

30.07.16
News release

First Finnish fourth for Pryce

Welshman Osian Pryce banished the demons which had plagued him since his massive Rally Poland crash last month with fourth place in the WRC2 class of Rally Finland.

Only now he's finished the fastest rally in the world can the 24-year-old from Machynlleth talk about how much he wanted a clean run through the forests of central Finland.

"What happened in Poland was a disaster," said Osian, "there's no two ways about it – it was terrible. We won this incredible prize to drive a car built and run by M-Sport, the best team in the World Rally Championship and I crashed the car on the first real stage.

"I wanted so much to go to Poland and perform at the top of my game, but in the end I pushed too hard and paid a big price. I can't tell you how grateful I was to Dick Cormack (DMACK managing director) and Malcolm Wilson (M-Sport managing director) – they were so supportive and told me to forget what happened in Poland and focus on Finland."

Good as their word, M-Sport built Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss a brand new Ford Fiesta R5 in just four days and today (Sunday) the reigning Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy champion delivered their car back to them in fourth place in WRC2 and top Fiesta runner.

And they handed it back having averaged 72mph for almost 200 miles over terrifying 40-metre jumps and some of the wildest rollercoaster roads on planet earth.

"I've absolutely loved every minute of it," said Osian. "I put a whole load of pressure on my own shoulders in Poland, but I'm pleased with the way I've coped with that. Had we come through Poland in one piece, maybe the result could have been better here and we could have pushed harder in some places, but at the end of the day I've taken so, so much experience from this event.

"Today was really slippery in places, there was a bit of damp around under the trees and it was tricky. Today was about bringing the car to the finish. It's easy to look back and wonder what might have happened if we'd had a test and certainly it's not ideal to come to Finland for the first time in a four-wheel drive car without a test, but that's what we had and we had to get on with it. It's been incredible and being part of the M-Sport and DMACK set-up has been an unbelievable eye-opener."

Osian will now turn his attentions to the British Rally Championship, where he will be looking to re-take the lead in the series at the next round in Northern Ireland later this month.

Weather:

Today: sunny all day

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.

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: Yväs kylä

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

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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