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News release

Osian's dream win hits North Wales for six

Twenty-one years ago Osian Pryce visited a rally for the first time, watching his father and grandfather's heroes fly through the woods on their doorstep. Seven years ago, Osian and his friend Dale Furniss sat and waited patiently for car number one on the same rally.

Osian and Dale talked that 2010 day about their hopes and dreams, their hopes and dreams of maybe, one day, starting Rally North Wales and driving the same roads as their own idols.

Today (Saturday) Osian and Dale started that rally. More than that, theirs was that car #1 they were waiting for seven years ago. More than that, they won.

Actually, they didn't just win, they dominated, setting fastest time on all six stages in the Alpheria/Hills Ford Fiesta R5.

Box ticked. Dream done.

Reigning Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy champion Osian was competing at home as a way to further familiarise himself with the Spencer Sport-run Fiesta R5 he's using in this year's British Rally Championship. And the run through two loops of the Dyfi forest complex couldn't have gone better; man and machine ran in perfect harmony on the Dolgellau-based event.

Despite some atrocious conditions, Osian didn't put a foot wrong or a wheel out of place as he tore up the tracks which will make up Britain's round of the World Rally Championship (Dayinsure Wales Rally GB) at the end of the season.

Beating fellow BRC competitor Euan Thorburn by 18 seconds on the opening Gartheiniog stage, Osian and Dale didn't look back and reeled off a further five scratch times to ensure total domination of the Saturday stage times in mid-Wales. That domination of Rally North Wales was all the more impressive considering it was only his second event in the Spencer Sport-run car.

"Things really clicked on this event," said Osian. "On the rallies I've done before, maybe I haven't driven so well, I don't think I've got the best out of the car. To be honest, I was a bit naïve when it came to setting an R5 car up in the past, but I really feel I've got it here. The car was absolutely fantastic, just incredible to drive, it totally did what I wanted it to. Everything feels much more natural now, not like I'm trying to force it. What a fantastic day.

“The good thing about the event is that we had really changeable conditions. The water was unbelievable in the first stage, it looked like the tide had come in when we came through some of the corners! As the day progressed, the roads dried a bit, but the surface polished-up making it more and more slippery. These kind of evolving conditions are just what you want from a test; OK Kielder’s quite a different prospect on the next BRC round, but I go to the Pirelli [International Rally] with a much better handle on the car.”

Time and experience is great, but what Osian and Dale really wanted was the win. The home win.

“This rally has real history for me and my family,” said Osian. “We’ve watched it year after year. I’ll be honest, the first time I came, 21 years ago, I was only three years old and I hated it! I hated the noise and everything, couldn’t wait to get home. Things have changed a bit since then!”

Next time...

BRC round 2/7

Pirelli International Rally

April 29-30

Based: Carlisle

Time to be brave. And stay mainly in the middle of the road. Kielder, Europe’s largest manmade forest, plays host to round two. The straights are long and the ditches deep.

The rest of 2017...

BRC round 3/7

RSAC Scottish Rally

May 19-20

Based: Dumfries

Slightly earlier date than usual might keep the midges away, but the challenge of classics such as Castle O’er and Twiglees will remain.

BRC round 4/7

Kenotek Ypres Rally

June 23-24

Based: Ypres

One of European rallying’s greatest asphalt rallies (not to mention the brilliant atmosphere), former winners include Walter Röhrl, Henri Toivonen and Kris Meeke.

WRC round 1/3

PZM Rally Poland

June 29-July 2

Based: Mikolajki

The second fastest round of the World Rally Championship, Rally Poland involves

three days tearing up gravel tracks of the Polish Lake District.

BRC round 5/7

Nicky Grist Stages

July 8-9

Based: Builth Wells

The BRC's only mixed surface event includes the best asphalt action on the fearsome Epynt military ranges together with forest stages which were once a regular feature of Britain's round of the World Rally Championship.

WRC round 2/3

Neste Rally Finland

July 27-30

Based: Jyväskylä

The fastest round of the World Rally Championship. You pull top gear on Friday morning and leave your car there until Sunday afternoon on a fast-forward journey through the forests of Finland.

BRC round 6/7

John Mulholland Motors Ulster Rally

August 18-19

Based: Londonderry/Derry

A mainstay of the British Rally Championship, this mid-summer asphalt spectacular brings some of the UK's best lanes – quite often in some of the wettest and trickiest conditions.

BRC round 7/7

138.com Rally Isle of Man

September 14-16

Based: Douglas

The Manx. If Markku Alen knows about Elibank, Ari Vatanen will never forget the Isle of Man. The world over, these stages are known, loved, loathed and respected. A brilliant way to end the BRC season.

WRC round 3/3

Dayinsure Wales Rally GB

October 26-29

Based: Deeside

The final European round of the WRC takes crews through the forests of mid and north Wales, passing Osian's front door along the way. Rain, sun, ice and even snow regularly feature to embellish one of the world's finest motorsport events.

Osian Pryce – date of birth: 24.02.93

2009 **Aged 16**, Osian heads to Latvia to contest the Latvian Rally Championship (drivers are allowed to compete from aged 15).

2010 Just days after passing his driving test, Osian starts his first season of competition in the UK, driving a Ford Fiesta ST. The **highlight** of 2010 is a **class win on his World Rally Championship debut** at Rally GB.

2011 Stays in the Fiesta for a season learning the ropes in the British Rally Championship, the pinnacle of the sport in the UK.

2012 Ends his first BRC season in a front-running Citroen DS3 R3T with **two podium finishes** and **third in the standings**.

2013 BRC championship runner-up after a **hat-trick of wins** in the second half of the season.

2014 Just misses out on BRC title after final-round thriller.

2015 Steps up to **Junior World Rally Championship** and **leads on his debut** (Rally Portugal) in the sport's premier feeder series. Finishes second on Rally Poland, having led until a mechanical problem late in the event.

2016 **Wins** the FIA World Rally Championship's **Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy** with two event victories and three podiums from five starts.

Ford Fiesta R5

Engine: 1600cc turbo, 32mm restrictor

Max power: 280bhp @ 6,200rpm

Transmission: Sadev five-speed sequential gearbox; Sadev front/rear differential

Suspension: Adjustable Reiger dampers; MacPherson struts front/rear

Brakes: 300mm discs four-piston calipers; hydraulic handbrake

Wheels: OZ Racing 7x15-inch

Dimensions: length 3982mm; width 1695mm; height 1481mm; wheelbase 2490mm

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