

06.03.15
News release

Dominant Pryce takes eight-minute win in Wales

Osian Pryce dominated the opening round of this year's National Rally Cup – winning by more than eight minutes on the Mid Wales Stages.

Driving a Mitsubishi Mirage R5, Pryce and co-driver Dale Furniss turned in the perfect performance, winning every stage by a huge margin to build an eight-minute win over just six stages.

Pryce was understandably delighted with such a commanding performance in the Spencer Sport-run car.

Osian said: "What a result! I'm so pleased with the way things have gone for us. In my mind I wanted to go out and try to dominate this event and that's just what we have done – but to do it with a victory margin of more than eight minutes is pretty special and more than even I imagined.

"I have to give credit to Spencer Sport – the whole team has done a really good job on this rally. The car has run well and we've shown the potential of what the Mirage can do. I think there's more to come from the car, but this is a very good start to the season.

"For me personally, I'm delighted to be back out competing and winning! This definitely wasn't an easy event, there was a lot of snow in the lead up and then overnight as well – I have to say, this was probably one of the trickiest rallies I've ever done."

The event started from Newtown on Saturday evening and finished back there six stages later this afternoon (Sunday).

As well as qualifying for the National Rally Cup, the Mid Wales Stages was the opening round of the British Rally Championship. Despite running without a pre-event recce (a chance to drive the stages before the event, making vital pacenotes – which the NRC crews are not allowed to do), Osian would have been classified fifth in the BRC, having spent the first half of the rally running on the podium.

"The performance against the BRC guys is something I'm especially pleased with," he continued. "We know where our car is compared with the cars competing at the front of the BRC and we know we've got some work to do to get a bit closer to them, so to be running third for a long time was great.

"If I am disappointed about anything it's that we just missed out on a fastest time in the BRC standings. First thing this morning we went off the road in fifth gear on a really icy patch at the top of the Myherin stage. Fortunately,

the speed we went off at helped us – we shot through the ditch and back onto the road. I was a bit gutted when we got to the finish and saw we'd missed the fastest BRC time by six tenths of a second!"

- ends

Osian's Mid Wales Stages in numbers:

SS1: fastest leads by 1m39.6s (4th fastest BRC)

SS2: fastest leads by 2m23.9s (4th fastest BRC)

SS3: fastest leads by 4m57.4s (2nd fastest BRC)

SS4: fastest leads by 5m40.5s (6th fastest BRC)

SS5: fastest leads by 7m27.1s (5th fastest BRC)

SS6: fastest wins by 8m10.0s (5th fastest BRC)

About Osian Pryce

Date of birth: 24.02.93

Lives: Machynlleth

Co-driver: Dale Furniss

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

British Rally Championship starts: 24

British Rally Championship event wins: 4

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

World Rally Championship starts: 5

World Rally Championship class wins: 1

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About the Mid Wales Stages

Date: March 05/06

Based: Newtown

Stages: 6

Competitive distance: 68.02 miles (109.46 kilometres)

Total distance: 233.25 miles (375.37 kilometres)

Website: www.midwalesstages.co.uk

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