

29.07.17
News release

Osian's Rally Finland takes off on day two

A quick and consistent day through the super-fast Finnish forests has helped Welshman Osian Pryce climb into the top four of the WRC2 class at Rally Finland today.

Drier than expected conditions meant more even grip through the day's eight gravel stages and Osian made the most of it in the DMACK World Rally Team Ford Fiesta R5.

With *average* speeds well over 70mph between the trees, Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss have been on flying form as they continued to level their learning curve on only their 10th start in one of the M-Sport-built four-wheel drive Fiestas.

"I was a bit concerned about today," said Osian, "We didn't drive these roads last year, so I wasn't so sure what to expect. But we made good notes and everything went well. We had one small moment on the second stage today and we have to say a big thank you to a lot of the Finnish fans for helping us out.

"I braked in what I thought was the normal place for a square-right corner over a crest, but the car started to spin. Not wanting to cause any damage to the front of the car, I managed to get it right around and we went off the road backwards. Unfortunately we were beached with all four wheels in the air.

"Out of nowhere, loads of fans arrived around the car and started manhandling us back onto the road. They were incredible, somebody hooked a tow-rope on the front and they hauled us off the rock. In the end we only dropped around 40 seconds, but that did knock my confidence a little bit before the Ouninpohja stage."

Ouninpohja is 15 miles of driving heaven; a rollercoaster road which bucks, weaves, dips and darts its way around the lakes for which this part of the world is so famous. And it's also the part of Finland where you really believe cars can fly; 40-metre, 100 mph leaps are a way of life in Jyvaskyla this week.

"Ouninpohja really is special," said Osian. "The feeling you get as a driver is just unbelievable and the sensation when you go sideways over jumps and then fly through the air at those speeds... it's unreal and so, so much fun!

"I can't believe tomorrow's the final day of this amazing adventure. Apart from the unexpected meeting with some very friendly fans, I'm pleased with

today. We stuck to the plan again, made a couple of places and took a lot of experience from this rally."

Weather:

Today: Unexpectedly dry and actually quite sunny

Tomorrow: Supposedly wet, but we said that about today, so it might rain.

And it might not.

Tomorrow is...

Sunday July 30

Osian's day starts: 0830

Osian's day finishes: 1545

Number of stages: four

Competitive distance: 33.84km 21.02 miles

Total distance: 202.90km 126.08 miles

Longest stage: SS23/25 Oittila 10.12km (6.28 miles)

Shortest stage: SS22/24 Lempää 6.80km (4.22 miles)

Meet Osian...

Date of birth: 24.02.93

Lives: Machynlleth

Co-driver: Dale Furniss

First rally: Rally Kurzeme (Latvia) August 2009 – 37th overall, eighth 2WD

Rally starts: 71

British Rally Championship event wins: 5*

British Rally Championship results: 2nd (2013/14), 3rd (2012)

World Rally Championship starts: 12

World Rally Championship class wins: 3

Website: osianpryce.com

* Including Osian's dominant National Rally Cup victory on the Mid Wales Stages in 2016

About Rally Finland

Thursday July 27 – Sunday July 30

Based: Yväsylä

Surface: gravel

Stages: 25

Competitive distance: 314.20km (195.24 miles)

Liaison distance: 1111.76km (690.84 miles)

Website: www.nesterallyfinland.fi/en/

Rally Finland itinerary

Thursday July 27

SS1 Harju 1 2.31km (1.43 miles) 1900

Friday July 28

SS2 Halinen 1 7.65km (4.75 miles) 0712

SS3 Urria 1 12.75km (7.92 miles) 0745

SS4 Jukojärvi 1 21.31km (13.24 miles) 0848
SS5 Halinen 2 7.65km (4.75 miles) 1006
SS6 Urria 2 12.75km (7.92 miles) 1039
SS7 Jukojärvi 2 21.31km (13.24 miles) 1142
Service Jyväskylä 1317
SS8 Äänekoski-Valtra 1 7.39km (4.59 miles) 1500
SS9 Laukaa 1 11.76km (7.30 miles) 1613
SS10 Lankamaa 21.68km (13.47 miles) 1711
SS11 Äänekoski-Valtra 2 7.39km (4.59 miles) 1809
SS12 Laukaa 2 11.76km (7.30 miles) 1922
SS13 Harju 2 2.31km (1.43 miles) 2030
Service Jyväskylä 2050

Saturday July 29

SS14 Pihlajakoski 1 14.90km (9.25 miles) 0858
SS15 Päijälä 1 22.68km (14.09 miles) 1006
SS16 Ouninpohja 1 24.38km (15.14 miles) 1049
SS17 Saalahti 1 4.21km (2.61 miles) 1202
Service Jyväskylä 1252
SS18 Saalahti 2 4.21km (2.61 miles) 1455
SS19 Ouninpohja 2 24.38km (15.14 miles) 1608
SS20 Pihlajakoski 2 14.90km (9.25 miles) 1716
SS21 Päijälä 2 22.68km (14.09 miles) 1824
Service 2029

Sunday July 30

SS22 Lempää 1 6.80km (4.22 miles) 0925
SS23 Oittila 1 10.12km (6.28 miles) 1008
SS24 Lempää 2 6.80km (4.22 miles) 1147
SS25 Oittila 2 10.12km (6.28 miles) 1318
Finish Podium 1500

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Last time...

BRC round 5/7

Nicky Grist Stages

July 8-9

Based: Builth Wells

After building up a solid lead through the classic Welsh woods, Osian's Ford Fiesta R5 succumbs to a fuel-pump problem on the second day over the Epynt ranges. Retiring hurts, but retiring from the lead always hurts just a little bit more.

Happening now...

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.

Next time...

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.

The rest of 2017...

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. Continues his run of podiums with second in Scotland before moving into the **championship lead** on his first ever visit to Ypres.

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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