

30.07.16
News release

Pryce rolls out of the lead – but he's back in the hunt in Finland tomorrow

After setting a blistering pace to lead the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy on his Rally Finland debut yesterday, Osian Pryce rolled off the top of the timesheets on the second stage today (Saturday).

The Welshman and his co-driver Dale Furniss were uninjured in the crash, but their hopes of taking a second DDFT win from three rounds didn't fare so well. The M-Sport team is repairing the Ford Fiesta R2T in time for tomorrow's final day, when Osian's determined to return to set the pace-setting form he managed through Friday.

Winner of the first two DMACK Trophy prize drives on the last round in Poland, Osian explained what happened in the Päijälä stage: "We didn't get to drive the first stage of the day competitively – another competitor crashed before we got there – so we really got going in the next one.

"Everything was going well until we got to a fourth-gear right. As soon as I turned into the corner, I knew I was carrying too much speed. The corner tightened a little bit and I was already over-committed; we got onto the loose at the outside of the corner and that was it, we were into the trees. We rolled.

"My instant reaction was to put the car into first gear and crack on. We were back on the wheels and there hadn't been any major bangs. But we weren't going anywhere, we couldn't get back out between the trees. That was that, our time in the lead of the DMACK Trophy round was done for the day. Obviously it was really disappointing, but it's not over now.

"Thanks to the hard work of the M-Sport boys, we'll be back out tomorrow and back in the fight for the two more prize drives. Because we scored well last time out in Poland, we still have a chance to win here and when there's a chance, we're going to take it and do everything we can.

"The plan is to push for the bonus points for the fastest times tomorrow and see what happens. It's also vital that we get more experience of Rally Finland for when we come back here next season. We've never driven here, never even been here before, so to come and set the pace that we have is very satisfying. Now let's see what tomorrow brings."

Today was...

Osian's day in detail. His times against his DDFT rivals.

SS11: - (leading DDFT) stage cancelled due to earlier accident

SS12: *Osian off the road on a fourth-gear right-hander*

Weather:

Today: sunny, occasional cloud cover. Temperatures: 16-24 Celsius.
Tomorrow: overnight rain continuing into tomorrow.

Tomorrow is...

Sunday July 31

Osian's day starts: 0830

Osian's day finishes: 1630

Number of stages: four

Competitive distance: 21.25 miles (34.20km)

Total distance: 126.57 miles (203.70km)

Longest stage: SS22/24 Oittila 6.33 miles (10.20km)

Shortest stage: SS21/23 Lempää 4.28 miles (6.90km)

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: 59

British Rally Championship event wins: 5*

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

World Rally Championship starts: 7

World Rally Championship class wins: 2

Website: osianpryce.com

* Including Osian's dominant National Rally Cup victory on this year's Mid Wales Stages

About Rally Finland

July 28-July 31

Based: Jyväskylä

Surface: gravel

Stages: 24

Competitive distance: 333.99km (207.54 miles)

Total distance: 1370.66km (851.72 miles)

Website: www.nesterallyfinland.fi

Rally Finland Itinerary

Thursday July 28

Start Jyväskylä Paviljonki 1842

SS1 Harju 1 2.27km (1.41 miles) 1900

Friday July 29

SS2 Mökkiperä 1 8.60 miles (13.84km) 0713

SS3 Halinen 4.19 miles (6.75km) 0746

SS4 Jukojärvi 1 13.20 miles (21.25km) 0902

SS5 Surkee 1 9.28 miles (14.95km) 1039

SS6 Horkka 1 9.38 miles (15.10km) 1132

Service Jyväskylä Paviljonki 1234
SS7 Äänekoski-Valtra 4.59 miles (7.40km) 1410
SS8 Mökkiperä 2 8.60 miles (13.84km) 1508
SS9 Jukojärvi 2 13.20 miles (21.25km) 1638
SS10 Surkee 2 9.28 miles (14.95km) 1815
SS11 Horkka 2 9.38 miles (15.10km) 1908
SS12 Harju 2 1.41 miles (2.27km) 2030
Service Jyväskylä Paviljonki 2050

Saturday July 30

SS13 Ouninpohja 1 20.50 miles (33.0km) 0808
SS14 Päijälä 1 14.60 miles (23.50km) 0911
SS15 Pihlajakoski 1 9.01 miles (14.51km) 1034
SS16 Saalahti 1 2.73 miles (4.40km) 1152
Service Jyväskylä Paviljonki 1242
SS17 Ouninpohja 2 20.50 miles (33.0km) 1448
SS18 Päijälä 2 14.60 miles (23.50km) 1551
SS19 Pihlajakoski 2 9.01 miles (14.51km) 1714
SS20 Saalahti 2 2.73 miles (4.40km) 1832
Service Jyväskylä Paviljonki 1922

Sunday July 31

SS21 Lempää 1 4.28 miles (6.90km) 0828
SS22 Oittila 1 6.33 miles (10.20km) 0921
SS23 Lempää 2 4.28 miles (6.90km) 1115
SS24 Oittila 2 6.33 miles (10.20km) 1308
Finish Jyväskylä Paviljonki 1413

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Now say hello to the Ford Fiesta R2T

Engine: 999cc turbo, 12-valve, three cylinders
Max power: 180bhp @ 6,200rpm
Max torque: 250Nm @ 4,000rpm
Transmission: Sadev five-speed sequential gearbox, plated limited-slip differential and uprated driveshafts
Suspension: Adjustable Reiger dampers, Eibach springs
Brakes: 285mm discs four-piston calipers (front gravel); 310mm discs four-piston calipers (front asphalt); 280mm discs two-piston calipers (rear); hydraulic handbrake
Wheels: OZ Racing 6x15-inch (gravel); 6.5x15-inch (asphalt)
Dimensions: length 3982mm; width 1695mm; height 1481mm; wheelbase 2490mm
Weight: 1030kg

Osian's guide to 2016

Osian and Dale will contest five rounds of the World Rally Championship in the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy. Here's the details and an Osian download on the big five.

Been and gone...

Rally Portugal

May 19-22

Based: Matosinhos

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 2 (2015, retired – mechanical; 2016 1st in DDFT)

Result: **1st**

Stage wins: 4

Stages led: 1

Osian and Dale took a sensible approach to the first half of the Porto-based opener, but still remained in the top three throughout the event. Moved to the front on the final day and took the win by almost two minutes.

Rally Poland

June 30-July 3

Based: Mikolajki

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 2 (2015, 2nd Junior WRC; 2016, 2nd in DDFT)

Result: 2nd

Stage wins: 8

Stages led: 4

Rarely has second place been celebrated in quite such a fashion. Osian's result secured him the first major victory of the World Rally Championship season so far. Leading the points race after the first two DDFT rounds, Osian and Dale are now confirmed as factory DMACK drivers for two WRC events in a Ford Fiesta R5 next season.

Happening now...

Rally Finland

July 28-31

Based: Jyväskylä

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 0

Osian says: "Talk to anybody involved in rallying and they'll talk about Finland. It's the spiritual home of our sport. OK, recently we've had a couple of French guys dominating the sport, but Finland's where it's at when it comes to the big heroes in the world championship. And you only have to take a look at the roads to see why some of the best drivers in the world come from here. The speed's high and the jumps are just incredible – we'll be flying through the air for 30 or 40 metres at more than 100mph this summer. Can't wait for take off!"

Up and coming...

Rally Germany

August 18-21

Based: Trier

Surface: asphalt

Osian outings: 0

Osian says: "This is a rally of three parts: the vineyard stages, the military testing ground and the country stages. The vineyards are absolutely full of hairpins, winding their way up and down the Mosel valley; absolute precision on the handbrake is called for here. Baumholder is an area used by the army to test tanks, which means plenty of surface changes from good asphalt to really broken concrete; the big danger here is from hinkelsteins, these are massive lumps of rock at the side of the road used to keep tanks on the straight and narrow. And if they don't move for tanks, they're not about to move for our Ford Fiesta R2T!

"Finally, the country roads. We'll feel a bit more at home here, these are not too dissimilar to what we see in Ireland. And, running through the countryside, these stages are prone to the same kind of cow-related surface changes we see in Ireland..."

Rally of Spain

October 13-16

Based: Salou

Surface: gravel/asphalt

Osian outings: 0

Osian says: "Two rallies in one when we get to the final event in Catalunya. The first day is on the gravel, which looks to be fairly similar in places to Portugal, but then it's a weekend on the asphalt. The Tarmac stages are all really nice and now some of the most famous in the world. Generally, they're double-width roads which flow quite nicely and allow you to carry good speed.

"Like the four events before Spain, I can't wait to get there and try them out for myself!"

About the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy

The brainchild of M-Sport World Rally Team principal Malcolm Wilson and DMACK managing director Dick Cormack, the DDFT takes the best young drivers from around the world and pitches them into a five-round fight for the biggest prize south of the World Rally Championship itself.

There's a season in a Ford Fiesta R5 car at rallying's second tier – WRC2 – on offer to the winner after five rounds. The structure of DDFT has changed slightly this season, with rallies being paired (Portugal and Poland; Poland and Finland; Germany and Spain) and the crew gathering the most points from each of those two rallies will win two rallies in the R5 car next season.

Winning a full WRC2 season of 2017 competition in an M-Sport Fiesta R5 will require consistent speed from Osian and Dale this year.

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