

29.06.17
News release

Perfect start for Pryce in Poland

Welshman Osian Pryce made the perfect start to his first ever overseas World Rally Championship round in a four-wheel drive car at Rally Poland today (Thursday).

Pryce and co-driver Dale Furniss completed the opening test, a 1.55-mile (2.50km) crowd-pleaser close to the rally's hometown, fourth in the all-important WRC2 class.

Osian joins the DMACK World Rally Team alongside countryman and tonight's overall rally leader Elfyn Evans for this week's Mikolajki-based event. Osian's drive aboard a Ford Fiesta R5, tuned and tended by two-time world champion team M-Sport, is his prize from winning last year's WRC-based Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy.

After final preparations, Osian admitted he was glad to get the big event underway.

"It's nice to get in there, get a stage done and get settled in," he said. "The stage itself went well, I enjoyed it. It's really only a stage for the fans this one, but it was important to make no mistakes and we did that."

Having completed the stage, Osian and Dale headed straight for the hotel after a quick debrief with the team.

"Running as part of the DMACK World Rally Team is an incredible opportunity," said Osian. "These boys just do things at a completely different level, it's amazing. Dale and I haven't had to think about anything this week; normally we can be running around like headless chickens on a rally. But here, working with a professional team that competes on 13 rounds of the world championship year-in-year-out, the difference is incredible.

"Before we've even started the rally, the good thing about this prize is that it gives you an insight into what's possible with hard work, dedication and a good bit of speed. I've had a glimpse of life on the right side of the world championship and I like it!"

Tomorrow's stages take Osian and the rest of the crews east of the Masurian Lake District town of Mikolajki.

"I'm really looking forward to tomorrow," said Osian. "It'll be interesting to see what the weather's going to do. We had a big storm last night and a huge one earlier today which forced the organisers to cancel the ceremonial start. It was absolutely pouring down. It would be nice if it stayed dry tomorrow,

there are going to be so many spectators out there at the side of the road and nobody likes standing in the rain! For me, I don't mind, I can't do anything to change what the weather's going to do, so I'm not going to worry about it."

Tomorrow is:

Friday June 30

Osian's day starts: 0700

Osian's day finishes: 2000

Number of stages: nine

Competitive distance: 116.16km (72.18 miles)

Total distance: 585.24km (363.66 miles)

Longest stage: SS4/8 Swietajno 19.60km (12.17 miles)

Shortest stage: SS10 Super Special Mikolajki 2.50km (1.55 miles)

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: 68 (69 if you include this week's Ypres Rally)

British Rally Championship event wins: 5*

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

World Rally Championship starts: 11

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 Poland

Thursday June 29 – Sunday July 2

Based: Mikolajki

Surface: gravel

Stages: 23

Competitive distance: 326.64km (202.97 miles)

Total distance: 1422.63km (884.02 miles)

Website: www.rajdpolski.pl

Rally Poland Itinerary

Thursday June 29

Ceremonial Start, Mikolajki Main Square 1600

SS1 Super Special Stage Mikolajki Arena (2.50km) 1.55 miles 1908

Friday June 30

SS2 Chimielewo 1 6.52km (4.05 miles) 0715

SS3 Wieliczki 1 15.96km (9.91 miles) 0900

SS4 Swietajno 1 19.60km (12.17 miles) 0955

SS5 Stare Juchy 1 13.50km (8.38 miles) 1040

Service Mikolajki 1225
SS6 Chimielewo 2 6.52km (4.05 miles) 1345
SS7 Wieliczki 2 15.96km (9.91 miles) 1530
SS8 Swietajno 2 19.60km (12.17 miles) 1625
SS9 Stare Juchy 2 13.50km (8.38 miles) 1710
SS10 Super Special Stage Mikolajki Arena (2.50km) 1.55 miles 1908
Service Mikolajki 1928

Saturday July 1

SS11 Baranowo 1 15.55km (9.66 miles) 0808
SS12 Pozezdrze 1 24.28km (15.08 miles) 0920
SS13 Goldap 1 14.75km (9.16 miles) 1045
SS14 Kruklanki 1 19.58km 12.16 miles 1135
Service Mikolajki 1257
SS15 Baranowo 2 15.55km (9.66 miles) 1408
SS16 Pozezdrze 2 24.28km (15.08 miles) 1520
SS17 Goldap 2 14.75km (9.16 miles) 1645
SS18 Kruklanki 2 19.58km 12.16 miles 1735
SS19 Super Special Stage Mikolajki Arena (2.50km) 1.55 miles 1930
Service 1950

Sunday July 2

SS20 Orzysz 1 11.15km (6.92 miles) 0810
SS21 Paprotki 1 18.68km (11.60 miles) 0908
SS22 Orzysz 2 11.15km (6.92 miles) 1045
SS23 Paprotki 2 18.68km (11.60 miles) 1218
Finish Podium 1430

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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.

Happening 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.*

Next 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.

The rest of 2017...

BRC round 5/7

Nicky Grist Stages

July 8-9

Based: Builth Wells

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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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