Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship

Round 9 Beatson's Building Supplies Mull 26
9th/10th /11th October 2026 Post-event Report

Firstly, we would like to bring you news that due to lack of entries the final round of the STRC at Crail has reluctantly had to be cancelled, a massive thank you to at GMSC for trying to keep the event running but numbers just didn't add up, let's hope that next years a different story as Crail has always been an excellent end of year event.

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.

By now I hope everyone has dried out after a somewhat drookit Mull Rally. It was a shock to the system to have to deal with so much rain after numerous "dry events" this season, but Mull always throws something different into the mix - and it is October! Respect and thanks to all the marshals who stood out, for lengthy periods, in those often horrendous conditions!
Mull is notoriously a rally of endurance, over 3 Legs, iconic stages run in darkness and in daylight. Only 87 crews made it to the finish line, which is an accomplishment in itself, given the conditions. Heading the pack of successful Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Championship registered competitors was Ollie Forrester, with Chloe Fleming in the co-driver's seat, finishing a fantastic 14th overall, an awesome result for Ollie in his debut season in Senior Rallying, they also picked up the award for best presented car! Here is what he and the other Carnegie Fuels STRC competitors had to say:

Car 62 - Ollie Forrester/Chloe Fleming - 14th overall
We were out for a steady run, with the finish always in mind, never pushed 100% the whole rally, just kept it neat and tidy to get to the finish with no dramas! Delighted with the result despite having an electrical issue on Saturday.

Car 82 - Sarah Hunter/James Bones Braithwaite - 17th overall
Mull 26, my 12th Mull and Sarah's 3rd, didn't start quite as planned when the spotlights went out just a few corners into the opening Mishnish Lochs test. Thankfully we got them up and working again for Stage 2. Our only other issue was a slight disagreement with a bridge that resulted in a broken wheel, but oddly not a puncture. Probably the trickiest Mull I've done in terms of conditions. Hats off to Sarah for an incredible drive to get us up to 17th, which is my highest finish on Mull and Sarah's highest finish ever. Awesome job from all the volunteers in some quite challenging conditions to say the least.

Car 91 - Stevie Brown/Leesa Watson - 20th overall
We were delighted with not only achieving a finish (which doesnt happen often with Stevie on Mull), but also top 20 and 2nd in class! No issues throughout the rally, the wee Nova ran like a dream and the confidence grew with every stage!

Car 25 - John Marshall/Craig Wallace - 25th overall
We had a steady run in the new car - and what a beautiful car it is!
Very pleased with the result.

Car 88 - Steven Street/Robert Wood - 37th overall
Stevie and I were delighted to bring the car home with a great result, especially with it being Stevie's first time competing on Mull and getting used to the car again. We stuck to our plan and took a steady

approach on Friday's stages in the challenging conditions. We pushed on Saturday and really enjoyed the stages. By the final leg, the finish was in sight, so we focused on keeping it tidy and bringing the car home. We did have a bit of a moment on the penultimate run over the Lochs - at a well-known corner - just to keep things interesting!

Car 113 - Stephen Skelton/Ben Halliwell - 42nd overall

Well, where to start!? This being Ben's 3rd year going to Mull, it was the first time competing for myself and Stephen. Being on the island from the Monday before for recce-ing definitely had a different feel to previous years - suspense and excitement. A series of unfortunate events began before the rally even started for us. We found an extremely deep pothole under a puddle near the start of SS1 in the recce car which resulted in a bent alloy. We also had to dodge a cold and flu bug that was making its way around everyone in our digs, resulting in one co-driver having to pull out from the rally at the 11th hour. Thankfully it didn't seem to get us. Starting the rally, SS1 felt good. We we're getting into a good rhythm and a good feel for the island. SS2 we decided to push a little harder but we hit the final jump over bridge with a decent amount of commitment, which was good, looked impressive on the photos, and spectators later in said it was a fair sight to see, however just after the landing the car vered off into the ditch. For a hundred meters or so Skelly did an amazing job of peddling the car out of the ditch and it appeared we'd come out with no damage. Until we were just about to start SS3 - and the dash lit up with every warning going. We looked under the bonnet to find long grass had ripped out nearly every sensor from the engine wiring loom, including the alternator and the starter. We by-passed the starter to get the car going and ran SS3 on dip beam at 30% throttle. After limping back to service, the lads did and amazing job of repairing the wiring as best as possible, including hard wiring the fan to a switch in the car that we would just have to turn on manually when the car was on to prevent it overheating. The second leg went well with no additional dramas and we were happy with the performance having an absolute blast with door-to-door smiles! Leg 3 started with some minor troubles. As we were waiting in the traffic for SS12 (The Big One) the car died. Skelly and I opened the bonnet to try and find what the issue was, after wriggling a wire we thought the problem was down to the previous wiring damage. We kept the car running and as each car left, the buzz for the biggest stage of the rally was getting more and more. We were on the line ready to go, having already handed our time card to the Marshall and been given our start time, sudden silence. The engine decided to die again. Skelly repeatedly tried to get the old girl going, but it seemed nothing was going to bring her back to life. After throwing my notes on the dashboard and just about to reach for my harness to unclip, get out and push, BANG! it fired into life. Looking at the start clock at there were 3 seconds to go. We set off like a bat out of hell but I couldn't reach my notes on the dashboard! Luckily the first section of the stage was a 200m straight. Managed to get hold of my notes again and the rest of the stage went well. The car really did die at Service In of the final service. Thankfully some awesome service lads pushed us all the way to our service bay. A new set of plugs were put in and we were off to complete the final leg and hopefully get it across the line to achieve a finish on our first ever Mull! After leaving Craignure to head for refuel the gremlins had another go, the car stopping twice on the way to the last loop, looking under the dash we found a loose wire coming from the ignition coil relay. After properly pushing it back in the car fired up a treat. The excitement of getting to the finish and having photographs taken under the Finish Line Arch is a phenomenal feeling. It's true what everyone says, Mull is an endurance rally. The late nights and irregular sleep pattern prove a challenge in itself, the challenging stages coupled with nearly every weather variant you can think of certainly keeps you on your toes and if you slack of it'll soon bite back. I get it why people return year after year for decades to have a go, and although we're a little doubtful whether we'll return as competitors next year but I think it'll be hard not to. Now it's time to get the car repaired and rally ready again for Kinloss!

Car 83 - Cammy Williamson/Fiona Moir - 48th overall

Very pleased to have had a good clean run this year. A scramble at the last minute to replace a bent arm, discovered when the car was being aligned the day before leaving, but quickly resolved. A good recce, and a steady start. With the weather as it was, the decision was made to 'just get a finish' however with the steady approach plan, the crew achieved 48th o/a and 4th in class and a car home in one piece! Really chuffed with that!

Car 84 - Bobby MacDonald/Martin Maccabe - 53rd overall

Biblical weather, great stages. Shame about the broken driveshaft - but we finished. Thanks to everyone who helped make the rally possible.

Car 99 - Ruan Lowry/Ian McRae - 54th overall

We had a steady, clean run - only one puncture and otherwise a consistent run throughout a proper rally. Ian says I can now call myself an actual rally driver having made it to the end.! Can't wait to see if I can do it again next year!

Car 94 - Laurence Knight/Russell Thompson - 61st overall

Not ideal conditions and we really struggled to get into a rhythm and build confidence, but felt like that was coming after the first 3 stages. Unfortunately we had an off on the Hill Road, but we managed to get going again, losing around 14 minutes. We took it pretty canny after that - the 22 miler was something else! Very pleased to get a finish at the end of the day and add that to our build up of experience.

Car 120 - Beefy Fraser/Gail Whyte - 64th overall

It was cold and wet like a normal Mull, LOL! Bit of a shock to the system for Gail from 27deg in Sardinia to 7 deg on Mull, but Mull I think, secretly, might be my fav event. Conditions on the Friday night were so tough, but it was nice to hear others saying this too - I did think it was just me at first! Plenty of laughs with Beefy as usual and he drove amazingly as always. Can't ask for more after starting car 120 and finished 64o/a 3rd in class!

Car 116 Norma J Walker/Lindsey Crombie - 65th overall

Great weekend on Mull in our second year, delighted with the result.

Car 111 Adam Horne/Jorja Campbell - 70th overall

A great event! Really enjoyed the challenge as this was only Adam's second time on notes. We were glad to get to the end.

Car 129 Marc McCubbin/Steven Whittet - 73rd overall

Taking time to reflect on Mull and would like to thank all the Marshalls and organisers for running a faultless rally. Not a cancelled mile in the full event, in those conditions, was amazing. Would also like to thank everyone that got us there and supported us during the event. Sure we will be back for another shot.

Car 89 - Stuart McLean/Ruaridh Allan - 83rd overall

What started as a relaxed build-up to the event turned completely upside down on Friday on the way up to Scrutineering with engine failure! Made a few phone calls and thankfully managed to source a replacement engine. No dramas on the first Leg although the "new" engine seemed to be minus a few horses! A decent run on the first loop of Saturday Leg 2 came to an end when the car cut out and we thought the engine had gone again. Turned out to be something less serious thankfully and we decided to continue and just drive to get to the finish. The car wasn't finished with us yet, the alternator packed in, but with the loan of a couple of booster packs and a replaced alternator we got to the end of the event! An immense effort from everyone involved, thanks to all.

Car 126 - Andrew Gray/John Carr

We had a really good run on Friday night, I felt I was really finding a rhythm on notes and the car was starting to really behave itself. I heard a lot mention the conditions, which were treacherous, but we really enjoyed it. Had fun over the Lochs first thing on Saturday but over the Hill Road we got caught out with the standing water and left the road. I'd lost a fair amount of confidence but managed a run round the Saturday night stages and over the finish line in Tobermory. There's no better feeling! Thank you especially to the marshals who stood out in that.

Well, done everyone! We move on now to the final round of the season at Kinloss on the 31st October

Awards Night 16th January 2027 Grange Manor, Falkirk

The Championship awards night is a fitting end to the 2026 Championship when we honour award winners, marshals, officials, sponsors and all those who have contributed to a great rallying year. We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship 2027

The organising team are already planning for the 2027 season, and as always, we welcome your thoughts, suggestions and inspirational ideas on how we can make any improvements to the Championship, so please feel free to drop an email to strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk and one of the team will come back you. Keep up to date with all Championship information, points table, reports, event information, on Sportity **STRC24,** facebook and www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk