

News release
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Osian's British title tilt on track through the rocks and rain

Second place on the RSAC Scottish Rally means a hat-trick of Prestone British Rally Championship podiums for Welsh star Osian Pryce.

The Machynlleth driver's second consecutive second place in the BRC moves him to within four points of the lead of Britain's premier rally series. While Pryce had his eyes firmly fixed on the big prize in Dumfries, he's happy to head home after another consistent result following the 10th and final stage this afternoon (Saturday).

"The bigger picture is looking pretty good after Scotland," said Osian. "We start every rally wanting to win, that's what we're here for, but I'm pleased with what we've achieved both on this rally and from the first half of the season. Three consecutive podiums and second on the last two is just the sort of positive start to a new car and a new team that we wanted."

Fifth after two runs through Friday night's Mount Joe stage, Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss were frustrated with a rocky start to the season's third round.

"We got a left-rear puncture on the second stage," said Osian. "We were only three miles in, so we had to drive on it for five miles. That stage was really rough. A few of the guys threw caution to the wind and got away with it, maybe we should have gambled a bit more. It wasn't the best start, but the roads definitely improved on Saturday."

The roads improved, but the rain which started on Friday evening continued for most of Saturday's six stages around Dumfries.

"I think the rain helped the surface a little bit," said Osian, "certainly the second day wasn't as rough. We really enjoyed these stages, found a good rhythm and started climbing up the leaderboard."

The Alpera/Hills Ford Fiesta R5's climb looked like it might have peaked on the Windy Hill stage mid-way through Saturday.

"Smoke started pouring out of the dash," said Osian, "Dale and I thought we had a proper fire starting in the car, so we were just getting ready to pull over when we turned off the heated windscreen and discovered it had been a short which turned into an electrical fire. The smoke stopped so we were able to crack on again. After that we had another puncture near the end of SS8, which cost us a bit more time. Apart from those problems, the car ran really nicely and everything worked well."

The event ended on a high with fastest time and another step climbed on the podium.

"Everything came together on this event," said Osian. "We've been right there all day, we missed fastest time by a couple of seconds when we got the puncture, but we got one on the last stage which was a really positive way to finish. Like I said, we wanted to win, but as somebody pointed out to me at the finish: we're competing against guys who are in their second or third season with these R5 cars. This is our third event and only my fifth in a four-wheel drive car. To be the front-running M-Sport car is a great shot in the arm for us."

Gravel takes a BRC back seat for the next round, when Britain's best take a trip across the Channel to compete in Belgium's world-renowned Ypres Rally.

"Ypres is one of the biggest and best rallies in Europe," said Osian, "it's a really big deal to be going there with the BRC for the first time – and I can't wait. We've really come to terms with this car on the loose and now it's time to translate that into Tarmac rallying."

Osian and the Spencer Sport team will travel to Belgium ahead of the event in an effort to dial the Fiesta R5 into the specific requirements of the Ypres asphalt.

This time...

RSAC Scottish Rally

Result: 2nd

BRC position: 2nd

Based: Dumfries

Service Lockerbie

Stages: 10

Total distance 177 miles

Competitive distance: 74 miles

SS1: 5th fastest (5th overall)

SS2: 5th fastest (5th overall)

SS3: 4th fastest (5th overall)

SS4: 3rd fastest (3rd overall)

SS5: 6th fastest (3rd overall)

SS6: 4th fastest (3rd overall)

SS7: 3rd fastest (3rd overall)

SS8: 2nd fastest (3rd overall)

SS9: 4th fastest (3rd overall)

SS10: fastest (2nd overall)

Weather:

Rain. Then more rain.

Next time...

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.

The rest of 2017...

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 add to the challenge of 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.

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.

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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