



Burnside Piling Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship Autosave Components Kinloss Spring Rally March 2024 STRC report

Firstly, what a venue and full credit to Thomas Matthews and his team from Condor MSC in setting up and running this wonderful and successful event. A special thanks must go out to all the infield marshals and volunteers who at times braved the atrocious weather conditions in what was trying day for many, feedback from the STRC crews we spoke with loved the event and the stage layouts, keep supporting these events folks so we don't lose them.

The STRC team would like to thank our very own Fiona Moir for compiling the on-event information on the STRC registered crews and the crews themselves for taking the time to provide the stage info, you're all amazing, and remember folks Fiona likes wine in exchange for a special mention in her reports so if you see her out and about you know what to do.....

The event ran 6 special stages over 60 miles utilising as much of the runway and permitter roads as the routes allow, and with 30 second intervals it was always going to be a close battle between all crews and all classes.

You can download a full set of final results by clicking on the following link.

[Kinloss Stages March 2024 - Google Drive](#)

1st car off the line was STRC registered Barry Groundwater in his colourful Mitsubishi Evo 6 and set off bang on 9am.

[Barry Groundwater/Rachel Matheson - Car 1](#)

Kinloss is always a brilliant single venue and despite the challenging weather conditions everyone had a fantastic day out. Last two stages were the best for us in the wet with the previous stages having mixed road conditions, drying up in places and then big puddles around the corner. Looking forward to getting back in November

[Ian Paterson/Owen Paterson Car 3](#)

Unfortunately retired from 4th overall.

[Drew Gallagher/David Crosbie Car 4](#)

First stage we had some serious steamie windows, would not have happened if I had turned the heated screen back on after being "fooled" by the sunshine at the start line! We were dealing with it when we went through an enormous puddle with water coming in through the roof vent which made inside like a sauna forcing a stop to allow it to clear, our 30sec car behind came through just as we got going so followed him to the stage finish. 2nd stage we were getting a high temp alarm which meant we had to turn off the anti-lag and slacken back - turned out to be a sensor fault! 3rd stage I wasn't listening and missed a SqR resulting in a turnaround and 2 stalls. Stages 4 and 5 were great A great venue even in the rain!

[Stevie Irwin/Kirsten Irwin Car 8](#)

Kirsten and I had a good day, never on the right tyres but used our heads and only pushed when it was possible. Slightly wayward handling under braking was found to be a split rear axle, found after the event. Really enjoyed the day, never put a spanner on the car and won the Carnegie Fuels voucher, can't ask for more than that....and only hit one barrel which is always a bonus!

[Ben MacDowall/John Shepherd Car 10](#)

SS1 - started relatively dry. But heavens opened within a few miles and by the 2/3 point there were rivers running down the stage. Windscreen steamed up and we followed the car in front into a junction with a dead end before the correct junction. Oooppss. U-Turn. Caught and passed the car - much appreciated.

SS2 & SS3 - heavily mixed conditions. Really challenging but kept things steady and pointing the correct way, helping to build the confidence.

SS4 - change of front tyres as previous set down to canvas. Caught and passed car in front, with some gorse bush trimming in the process. Heavens opened and an aqua plane under braking saw us pointing the wrong way down the stage. Quick U-Turn and nothing else silly to finish the stage.

SS5 - great stage to finish. Got into a rhythm and it really flowed. Pleasure to be a passenger.

Overall great day had in the challenging conditions at Kinloss. Various tyres now well used but otherwise the car was faultless. Really enjoyed the change in running direction.

[Martyn Douglas/Mark Thurley Car 40](#)

Having got the car through scrutineering on Friday evening, we set off for a recce lap and seemed to be cycling into a headwind for 11 miles, no matter which way we turned.

Sitting in the queue waiting to start SS1 with about 5 cars in front of us, the heavens opened. There were a few lockups coming into the first few tight corners and chicanes (which the cars in front of us had kindly moved out the way!). SS2 was much of the same with a lot of standing water making things difficult.

SS3 and 4 were equally as wet with the diff pulling the car from side to side on the straights making it difficult to pick a good line coming off the main runway and onto the tighter cut through roads. The final stage of the day was probably our best. The car felt quick and Martyn was having a great time throwing it around the tighter sections.

We finished 33rd o/all and 3rd in class. Kinloss is a great venue (minus the rain...) and attracts some really competitive drivers from all parts of the country.

Kinloss was brilliant fun, there was so much water that the straights became scarier than the corners! Made the car behave like it was rwd at times. The wee polo ran great with not too many dramas and we were happy with our result. We are looking forward to the next one.

[John O'Kane/Meghan O'Kane Car 41](#)

We had a good weekend, great to be back in the escort - after 4 years. We had a few teething problems throughout the day though, and landed in a field at one point, where we had to get a push out!

[John Robertson/Violet Kydd Car 47](#)

This was the first time for John and I at Kinloss and we both really enjoyed the event.... apart from the weather! Great stages, pity we did not get our tyre choice right until the last stage (we blame the weather) My god what a bunch of heroes that stood out all day in the freezing and wet conditions

[Beefy Fraser/Jack Sutherland Car 50](#)

Kinloss is fantastic for a rally! The stages were really fun and enjoyable. The weather was not on our side however this did not stop or impact the event. Being a co-driver to Beefy ensured a good laugh!

In summary, good location, great event and even better craic.

[Kenny Moore/Fiona Moir Car 51](#)

First time at Kinloss for Kenny and it was certainly "in at the deep end" - the weather conditions creating many spins and skids. Our ultimate goal was to finish, and we did.

Good to have Beefy Fraser back out to resume the battle of the Avengers - first round to him!

[Linda Brown/Iona Gibb Car 53](#)

Had a cracking day with Iona on her first rally, despite having a few detours and no clutch on one stage! Chuffed we got a finish!!! Weather could have been better but didn't dampen team spirits!!

[Colin Christie/Gail Whyte Car 56](#)

Well, it turned out to be a typical Scottish day with heavy showers and fairly strong winds. 11-mile-long stages, with no splits or merges which I found very fun. It's also a little more of a challenge. As the day went on the weather got worse and sometimes finding the cones and the edge of the tarmac was quite hard. The wee car was aquaplaning here and there. A good day with good competition. We caught a few cars on the stages and it was a close battle with a few all day where we could catch others in the corners and they'd overtake us on the straight. A few delays meant the last stage of the day would be cancelled but sometimes these things happen in rallying.

[Chris Collie/Ricky Finlayson Car 5](#)

We set out with the intention of getting more seat time, and a first run out on tarmac in the R5 ahead of the Reivers. We were delighted to be right on the pace, in the top 3 times all day and thrilled to come away with my first win overall (Chris' second). It was a great event, brilliant stages, all topped off with a celebratory tin of T!

[Donnie MacDonald/Sam Smith Car 2](#)

The car was awesome. Sadly, the screen misted up after 6 miles first stage and had to stop for 2 minutes as couldn't see anything. After that it was pretty easy driving within ourselves and car. Second last stage had 2 x 360 spins in the wet and got away with it - after that it was just get a finish If we had been in the hunt, we would have changed the tyres, But it wasn't to be.

[Thomas Gray/Harry Marchbank Car 7](#)

A very enjoyable day and it was great to get back out in a car after a couple of years out. I've got the bug again a hope to do more although I felt very rusty and a lot of room for improvement. Although the r5 cars are mega you need to be able to commit for the times to be there.

[Graeme Sherry/Ewan Lees Car 13](#)

Kinloss was a new venue for me and I arrived with a new car, a Subaru Impreza. The weather was not great and the wind and rain was constant over the weekend. Having not driven the car and with the grip unpredictable Ewan and I decided to take it easy and learn the venue and where the grip was on SS1. Nearing the end of the stage I decided to turn right far too early and ended up going way down a side road with Ewan shouting at me that I had turned too early. I did a quick 3-point turn but when I got back to the stage Ricky Wheeler was coming up the stage so as I had ruined my run, I did not want to pull out in front of him and slow him, so I let him past then rejoined the stage. Apart from that small detour I was happy with our stage. Stage 2 went well some aquaplaning which caused great amusement in the car again we were happy. Stage 4 saw us arrive at a Chicane which was completely wiped out and again I went completely the wrong way and we were struggling to catch exactly where the stage went. A quick stop and a turnabout gave Ewan time to pick out where we should have been and we got back on the go again. The wet tyres were getting more like slicks so I was not too upset when we discovered that stage 6 would not run. We finished 18th and I was happy with that. We slowed on stage 5 to let Ian McEwan take 7 seconds out of us and beat us (honest). A great venue, nice long stages.

[Bruce McCombie/Teri McCombie Car 16](#)

Wet /windy and bloody cold, crack was good Tho, the stages were great. Stage 4 was interesting randomly out of tyres, a few hairy moments! Shame about the last stage, but obviously time and daylight was running out, Teri was happy to get her first top 10 finish.

[Billy Hamilton/Brian Fogo Car 24](#)

Sideways, backwards anyway other than forward wards! Never laughed as much, most of that nervous laugh after a near disaster. Brian Foggo stepped in last moment as my co-driver daughter caught covid, luckily, he was the calm one in the car, even having to push us back on after a 5th gear spin. Really enjoyed the event.

[Iain MacDonald/David Law Car 42](#)

Making our 3rd visit to Kinloss in a Peugeot 106, with the engine only running for the first time on the Thursday, it was a frantic lead up to the event. A steady start and adjusting to the ever-changing conditions saw the times starting to improve before the clutch slave cylinder failed on stage 4 dropping time, make shift repairs and a good run through stage 5 was enough to secure 19th Overall and 4th in class 3.

[Graham Macdonald/Robert MacDonald Car 44](#)

Challenging conditions with heavy showers making it difficult to judge braking, and traction hard to find. Played about with tyre pressures, trying to find more grip. The stages were really enjoyable and we enjoyed going round the base in the opposite direction from normal. Car ran great all day, with the service team doing a magic job.

[Adam Horne/David Falconer Car 54](#)

We had a superb day. A great way to spend Davie's 65th birthday. First time together as a crew. Had a couple of spins but a change of tyres sorted it out. Had a good battle with Adam's sisters - we came out on top!

The Carnegie Fuels prize draw was held and the winner was Steve Irwin, well done Steve.

The next round of the Burnside Piling STRC is the Jim Clark Reiver Rally on the 26th May with entries opening at 7pm on Sunday 7th April 2024 by clicking on the following link;

[Competitors - Beatson's Building Supplies Jim Clark Rally](#)

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. **DCC/STRC TEAM**