

News release
30.06.17

British Championship leader Osian ready for home run

Machynlleth driver Osian Pryce leads the best of British to Builth Wells for his home round of the UK's premier rally series next weekend.

Points from a sensational third place on Belgium's Ypres Rally were enough to move Osian and his Alpera/Hills Ford Fiesta R5 to the top of the British Rally Championship table ahead of the Nicky Grist Stages.

Backed by one of Britain's most famous co-drivers ever – Abergavenny's Nicky Grist – the event starts from the centre of Builth Wells on Saturday morning and finishes at the Royal Welsh Showground, just outside Builth, after 20 stages on Sunday afternoon.

Run through the beautiful Elan Valley and across the stunning Brecon Beacons, next weekend's fifth round of the British Rally Championship will showcase Wales perfectly and offer Osian the opportunity to star in – almost – his own backyard.

"There's always something special about coming to the home round of the championship," said Osian. "We've been in Scotland twice, the north of England once, Belgium once and now we're coming home. Wales. Fantastic."

Osian and co-driver Dale have already competed in Wales once this season, scoring a dominant win on April's Rally North Wales. But this weekend is vital in Osian's attempt to go one better than 2013 and 2014 when he finished runner-up in the British Rally Championship.

"I really want the title this year," he said. "Don't get me wrong, I really wanted it in '13 and '14, but this year it's a pretty special one – especially with this being my first season in a four-wheel drive car. To take the title with so little experience of this car would be a real achievement for Dale and I.

"The approach through the whole season is geared to the title. We're working on consistency all the time, it's about taking the points wherever we can. That was what we did in Belgium. I'd never done the Ypres Rally before and, to be honest, I was a bit lost with the set-up of the car to start with, but then it came good and we took valuable points – and the championship lead.

"Coming home in the lead of the British Rally Championship is a great feeling. But as much as competing in Wales means so much to Dale and I, we won't get caught up in that. This weekend is one of seven rounds and our approach remains exactly the same."

The Nicky Grist Stages 100 is, however, unique in the British Rally Championship in that it offers both gravel and asphalt competition in the same weekend. When the cars leave the famous forests of Crychan and Halfway on Saturday night, the Spencer Sport team will work flat out to switch the Fiesta R5 from gravel to asphalt specification for a day on the infamous Epynt ranges on Sunday.

Fortunately, Osian has experience of this style of event – he won the World Rally Championship-based Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy title on the dual-surface Catalunya Rally last October.

“It is quite tricky to switch from one surface to the next,” said Osian, “but you just have to make sure your head’s in the right place. The style of driving is very different; you slide the car much less on the Tarmac, it’s about being neater, tidier and more direct with the car. Competing in Spain last year will definitely help, it gives a real feeling for what’s to come, even if the stages are quite different in nature here in Wales.”

Osian and Dale are in the middle of their busiest period ever right now. After a fourth straight BRC podium in Belgium last week, they were in action at Rally Poland this week and then head to Wales next week.

Details of Osian’s Rally Poland outing are available here ([LINK](#)).

Nicky Grist Stages 100 – the detail

July 8/9

Based: Builth Wells

Service Builth Wells

Stages: 20

Total distance 191.67 miles

Competitive distance: 117.10 miles

Media officer: Paul Evans media@nickygriststages.co.uk

Itinerary

Saturday July 8

SS1 Monument 1 4.91 miles 0904

SS2 Route 60 1 4.92 miles 0936

SS3 Halfway 1 4.87 miles 0959

SS4 Crychan 1 7.73 miles 1021

Service Builth Wells 1126

SS5 Monument 2 4.91 miles 1313

SS6 Route 60 2 4.92 miles 1345

SS7 Halfway 2 4.87 miles 1408

SS8 Crychan 2 7.73 miles 1430

Service Builth Wells (RWS) 1542

Sunday July 9
SS9 New Road 1 10.66 miles 0930
SS10 Burma Road 1 3.00 miles 0953
SS11 Quarry 1 4.35 miles 1006
SS12 New Road 2 10.66 miles 1047
SS13 Burma Road 2 3.00 miles 1110
SS14 Quarry 2 4.35 miles 1123
Service Builth Wells 1209
SS15 Tank 1 4.36 miles 1343
SS16 Dixies 1 3.13 miles 1357
SS17 Drovers Return 1 10.62 miles 1410
SS18 Tank 2 4.36 miles 1500
SS19 Dixies 2 3.13 miles 1514
SS20 Drovers Return 2 10.62 miles 1527
Finish Builth Wells (RWS) 1612

Osian's five facts about Wales

The Menai Bridge (which goes from mainland Wales to Anglesey) was the world's first suspension bridge designed to take heavy traffic. Designed by Thomas Telford, it opened in 1826.

West London and SW19 might think it knows everything about tennis on grass (particularly in the next fortnight...), but lawn tennis was actually invented by Major Walter Wingfield at Nantclwyd Hall near Ruthin in 1873.

We all know Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch is the longest place name in Europe. But it's also the largest single-word internet domain name in the world.

Eddie 'Taffy' Bowen was a genius from Swansea. Not only did he help invent radar communications, but he also turned his hand to making artificial rain...

Ready for some serious competition? Take a deep breath and head for Llanwrtyd Wells and the World Bog Snorkelling Championship in August. It's brilliant, if a bit smelly.

Last time...

BRC round 4/7

Kenotek Ypres Rally

June 23-24

Based: Ypres

Brilliant debut podium on the Ypres Rally moves Osian and Dale into the lead of the British Rally Championship.

Now...

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.

This time...

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.

Next time...

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. 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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