



Burnside Piling Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship Dunoon presents Argyll Rally Post Event Report

Our thanks again to Fiona Moir for extracting information from some of the competing STRC crews after the Argyll Rally and she will be delighted to hear from you all with your pre-event Mach1 Stages 24 stories so we can share with the motorsport community. fiona.moir7@gmail.com

Championship updates and reports will be posted on facebook and the new 'go to' source of STRC information on the Sportity App password **STRC24**

Here are some post event musings from STRC crews who competed on the Argyll Rally on 21st/22nd June. What an epic weekend in Dunoon and a first time for the STRC! A challenging, iconic event, successful for some more than others. The weather was the usual mix of cool, cloudy, rain and then sunshine which made conditions and tyre choice tricky - and The West Coast midges were as hungry as ever! Here are how the STRC crews got on:

Car 5 - Hugh Brunton/Drew Sturrock - 6th overall

Unfortunately, not a great rally for us, just couldn't get into any sort of rhythm, got to the finish, but the pace wasn't where I wanted it to be. Planning taking a break for a wee while to re-group.

Car 32 - Joe McKeand/Charlotte McDowall -

finished a creditable 21st overall and 3rd in Class 2

Car 33 - Michael Harbour/Cameron Dunn - 27th overall/2nd Class 4

We headed to the Argyll Rally registered for both the Protyre Championship and the Scottish Tarmac Championship. Co-driver's curse of the Argyll rally is finally broken! What a superb battle all weekend with no more than a few seconds between us and our nearest rivals in every single stage!

Friday night was a challenge. Damp patches and dry patches and then the fog appearing! Saturday, we went on a mission and we didn't leave anything out there, it was phenomenal pace! Was a cracking event as usual, we're maybe even going to do Mach1!

Car 36 - Barry Groundwater/Ashleigh Will - 22nd overall

Was an unenjoyable weekend despite the not far off top 20 result. The amount of carnage summed it up. Mach 1 will be a no pressure event with the wee evo.

Car 50 - Drew Gallagher/David Crosbie - 34th overall

We finished! Great event but very technical stages, then throw the weather into the mix - lamps on, lamps off, lamps on I felt like the Karate Kid!

Car 69 - Brian Watson/Ian MacDougall - Non-Finisher

Ha ha nothing to say apart from being bored of all the slagging I got for whole weekend! The Control Panel failed before we even got to the first stage.

Car 81 - Cammy Williamson/Fiona Moir - Non-Finisher

Well, it was short lived.... Great run through all the stages, wet weather and fog, but the car cut out on the way home with no warning and wasn't going any further. Gutted, but 1st retirement in 18 rallies is good going. Better get busy for the next one!

Car 84 - Steven Smith/Daniel Johnstone - 29th overall

Had a sensible run-on Friday night as although we had most of our experience in the wet with the car, I am still getting used to what it does. All went well until SS6 when the fog made it almost impossible to see and we drove with side lights on to get visibility. Big moment in SS7 by a stone wall (which has been well noted for future attempts)! Saturday

morning was interesting for tyre set ups. We went full dry softs... meaning the car was a handful sometimes but we seemed to continue making progress. This was the first time using the car in the dry so definitely leaning harder on the tyres towards the end. Happy with our result.

Car 88 - Meghan O'Kane/John O'Kane - 51st overall

Wasn't a great weekend for us. We had no intercom for the first leg meaning driving the night stages blind, then couldn't get into the flow of it on Saturday, as we came across an incident on the first stage. Just couldn't get back into it after that, but benefitted getting more seat time, means getting more used to the left-hand drive.

Car 99 - Martin Burke/Alice Paterson - Non-Finisher

Argyll was a rather eventful rally. After our off at the Jim Clark, resulting in no points, our plan was a clean steady run out to gain some points. Unfortunately, after a slight off on Friday night and the car not selecting reverse, we were towed out. Aimed for a clean Saturday run but got caught out on a left hander and having a collision with a telegraph pole ended our rally.

Car 109 - Bobby MacDonald/Martin MacCabe - 57th overall

Friday Night, we set off on the first loop and managed a good clean run through the stages. Saturday morning loop went well and we were setting some good times so decided it was time to stick some new rubber on for final loop and push for a finish. We started off well, then once we got to the Loch Fyne stage the drama began. A very fast approach to R6 over crest saw us land on the previous destroyed wall then bounce over into a ditch. Foot flat to the floor and keep it going but all the time thinking the Navigator's side is destroyed, so we were straight out car at end of stage to find a small dent to the wing and four alloys in state of repair two tyres destroyed but still holding air! The final stage for us was much more a leisurely drive thru to avoid our tyres going bang and get to the finish

Car 121 - Robbie McTaggart/Keith McTaggart - 55th overall/1st Class 5

Argyll Rally, what an event for our first closed road attempt. Set out to learn, enjoy and finish the rally and we achieved that with the wee C2 not missing a beat.

Car 132 - Kenny Watt/Eilidh Williamson - Non-Finisher

Argyll Rally 2024 was not to be! Almighty bad luck saw the outer clutch casing sheer on entering MTC1. Managed a temporary fix to allow us to gingerly run round SS1. Eager, we went straight into SS2 but lost selection part way round, briefly stopped in stage, he found a gear and got us to the stage finish...

Relentless dedication of the service crew travelling through the night to Strathaven and back for the part required, fitting it in time to be re-scrutineered and restart Saturday's stages at 10.08! Not a mile into SS8 we were first on scene at car 128's Roly poly, fortunately crew ok and Mini moved clear of the stage, we continued road speed to stage finish. SS9, we had a clear run and we made our way to SS10 Kilmodan, another TC that would curse this wee clutch and it was the end of the rally for us!

Car 134 - Fletcher Falconer/Ian Murray - Non-Finisher

This was Fletcher's first closed road event, Fourth ever rally start, no experience on notes, or competing at night. So we were delighted with 54th quickest on stage 4, and ending Leg 1 lying 59th overall. Sadly, we came very unstuck on SS8, the first run of Saturday morning loop of 7 stages. Touching the grass verge pushing hard in 4th gear though a sequence of flowing corners, the car was sucked into the soft grass, then a small ditch followed by catching the edge of an embankment which flipped the car onto its side and launched us over and down the road then crashing through the retaining sea wall. Shaken, but not deterred, aiming to be back out for the Mach 1.

Car was home and in the garage by early Saturday evening, cleaned and stripped ready for repairs.

Car 140 - Richard Stewart/Owen Paterson - 52nd overall

First time in beside Richard in the Rally 4 car for myself after being stand in navigator for Carin Tait-Logan. Really enjoyed my weekend learning the stages and car, some fantastic driving from Richard getting progressively faster all weekend and having some real fun skids.

So, staying in sunny Argyll for the next round - Mach 1 stages on the 6th & 7th July. Good luck everyone!

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 on the **Mach1 Stages** 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.

Dunferline Car Club & Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship team