

30.04.17  
News release

### **Pirelli podium for frustrated Pryce**

Welshman Osian Pryce finished runner-up on this weekend's Pirelli International Rally, a result which leaves him a strong second in the British Rally Championship standings.

The 24-year-old from Machynlleth is in his first full season of four-wheel drive rallying and continues to impress with the speed at which he's leveling such a steep learning curve.

Osian arrived at the start on the back of a dominant win on his home event, Rally North Wales and he had high hopes of repeating that success in the Kielder complex. And he came close, but ultimately there was frustration for the Welshman.

Driving his usual Alphera/Hills Ford Fiesta R5, Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss had closed the gap to leader Fredrik Ahlin (Skoda Fabia R5, Sweden) to just 4.6 seconds with two stages remaining. Unfortunately for the Welshmen, that was as close as they would get.

A handbrake issue on the next two stages cost valuable time and ensured it would be the second step of the podium for them.

"We've taken good points and we've learned more about the car this weekend," said Osian, "and those are both really good things, but I've got to admit I was a bit frustrated when we were driving south back home. We'd gone really well to reel Fredrik in and just at the point where we could really strike, the handbrake stopped working."

The loss of a handbrake wouldn't normally be a problem in the super-fast Kielder stages, but the organisers had put chicanes into the stages to slow the cars down and it was in those tight turns that the time – and a possible first BRC win of the season – was lost.

"The chicanes were quite tight," said Osian, "and we were having to shunt forwards and backwards to get through them. Once you start doing that, once you start having to use reverse gear, you're shipping a lot of time and really losing out. I felt we had the speed to win this one, but we didn't and we move on to the next round in Scotland."

One of the highlights of the rally was the feeling Osian had for the Spencer Sport-run Fiesta R5 on Sunday's second day.

"We hit a small bump on the second stage of the rally," said Osian, "and this damaged the steering slightly. I was having to work the steering harder to

get the car into the corners, which wasn't ideal. At the end of the day, the guys changed the steering rack and that, combined with some geometry changes, really helped the car.

"From the first couple of corners on Sunday, I felt the car was different and really working – it was fantastic. I was comfortable in the Fiesta and I'm now really starting to feel like we're working very well together. This is good for the future.

"One thing is sure looking forward, this is going to be a big fight for the British Rally Championship title this season. The roads in Kielder are always quite hard on the car, but there weren't too many serious issues for anybody, so the cars are looking reliable and quick this year. Scotland's the next round and there are a good few potential winners – let's just hope it's our turn when we get up north for the third and final time this season."

### **This time...**

Pirelli International Rally

Result: 2<sup>nd</sup>

BRC position: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Based: Carlisle

Service H&H Carlisle

Stages: 8

Total distance 269 miles

Competitive distance: 100 miles

SS1: 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest (3<sup>rd</sup> overall)

SS2: 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest (3<sup>rd</sup> overall)

SS3: 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

SS4: 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

SS5: 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

SS6: 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

SS7: 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

SS8: 6<sup>th</sup> fastest (2<sup>nd</sup> overall)

### **Weather:**

Today: sunny/overcast, 7-16 degrees

### **Next time...**

BRC round 3/7

RSAC Scottish Rally

May 19-20

Based: Dumfries

Slightly earlier date than usual might keep the midges away, but the challenge of classics such as Castle O'er and Twiglees will remain.

### **The rest of 2017...**

BRC round 4/7

Kenotek Ypres Rally

June 23-24

Based: Ypres

One of European rallying's greatest asphalt rallies (not to mention the brilliant atmosphere), former winners include Walter Röhrl, Henri Toivonen and Kris Meeke.

*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.*

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.

*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 embellish 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.

### **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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