39th overall

Car 34 - Cammy Williamson/Gail Whyte - 22nd overall

After a swift engine re-build by young Sean Breslin following the Argyll, we made a steady start, getting to grips with the car. Times kept getting quicker all weekend and despite a wee ditch excursion on Sunday we were chuffed to finish 22nd overall, just edging ahead of Bobby and Martin. The second year in a row both crews have finished consecutively, albeit positions swapped this time. Big thanks to the Orange Army out there as we couldn't do this without you!

Car 35 – Chris Haw/Hayden Brown - non-finish

Despite the non-finish we had a brilliant weekend on our wee rally holiday! Shame we were only 2 and a half stages from the finish when the gearbox failed, having been lying 25th overall after Saturday's stages. Thanks to all who work to make these events happen, it is appreciated.

Car 36 – Robbie McTaggart/Keith McTaggart - 13th overall/1st Class 2

Cracking weekend! There was also a cracking battle for the class, and it was one I was desperate to win with it being my home rally. Only trouble we had was a bent wishbone and severe lack of tyres.

Car 42 - Stephen Donnelly/Colin McCall - 15th overall

Had a great weekend and the venue was really good and open this year. The weather couldn't have been better either. We had a good run and really pleased with our result. Stephen was also delighted to be awarded with the Carnegie Fuels Tyre Voucher which is drawn at each round of the Championship.

Car 43 - James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson - 25th overall/1st Class 1

We had a good clean run - no dramas just destroyed a few sets of tyres and had to get some fuel from the Horne's so I could finish the last stage!

Car 45 - Ruan Lowry/Ian McRae - 38th overall

Car 46 – Shona Hale/Violet Kydd - 34th overall

Had some doubts pre-event that the car would actually be ready following a mishap at the Summer Stages, but it was thank goodness, and thanks to Drew and Big Red for their efforts and late nights! Also, some doubts as to how 2 co-drivers in a car would work, but being Besties anyway, we needn't have worried and completed all of the stages with no dramas. Chuffed to bits with our result and can't wait for next time!

Car 47 - John Forrest/Hamish Armour - 7th overall

It was a great event, much better than last year when Aileen was spewing in a Co-op bag while navigating! I persuaded a friend from Campbeltown into sitting beside me this year, his first time in a rally car for 35 years. He got the shock of his life as to how fast cars are now, a big difference from an Escort 35 years ago. Didn't get much instructions on the Saturday as Hamish felt a bit sick - thought it must have been my driving, again! On Sunday he was a different person he felt great and really loved it, and we had a storming climb into the top ten. Good to catch up with everyone and the weather was brilliant, what more could you ask for. PS - the car was for sale before the weekend but now I am having second thoughts (thought I was too old for a Fiesta R2!).

Car 49 - Adam Horne/Gavin Mackie - 31st overall

Car 52 – Alison Horne/ Keir Beaton - 24th overall

Had so much fun out in the Mini for its second event and was really pleased with how we finished! Even after losing around 3 minutes beached on some tyres on SS10! Keir really pushed us on all weekend, and I gained some really good seat time so can't wait to be out again with the car to see what we can do.

Car 57 - Linda Brown/Iona Johnstone - 35th overall

First time at this event. Well set out and good stage markings and maps. Friendly relaxed atmosphere and good food! Really fast flowing stages (Bl@@dy fast) a real challenge for my driving skills! Ending the day with a finish and a great big grin on my face! Big thanks to all involved in organising and running it on the day!

Car 60 – Martyn Douglas/Mark Thurley - 40th overall/2nd Class 1

It was potentially the wee Polos last rally with us, so we were keen to give it a good send off! We had a great event on the Saturday managing to lead our Class by 11 seconds. Unfortunately going into stage 9 on the Sunday morning we lost a wheel due to studs shearing taking us out of Stages 9 + 10 and getting 2 maximums. After getting back to Service and an insanely good job done by Gary, Ryan, Ross and Joe we managed to get back out and finish the last 2 stages taking us to 2nd in class, brilliant event can't wait until next year in a new car!

Car 62 - Fletcher Falconer/Ian Murray - 28th overall

For the next STRC round we are off to Condor near Arbroath on the 21st September.

Keep up to date with all the latest news and championship updates by visiting 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