



Burnside Piling Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship Jim Clark Reivers Rally Post Event Report

A week since the Jim Clark Rally and a lot has happened since then, firstly DCCs very own Mach 1 Stages entries opened on Monday 27th and are filling up nicely but as usual we will be more than happy to receive your entry by following the links on www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk

Well, what a weekend that was!

The weather just couldn't make its mind up – it was certainly Monsoon season in Duns!

Here's how our STRC crews fared in the tricky, slippery conditions around the back roads of the Borders town of Duns with the ceremonial start and finish in Market Square and 8 special stages totalling 53 stage miles and linked road mileage it was sure to be a challenging days motorsport and going by the crews who took time out to speak to our very own Fiona Moir it proved just to be that....

6. Hugh Brunton/Drew Sturrock (Skoda Rally 2 Evo) - didn't have a great day. Went well in the first 2 stages but then lost the power steering on the road section to SS3. Had to do that stage with it only working intermittently and lost a chunk of time. Fixed it at Service and started working up the order towards a podium place but on SS6 got caught out on a tricky bit, locking up and sliding off the road. That was the end of our event. Pace was good though so hoping the results come soon!

8. Jock Armstrong/Owen Paterson (Skoda B13) Finished 8th overall after an uneventful run in the new Skodaru. No dramas and an encouraging debut for the car.

28. Barry Groundwater/Ashleigh Will (Subaru S11 WRC) - Finished an impressive 15th overall. "Wet" is the one-word quote that came from Barry! Sums it up nicely!

46. Stevie Irwin/Callum Young (Vauxhall Nova) - disappointed not to get a finish for the new co-driver. First 2 stages were great and set good times but the gearbox locked solid on the road section to Eccles so game over! Westruther was a terrific stage to drive. Onwards and upwards!

56. Stuart Paterson/Allan Paterson (Subaru Impreza) - Loved the event with the slippy and fast stages. A great day out with a good finish, 30th overall, with no damage apart from a puncture, so Happy Days!

58. Ricky Wheeler/Mark Casey (Ford Escort Historic RS) – The Service Area was already a sea of mud when we arrived, with tractors helping people that got stuck. We set off for 1st stage and on the way, car got stuck in 5th gear. Took ages wrestling with the gear lever, but finally got it free. Didn't dare use 5th after that! A late arrival at SS2 and concentration was not connected. Some scary moments in there and then we went off up an escape road and lost time. This continued through the morning and we were lucky to get to lunch Service in one piece! The afternoon was better. Head was in the right place and setting really fast times. 1st in Class 3 for STRC and also 1st in Class 3 for North of England Tarmacadam series was a good end to the weekend.

68. Michael Harbour/Cameron Dunn (Ford Escort Mk2) - Finished 42nd - finding the road conditions tough and very challenging all day with wet, dry, back to wet, and downpours, struggling for grip. It was a case of damage limitation on this event after an off in Fogo on the National event.

76. John Forrest/John Shephard (MG3) – New to this (hired) car, having to replace the R5 at short notice following the Manx and first time on closed road tarmac for the MG3s. Finished 76th overall – smiles all the way! The MG is a great little car – just needs a turbo and some brakes!

86. Andrew Blackwood/Richard Stewart (Ford Fiesta) – Pleased to report we had a great day! No issues other than an overshoot on SS2. Loved the wet conditions. Finished 46th overall.

95. William Pollock/John Marshall (Pollock Motorsport Ford Escort Mk2) – A strong first 2 stages saw us immediately on the pace moving from seeded position to 50th overall. Entering SS3 Eccles the split times were again looking strong when something let go in the engine block and it was rally over! A disappointing end to what had promised to be a good day.

96. Steve Smith/Daniel Johnstone (Ford Escort Mk2) - Finished 43rd overall

98. Steven Davies/Andrew Hancill (Renault Clio) **Fantastic** event overall. After a small disagreement with a tree on the final stage of the National event, our service team stayed up till the early hours of Sunday morning to get us back out again ready for the Reivers. Very slippery, challenging conditions to test us but all good fun... Big thanks to our service crew for their hard work and for everyone involved in running the event and giving up their weekend!

101. Chris Haw/Alistair Haw (Peugeot 306 Maxi) - Started slow due to the conditions but passed an Escort on SS1, then 2 cars passed me. In SS2 the cars that passed me then went off, which justified my cautious start, Then built pace in SS3. My son was now on it with the notes so we took a minute off our SS1 time in re-run SS4. We were now working well and took 30 secs off our SS2 time in SS5, again same stage. SS 6 was cancelled and after that we lost the wipers so we didn't do SS7. Enjoyed it as we grew the pace and started working together.

107. Bobby MacDonald/Martin McCabe (Subaru Impreza) - Great weekend to finish both Rallies especially with the conditions on Sunday. Car performing well. Very challenging conditions, even within the same stage. Happy to have had a really good run out in the car now the engine is working the way it should have after the first rebuild. More to come as we get used to the extra power. Finished 67th overall. Fantastic stages and looking forward to the Argyll.

109. Meghan O'Kane/John O'Kane (Ford Fiesta R2) - Mega effort from so many people to get us ready for this one! Thank you! The car was a huge improvement from before – a completely different car to drive now! Just need to try and get to grips with it! Finished 65th and Top Junior Driver in the SRC.

120. Martyn Douglas/Mark Thurley (Volkswagen Polo Cup Car) - We had a great time doing the Reivers. Arrived with just the intention of having fun and getting a finish and achieved that exactly! Couldn't have gone better and actually enjoyed sliding about in the rain!

121. James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson (MG ZR) - Our event didn't go as planned, sadly. Caught the car in front, red mist set in and didn't listen to the navigator and went wide on the next corner and bent the subframe, damaged the hub etc so it was game over for us! Car is now stripped and in the middle of being repaired for the Summer Stages at Crail! We will be back next year though unfinished business at Duns!

123. Simon Jennings/Greg Bates (Vauxhall Nova) - Just relieved to finish my first closed road rally this century! Had an absolutely fantastic time! But need a longer 'diff' as the car tops out below 100mph which just wasn't quick enough on those 600+ metre long straights! Ended up 54th overall.

Next up is The Summer Stages at Crail Airfield on 8th June and at the time of going to press we are awaiting the seeded entry list to provide a further update on Crews attending the east coast towns summer event.

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 and championship updates by visiting www.dunferlinecarclub.co.uk

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

DCC/STRC TEAM