



With the Jim Clark Rally and Reivers weekend soon to be upon us, the STRC has an impressive gathering of registered competitors ready to face the challenges of the infamous Scottish Borders stages, both on the National and Reivers events:

6. Hugh Brunton/Drew Sturrock (Skoda Rally 2 Evo) Really looking forward to the event – probably ranks as his favourite rally – and close to being classed as his “home event”. The car lives on Eccles stage and his girlfriend used to stay near the Westruther Start Line! Hoping to go better now back on the tar as they were disappointed with the Speyside performance/result.

8. Jock Armstrong/Owen Paterson (Skoda B13) Fresh from a fantastic 5th overall at the Speyside stages, the plan is strong to hit the ground running at the Jim Clark in the new Skoda collecting points for both SRC and STRC.

28. Barry Groundwater/Ashleigh Will (Subaru S11 WRC) Looking forward to getting Subaru out for first time this year and stretching it’s legs. It’s over at McKinstry getting a tidy up. Hopefully get further than on the Speyside!

46. Stevie Irwin/Callum Young (Vauxhall Nova) Did Kames Rally and broke a driveshaft so having an investigation to find the cause. Also have got the front bumper and wing to paint after a brush with a tyre wall, then a few tinkery bits and hopefully we’ll be ready to go! Working away from home so can’t get going till the weekend so not much time to get sorted!

56. Stuart Paterson/Allan Paterson (Subaru Impreza) Will be a big day for the family - Owen in with Jock Armstrong, Alice in with Martin Burke, myself and brother Allan, and brother Ian doing it as well! Lack of service crew as we are all driving or navigating!

68. Michael Harbour/Cameron Dunn (Ford Escort Mk2) Myself and Mick Harbour head to the Jim Clark National and Reivers after a brilliant class win on the Isle of Man. Hoping to repeat this on the National for the Protyre and Reivers for the STRC and NETRC.

76. John Forrest/John Shephard (TBA) Had planned to do both Jim Clark events over the 3 days with John Shephard sitting in as Co-driver. This would have been only the second time since 2019 that Aileen has not been in the car with him. Did a test day recently with Aileen getting a few runs in John’s new car and he was hoping she didn’t want to swap for the Evo! He was also worried about her beating him! Unfortunately damage sustained by the R2 related to an “off” on the Isle of Man may have put paid to their Jim Clark battle. But it’s not over yet and we may still see John out on the event!

95. William Pollock/John Marshall (Ford Escort Mk2) It is only the second competitive outing of the year for the light blue Pollock Transport/Motorsport Mk2 Escort of Willie Pollock and John Marshall. Both crew members are hoping to build upon the experience of competing in last years Jim Clark Reivers Rally where a very creditable performance was undermined by a ‘slight off’ on the final stage significantly affecting their position in the final overall standings.

96. Steve Smith/Daniel Johnstone (Ford Escort Mk2) For us the Jim Clark will be another test of the new car whilst Daniel and I also get back into the swing of things after a 6 year break from rallying whilst we saved and built the car. Kinloss was a really challenging first event, but we learned a lot and have made some set up changes, fixed some faults and a small indiscretion that christened the car. Looking forward to making the switch back to closed roads - and hopefully taking the right tyres this time! Plan is to learn the car and pick up the pack as the day goes on getting more seat time.

98. Steven Davies/Andrew Hancill (Renault Clio) We're looking forward to a challenging weekend, especially on Abbey St Bathans (JCR National). Car prep is going well, we are almost ready! We have made some upgrades on the car and we're hoping to push harder than our last outing at Kinloss.

101. Chris Haw/Alistair Haw (Peugeot 306 Maxi) The last time Chris finished the Clark in 2006 he was 2nd in class. Changed the servo the night before on the Peugeot 309 GTi as it had failed and replaced it with a 205 GTi one as it was all that was available, but it was smaller so no matter how hard the brake pedal was pressed it couldn't slow the car properly, or lock the wheels. A potential Class win without that issue. This year my son will be navigating for me, having recently moved to Dublin from Italy with his Italian wife. My usual nav Russell Smith is taking a year out. We are very much looking forward to the event.

107. Bobby MacDonald/Martin McCabe (Subaru Impreza) Catastrophic engine failure, before even turning a wheel over at the Manx Rally on the Isle of Man, has meant a huge effort to get things sorted for the Jim Clark. Hopefully the car will be running again by this weekend (18th) and good to go for the Jim Clark National on the 24th and the Reivers on the 26th.

109. Meghan O'Kane/John O'Kane (Ford Fiesta R2) After discovering the cause of the handling/diff issues on the Speyside the O'Kanes are currently waiting on bits being sent over from Msport Poland - but one part is unavailable! Constant phone calls looking for someone with a spare, or something lying about and have lots of people on the look out, so if they don't make it, it certainly won't be from the lack of trying.... but it will be a long shot! Fingers crossed the power of Social Media will help!

120. Martyn Douglas/Mark Thurley (Volkswagen Polo Cup Car) Their car is ready early for a change after just having new brakes fitted all round. The car is being sold, so hopefully no drama's at the Reivers! Both crew looking forward to it.

121. James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson (MG ZR) The Reivers is going to be myself and Rebecca's first time on a closed road event and first time using pacenotes (Rebecca's first year in the silly seat) so it's all going to be a big learning curve for us! We are not looking for anything special just a clean run through and a finish to gain some experience for us both on the venture away from single venue events, but must say I'm really looking forward to it.

123. Simon Jennings/Greg Bates (Vauxhall Nova) After competing on the Jim Clark Clubman's Rally back in 1997 and 1998, but not since, Simon decided it was time to make a comeback 20-odd years later at 56years old, so bought a Vauxhall Nova and entered the 2023 Jim Clark Reivers, my first stage rally this century! Retired on SS1, head gasket blown! (very expensive comeback!) This time I've teamed up with Greg Bates (A 'Kiwi' from Spadeadam Motor Club, who had never done any stage rallying before - we did a Hexham 12 car rally and clicked!). We've done the first two rounds of the STRC this year - Knockhill and Kinloss, finishing 13th OA and 2nd in class at Knockhill, and 10th OA and 2nd in class at Kinloss, so we're hoping for a decent run on the JCR this year. I have to say that my Nova is quite unusual and unique. It was built by none other than 'Bill Falconer' as a Lock Down project so it's quite a special thing really...but still what would be known these days as a 'clubman spec' car, but to me it's way, way ahead of anything that I've driven before and I'm still trying to get to grips with it!

125. Kenny Moore/Fiona Moir (Hillman Avenger) Looking forward to this event, our only venture with the Avenger onto closed roads, and hoping to have a straightforward, trouble-free run. The aim, always, is to get to the finish in one piece!

Other STRC registered crews competing on the Jim Clark events are:

58. Ricky Wheeler/Mark Casey (Ford Escort Historic RS)

78. Drew Gallagher/David Crosbie (Skoda Fabia)

86. Andrew Blackwood/Richard Stewart (Ford Fiesta)

103. Andrew Plunkett/James Burns (Ford Escort Mk2)

.... and some who unfortunately won't be joining us in The Borders this time:

Andy Horne - discovered after Crail testing that the car needs a bit more work, so concentrating his efforts on that meantime.

Orrin McDonnell - has a wedding to attend so won't make it to Duns. He did consider an overnight drive from Skye to compete, but common sense kicked in and he has decided to postpone his STRC effort until the Argyll.

Alistair Inglis - things are not going his way time-wise with work. He still believes he has unfinished business with the Reivers though – so watch this space! He'll be back!

Good luck, everyone!