Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship

Round 10 Condor MSC Autosave Components Kinloss Winter Stages Rally

1st November 2025 Pre-event Report

After 8 events in nearly as many months, 82 (yes 82!) registered Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmack Rally Championship competitors head to the final round at Kinloss in Moray to do battle for the remaining points on offer. It's a bumper entry list and still a few Championship placings to be decided, so it could be a tense and interesting day. With a lot of number crunching required after the final control, provisional results for the STRC will be available on the Sunday evening, with finals being published 48hrs later to allow for any discrepancies to be resolved.

A reminder that it is the Drivers/Co Drivers responsibility to ensure ALL decals are on and fitted for the start of stage 1, without these, no points will be allocated and we will have officials checking on the day, and any queries give them a shout, and remember, no championship decals, no points, so let us know if you are needing some.

Thank you all so much for your support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you all at Kinloss.

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 davidh@foxconstruction.co.uk and you'll be included in the next report.

Here are a few thoughts from some of those attending:

Car 2 - Michael Binnie/Owen Paterson (Ford Fiesta R5)
Just excited to jump in beside Michael for our first time competing. I'll be navigating for a childhood hero. Michael will be cool, calm and collected, as always.

Car 9 - Kyle Adam/Steven Brown (Ford Escort 2500)
Back out again with Steven for a bit of fun and hopefully a strong finish.

Car 10 - Keith Richardson/Jackie Richardson (Ford Fiesta)
Both crews very much looking forward to the event, and the trip North.

Car 13 - Ben MacDowall/John Shepherd (BMW 130i)
John and I are really looking forward to the final slide around for the season. Not chasing any points this year, unlike last year so the pressure is certainly off!

Car 15 - Joe McKeand/Charlotte McDowall (Subaru Impreza)
Looking forward to it. Last one this year for Joe & I. A good entry list! Hope weather is kind.

Car 16 - Kenny Wood/Greg Halfpenny (Ford Escort)
Looking to get more miles in Escort. Bigger brakes should hopefully cure our Memorial Garden issues. Out with Greg for first time so looking forward to it. A strong finish will enhance both of our championship hopes. Rain or shine!

Car 18 - Lewis Carmichael/Rachel Matheson (Hyundai 120 Rally 2)
Looking forward to this weekend. Kinloss is always a fun day out with fast sections. It's also great to see a single venue with a full entry.

Car 20 - Lewis Gilbert/James Braithwaite (Ford Fiesta R5)
Looking forward to the rally, hopefully we'll get some decent weather. New car for this event so looking to see how we go and it's a strong entry so excited to see what happens.

Car 21 - Des Campbell/Rhys Donaldson (Peugeot 206)
What a disaster of a year! We're simply going to test a new driveshaft design and see the engines definitely ok.

Car 22 - Ross Chalmers/Charles Mackenzie (Subaru Impreza)
Looking forward to another run at Kinloss. Only managed one stage there at the beginning of the year, so will hopefully get further this time, as long as the lads get the car back together after the gearbox broke over on Mull. First time out with Ross, for Charles, who has been in the passenger seat for Gordon and Stevie before.

Car 26 - Chris Thompson/Mark Mason (Ford Escort MK2)
I'm looking forward to the final event, leading drivers' position, but it could be one of several drivers who take the title. The STRC is a competitive championship and will be decided on this event. I have really enjoyed the events this year and thank all the organisers, marshals and volunteers for making the championship possible.

Car 29 - Richard Sutherland/Jack Sutherland (Opel Manta)
Hoping it will be dry, although not looking likely, going by the weather forecast.

Car 31 - Alan Scott/Shaina Archibald (Renault Clio)
Excited to get back in the car to then have a bit of fun around Kinloss!

Car 38 - Ian McEwan/Daniel Johnstone (BMW)
Looking forward to getting back out, it's been a while, but excited to get back to Kinloss, an event we enjoy. Fair bit of work done to car over last few months, so fingers crossed it goes according to plan. As usual the plan is a) finish b) no damage c) top 20 we like to keep the bar low!

Car 40 - John O'Kane/Meghan O'Kane (Mitsubishi Evo 9)
Looking forward to getting back in the car (back to my own seat!)
The car is a bit pinker after Meghan using it at the McRae Challenge at Knockhill, but other than that we're all good to go (hopefully!)

Car 43 - Paul Ballantyne / Graham Bruce
(BRT Motorsport Backed Abarth 500)
Never a dull moment here, been busy trying to source a windscreen, as when I went into the garage last night there's a big crack appeared - always something! Both looking forward to our first time at Kinloss with great looking stage layouts.
We are hoping for a good clean run to end of the year, especially after last couple of events.

Car 45 - Alison Horne/Karen Horne (Mini Cooper S)
Really looking forward to the event this weekend. Love the stages at Kinloss, and we're back in the red Mini after some repairs so very much looking forward to getting out!!

Car 52 - Kenneth Dalgleish/Gareth Dalgleish (Ford Escort MK2)
I have my son Gareth co-driving for me, so that could be interesting. Just hoping to get a finish this time as we broke a stub axle when doing it in March. It took a long time to get what we needed to repair the car, so we've missed most of the STRC rounds, just out for a bit of fun and see where it goes.

Car 51 Fletcher Falconer/Ian Murray (Ford Fiesta ST150)
Excited to be back doing a single venue, been a long time and hoping to turn around my unlucky streak.

Car 55 - Martyn Douglas/Fiona Moir (Ford Fiesta R2)
Looking forward to wrapping up the season at one of my favourite venues - the Kinloss Stages and finally have a break to get ready for next year. Not much needing done to the car after Mull thankfully and looking forward to having Fiona Moir on the notes for the first time, should be good fun.

Car 56 - Kevin Paris/Gavin Paris (Ford Escort RS2000)
Looking forward to the second Kinloss visit of 2025. Had some steady results last few events still have teething issues with the car, our first Kinloss was a great event so really looking forward to this one hoping for a decent class finish to end the year - and for the rain to stay away!

Car 60 - Bobby MacDonald/Martin MacCabe (Subaru Impreza)
After our DNF on Mull we're hoping to be ready. Spare suspension all ready to go and looking forward to the best single venue rally in Scotland.

Car 62 - James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson (MG ZR)
We're looking forward to another trip up to Kinloss! A close battle for points in both the drivers and navigators overall and class, so let's see what we can do.

Car 63 - John Robertson/Violet Kydd (Ford Escort)
Looking forward to the last event of the year for us. Escort is ready and good to go!

Car 65 - Finn Thomasson/Simon Thomasson (Peugeot 106)
Last rally of the year and hoping to end on a high. Just looking to learn the car and see how it reacts on the different surfaces. The weather looks very mixed so will have to be on top form with tyre choice, let's see how it goes.

Car 70 - Leonard Jones/Jess Jamieson (Vauxhall Chevette)
Looking forward to the event, the stages look to be fast and flowing so hoping to be a good day. Let's hope the weather holds up!

Car 72 - Ruan Lowry/Neil Jeffrey (Citroen C2)
After a few months out since the Jim Clark Rally, I'm finally getting back behind the wheel of the C2 this weekend! It's been a busy few months working with Toyota, but I've been itching to get back on the stages. The car's ready, I'm feeling refreshed, and I can't wait to push hard and get back into the rhythm. Excited to see how the day turns out, looking for a strong finish!

Car 73 - Shona Hale/Jim McDowall
Having not driven a rally all year, Kinloss was my last-gasp opportunity to rectify this. I'd an offer of a navigator before I headed over to Mull, but on my return, they pulled out, leaving me in limbo. After a few days, I pulled my entry. Then Des suggested I ask Jimbo to co-drive. Happily, he agreed and so we are off to Kinloss, in the Corsa (thank you Drew). Fresh from Mull in a LHD Subaru, it will feel " normal" ... till I realise it's me who has the steering wheel... can't wait to hear Shimmy calling the notes and noting the tyre bar codes!!!
#role reversal
Wonder if he will provide baking...?

Car 75 - Connor Black/Duncan Daun (Mazda)
We are looking forward to the last event of the year. Just need to go out and get a finish for the Championship without playing dodgems with obstacles on the circuit!

Car 79 - Colin Christie/Gail Whyte (Suzuki Ignis)
Looking forward to our last outing at Kinloss for the 2025 STRC Championship — great to be back with Colin again! With a full entry list, it'll be interesting to see where we can end up in the little Suzuki. Not the most powerful car out there, but the wee bumble bee has been solid and reliable all season!

Car 83 - Kenny Watt/Jorja Campbell (Leyland Mini)
This will be Jorja's second time out at Kinloss. First time was 2 years ago with her Dad in the Sunbeam, and this time out in the Mini with Kenny Watt. Really looking forward to it! It will be great to gain some more experience before starting stage rallying next year.

Good luck everyone! See you there!

Awards Night 17th January 2026 Grange Manor, Falkirk
The Championship awards night is a fitting end to the 2025 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 2026
The organising team are already planning for the 2026 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