

30.06.17
News release

Crash ends Osian's Polish promise

Welsh rally driver Osian Pryce crashed out of Rally Poland on the second stage of the Mikolajki-based event this morning (Friday).

Osian, who was awarded the Rally Poland outing for winning last year's World Rally Championship-based Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy, and co-driver Dale Furniss were uninjured in the accident which happened mid-way through the day's opening test. The DMACK World Rally Team Ford Fiesta R5 was, however, too badly damaged for them to continue.

Rally Poland was Osian's first four-wheel drive event outside of Britain and the Welshman made the perfect start, posting fourth fastest at Thursday night's spectator-pleasing loosener on the edge of Mikolajki, 150 miles north of Warsaw.

Osian said: "We'd turned from a wide road onto a narrower road and with so much rain having fallen the surface was horrible, it was almost like driving through slurry – certainly under braking at times it was like ice.

"We came over a couple of crests and into a right-left-right sequence. We'd done this stage last year and I knew the place; in the dry it's flat-out and no problem. But, because of the rain, I just touched the brake before the first entry and the rear of the car just stepped away. In fourth gear and on such a narrow road, there was no chance of me catching it. The rear touched the grass, that sent the front into a big rock and we started to roll.

"There were two heavy impacts in the accident and it was one or both of those that damaged the roll cage. Once the roll cage is damaged, the organisers don't allow you to continue in the event, so that was that.

"As I stood there, looking at the car on its roof in the middle of the road I couldn't believe it. It was like my dream had turned to a nightmare. The good thing is that Dale and I are OK. We're a bit bruised and we'll be doing a bit of work with the physio tomorrow, but we're still in one piece and we're ready to fight again to defend our lead in the British Rally Championship next week.

"I had this opportunity and it didn't end the way I wanted it to, but we will move onwards and upwards from this. That doesn't mean to say I'm not sorry, so very sorry for the DMACK World Rally Team, Dick [Cormack, team principal] and Malcolm Wilson [M-Sport World Rally Team principal] and every single person who put their effort into making an amazing rally car for me. Thankfully for Dale and I, this fantastic team made a really strong car that saved us in the biggest crash of our lives."

There's no time for Osian and Dale to dwell on their early exit in Poland – they've got the next round of the British Rally Championship, next weekend's Nicky Grist Stages to think about.

The good news for the Welsh pair is that they head to the Builth Wells event at the top of the British Rally Championship table.

And Osian won't have to wait long for his second World Rally Championship outing with the DMACK World Rally Team – he'll be back in action in the factory Ford Fiesta R5 at Rally Finland (July 27-30).

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

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 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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