



**SCOTTISH TARMACK
RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP**



Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship

Round 5 KVR Motorsport Stages post-event Report

Round 5, the KVR Motorsport Stages has certainly shaken up the STRC Points Tables! It also shook up a couple of crews on SS1 with Car 1, Donnie MacDonald/Andrew Falconer and Car 27, Martyn Douglas/Rian Walker both doing significant damage to their cars in separate incidents, but fortunately no damage to themselves. The resulting delays impacted the schedule of the event, but "hats off" to the Event Organisers and Marshals who swiftly got things running again and back on time!

Here is what some of the STRC registered crews reported:

Car 6 - Ben MacDowall/Alan Scott - 4th overall

Really good to be back at Crail. We got up to the pace we wanted pretty much straight away which was great! A poor tyre choice for stage 4 caused us to lose a good bit of time between us and 3rd place, but a change of tyres for 5 and 6 got the pace back up. Sadly, not enough to get into the top 3 but enough to secure 4th. Cracking job from Alan on the notes as always, who reported it was a cracking day out. Purely there for ballast and a bit of encouragement, but Ben needed very little of that, that's for sure, a cracking drive from him!

Car 7 - Des Campbell/Rhys Donaldson - 5th overall

I did enjoy it to be fair. A good event, we bedded ourselves in quietly, but didn't expect a nice wee fight on from Peter O'Neill! With one stage to go we were 3 behind! We dialled in a very aggressive set up and bolted on our best Pirelli's and went full formula 2 kit car mode!!! I've probably not driven at that level for 2/3yrs and boy was it a MASSIVE BUZZ!! Rhys was incredible on the notes and navigation when required, especially in that critical stage 5. Then we found out there was a stage 6 hahaha!

Car 8 - Chris Thompson/Pete Gibson - 8th overall

Making the long journey up from Englandshire worthwhile with a top 10 finish

Car 9 - Joe McKeand/Charlotte McDowall

Gutted not to finish - a hole in the back of the gearbox after stage 4. Hopefully get it sorted for Argyll!

Car 14 - Martin Burke/Owen Paterson

3 broken shafts - not handy!

Owen is looking forward to The Argyll Rally in Dunoon and getting back out in his own car.

Car 15 - Ross Chalmers/Andrew Side - 7th overall

We had a brilliant day. My first class win for me with the car. Thoroughly enjoyed all the stages and thankfully the rain stayed off until the after the rally.

Navigator's first time sitting with Ross, and he didn't disappoint with a 7th overall and a 1st in class. The car ran with no issues only having one visit to a tyre wall, brushing across the whole of the navigator's side of the car.

Car 18 - Peter O'Neill/Eilidh Williamson - 6th overall

A great day, consistent throughout all the stages. Very pleased with our final result of 6th overall and 2nd in class.

Car 19 - Steven Street/Robert Wood

We tried some new suspension settings in SS2 but weren't happy with them so reverted to known settings for SS3. We felt good until we ended up on top of a pile of tyres. Note to self - don't trust the maps - recce is a must! The rest of the day went OK but we are still suffering gearbox niggles. Need to get the head down and get ready for Argyll.

Car 20 - Ross MacDonald/Michelle Hunter

We spent the day learning the new car. Unfortunately, we lost the brakes completely on ss2, doing a lap with the peddle going straight to the floor which lost us a load of time, but we slowly crept back up the leaderboard, re-gaining confidence. We were happy with the direction we were heading after that. Plenty more to come pace-wise though.

Car 21 - John O'Kane/Meghan O'Kane

We had a great day. Dad loves the car, and it is definitely a bit different to drive than the Escort! I loved it too... might need to steal it at some point!

Car 23 - Stephen Donnelly/Colin McCall

Had a good day as usual at Crail which has always been a favourite venue of mine since my first visit in the early 90s. I recently got my gearbox rebuilt but had been having problems with it since it came back, and again at Crail I was having trouble with it. We decided to withdraw before doing any more damage.

Car 27- Martyn Douglas/Rian Walker

So, Crail didn't go as well as expected. My usual codriver Mark couldn't make it so Rian Walker generously offered to sit next to me. We got on really well for the first laps of SS1 until unfortunately a brake flexi burst coming to the end of a straight, and a last-minute attempt to pull the handbrake to scrub speed didn't go as planned when we caught a tyre which sent us dramatically into some more tyres! Hoping we can have the car sorted in time for Mach1 in a few weeks!

Car 28 - Ian McEwan/Daniel Johnstone

Enjoyed a great event. Getting better and car improving all the time. Delighted with our finish. Some great battles in all classes so a positive for the sport!

Car 29 - Colin Hay/Jess Jamieson

Gearbox main shaft bearing housing sheared from the box causing the crown wheel pinion to strip on stage two. Felt good in the car and still enjoyed the limited seat time. Downside might be that our Machrihanish entry may be in doubt as our getting there is dependent on parts availability. Fingers crossed.

Car 31 - Drew Barker/Shona Hale

Skipped a bale with the DRIVER'S side front wing and cracked it! Caught a few cars. Let a few past. Were really pushing on in the last 2 stages and very pleased with our result - 25th overall. 6th in class.

Car 32 - Gavin Lloyd/Gordon Clark

Another cracking event for us. Chuffed to come away with class win and a top 20 finish. The car ran well all day although we were rapidly running out of front tyres and had to buy new rubber for the last 2 stages. Enjoyed a few tussles with more powerful cars, usually losing out on the straights but closing in on the twisty stuff. Great fun.

Car 33 - Duncan Ferguson/Jamie McQue

We enjoyed our day! The event was run very well and the stages were nice and fast. Thankfully the weather was on our side. Thanks to the organisers and marshals for allowing us to have our fun. It was nice to receive the hard charger award as well.... oh and thanks for keeping the rain away till the end of the last stage. Roll on Mach1!

Car 34 - Ross Carbry/Michael Thomson

Saw ourselves struggling for the first 2 stages with power steering issues. We got that sorted and Ross started powering on whilst adjusting to the car and seeing what it was capable of. We were sitting 32nd overall and 2nd in class after stage 3 but unfortunately, we had further mechanical issues causing us to stop on ss4 and getting a stage maximum. We sorted everything out at service and were ready to have some fun for the last two. We were flying on ss5 proving Ross had gotten to the grips with the car and the pace was definitely there. But unfortunately, the head gasket failed and we had to retire. Overall, an amazing day and Crail will always be one of my favourites. Disappointed that there isn't one at the end of the year to see what I can do there.

Car 35 - James Wilson/Rebecca Wilson

It was a disappointing end to the day after pulling back up the class position from 9th to 3rd. Maybe pushed a little too hard on the last stage to try gain 2nd in class. Lost drive with only half a lap to go! With Argyll rally in 2 weeks the cars already stripped to get prepared.

Car 38 - William Pollock/John Marshall

After a lengthy lay off for the majority of 2024 and only one event thus far in 2025, it was very pleasing to come away from our first competitive visit to Crail with a creditable placing of 16th overall and a good showing in our class. The Pollock Motorsport Mk2 never missed a beat and provided much needed seat time for the crew. Looking forward now to the Mach Stages and building on this performance.

Car 39 - Paul Ballantyne/Graham Bruce

To say, it's been a while, could be a bit of an understatement. August 2015 was the time we sat together competitively. Completely new stage layouts to our previous experience gave the rally an added bonus and helped get the rally juices flowing. Like most crews, it was disappointing to lose SS1, but more importantly, a great relief to hear all involved were unscathed. Steady progress throughout the day saw us climb from 39th at the start to 21st overall at the end. Perhaps not the most spectacular result, but our first finish in the new car, and a whole lot of information gained, made our day very worthwhile and enjoyable.

Big shout out to our Service Crew and to all involved in organising this event.

Car 42 - Kevin Paris/George Paris

Very happy we got the finish and our best one so far! Looking forward to the Air Tech Integrity Mach 1 Stages (big plug as I am event sponsor!) in a few weeks!

Car 45 - Jack Sutherland/Richard Sutherland

Gutted that we didn't get a finish, although getting to spend time in the car was great! The marshals were very helpful and understanding. It was a fab event, just a shame not to finish. Hopefully we will get back out at Mach1!

Car 48 - Fletcher Falconer/ Ian Murray

Stage one and we had gear selection problems immediately, though we were saved losing time as the stage was stopped and cancelled after two accidents.

Stage two didn't fare much better, stuck in 5th gear. - it was going to be one of those challenging character-building days! A very speedy gear cable swap in service cured the gear selection issues. Perfect..... to be then faced with a slipping clutch. Fletcher drove with what he had, managing the issues throughout the day with maturity, and got the car home pretty much unmarked, with some more championship points too. Definitely a day of what could have been. On the plus side, car handled flawlessly, a real nice balance with the set up on the freshly rebuilt Reigers. Good first test of our new brake set up too, which was the aim of the day as a pre-Argyll Rally test.

Car 49 - Andrew Irving/Reg Irving

Felt we had just got going on the first stage when we came across Martyn and Rian's accident so had to stop and drive out of the stage. Stage 2 went fine but we were getting a bit of understeer towards the last 3 miles as the front tyres went off. Stage 3 we moved up on to hards on the front and it was going well until we side swiped a bale then not long after on a down shift all the gears were all in the wrong place and some missing. We drove it out of the stage after managing to find 3rd gear. In Service after finding the crank pulley was also broken, we decided to call it a day and not try to fix as I didn't want to risk more damage.

Car 51 - Kenny Moore/Fiona Moir

We had a relatively trouble-free day and thankfully didn't need to break out the "wets", as the heavy rain stayed off until the end of the last stage. Managed to get round and finish in 35th place. Pleased with that against all the modern machinery out there - consistency is key! Looking forward to Mach1.

Car 54 - Charlie Knight/Nikki Addison

The day started off badly with my co-driver feeling poorly on the morning of the rally and not being able to compete. Thanks to Nikki Addison, who bravely stepped in and sat next to me. We ended up 31st overall and second in the 1400 class so I'm pretty happy with that!

Car 56 - Colin Christie/Gail Whyte

Had a great weekend at Crail KVR Motorsport Stages with Colin! The sunny weather made for an awesome event. No real issues at all. It did get hot in the car during the stages though, especially running with the heater on to keep the engine cool!

Car 52 - Alec Kydd/Violet Kydd

Well after a lot of "will we/won't we" we actually got there with an ex Autocrosser. Since we hadn't competed together for the last 17 years, we were both glad of our seeding at Car 52. We loved the stages but it took a few before it all gelled again. Stage 6 Alec was now getting to grips with the car and was really pushing hard going down a fast right onto the rough. With the car on the wrong suspension it started to do the pogo stick "thing" and we ended up going straight into the tyres and damaged the front end. We managed to nurse her to the finish and 5th in class. Huge thanks to John and Cliff for servicing. Really enjoyed our day back out together and we never fell out. So no divorce!!

Car 55 - Connor Black/Duncan Daun

We started off having a great event putting in some of our best times yet, however on one of the stages I went to change gear and the stick had dropped through the floor! Ended up doing the rest of the stage holding onto the gear stick and steering with one hand. Back to Service, my dad (Brian) and Brodie did a cracking job to fix it and got us back out. However, our rotten luck struck again when the car died on us mid the next stage. We eventually got going again but that was our competitive day over. It was still great fun and we had some amount of laughs with co-driver Duncan, who reported that he too thoroughly enjoyed it. My first time there and only Connor's second. Connor did well driving and we were climbing the leaderboard slowly. "It's all shits and giggles until someone giggles and shits!"

Car 60 - Jack Howell/Jordan Hayes

Happy to get a finish (28th overall) with it being my first time out. The car was fantastic, really enjoyed the day, lots to learn and looking forward to the next one.

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.

Round 6 Dunoon Presents-Argyll Rally 20th/21st June

We wish everybody a safe and enjoyable event and thank all event and championship sponsors for their support and anybody requiring Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship decals please contact Fiona Moir 07751 156943 who will be armed with some at the event. There has already been a change of overall and class leaders, and with 18 drivers and 16 co-drivers entered the event, we are sure there will be another change after the event.

This event is also the first round of the West Coast Challenge which is awarded to the highest placed driver & co-driver upon successful completion of the 3 West Coast Events, Argyll Stages, Mach1 Stages and the Mull Rally. Good luck to all.

Carnegie Fuels Gold Card STRC £250 Tyre Voucher 2025

A reminder that all competitors registered for the Carnegie Fuels Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship who start each event will be entered into a draw for a Carnegie Fuels £250 Tyre Voucher, so keep your eyes out on the STRC facebook page for the announcement of the lucky winner.

Keep up to date with all Championship information, points table, reports, event information, on Sportity **STRC24**, facebook and 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.