

News release
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Welsh rally star Osian focuses on the future

Machynlleth driver Osian Pryce will not compete on the Rally Isle of Man (September 14-16), the final round of this year's British Rally Championship.

The 24-year-old has decided to save the budget he would have spent crossing the Irish Sea to the classic Manx roads and put it towards his programme for next season.

"This was not an easy decision to take," said Osian. "Everybody knows about the calibre of the stages on the Isle of Man and everybody knows just how good that rally is – but we have to be realistic.

"There's an outside chance we could have taken the British Rally Championship title, mathematically we're still in with a shot and I'm sure there will be people who say I should always go when the title race is still alive, no matter how much of a long shot it is. But I've achieved a huge amount from the BRC this year. Yes, of course it would have been nice to win the title, but that would have been the icing on the cake.

"We've still had the cake!

"Don't forget, at the start of this year, we were the newbies in these four-wheel drive cars at the highest level of the sport in Britain. We had never even started a BRC round in an R5 car before, so to come and fight right at the front of the championship from the very start and then lead the title race, is a big win for me.

"If things had gone slightly more in favour, I'm sure we would have been getting ready for a title decider in Douglas and I'm sure we would have won some rallies. It hasn't fallen that way, so we'll take the experience we've gained from a brilliant year in a great championship and use it as a springboard for next season."

Osian's BRC season:

5 rallies

3 podiums

2 runners-up finishes

2 mechanical failures

50 stages completed by Osian

Running in the top three after **39** of 50 stages

In the top three times on **32** of 50 stages

Fastest on **11** of 50 stages

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.

2017 **Podium** on his BRC return and series debut in a Ford Fiesta R5 at the Border Counties Rally. **Dominates** Rally North Wales, winning every stage and then comes close to his first BRC win of the year finishing second on the Pirelli International Rally. Continues his run of podiums with second in Scotland before moving into the **championship lead** on his first ever visit to Ypres. **Fourth** in WRC2 makes for an impressive four-wheel drive debut at **Rally Finland**.

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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