

Osian Pryce is looking forward to a very busy 2017 with a complete Prestone British Rally Championship programme dovetailing with selected World Rally Championship outings with the Drive DMACK World Rally Team – both in a Ford Fiesta R5. This is the first in a series of newsletters to keep you up to speed with Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss as they progress through the season.

#### Osian's coming home

Osian Pryce will contest Saturday's Rally North Wales, with the Alphera/Hills Ford Fiesta R5 starting from number one on the Dolgellau-based event. Fresh from his podium finish on the British Rally Championship opener at the Border Counties, Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss are looking forward to getting back out into their local woods as they continue to get to know the Fiesta R5 they're using this season.

"It's fantastic news to be competing at Rally North Wales," said reigning World Rally Championship DDFt category champion Pryce. "The Dyfi and Gartheiniog stages are some of the best in the world and to have the chance to drive them again on Saturday is great. It's nice for Dale and I to come home, but it's also really important seat time in the Fiesta. This is the best rally car I've ever driven and I want to learn as much as possible about the car and the set-up before the next round of the BRC."

Rally North Wales starts from Dolgellau at 0900 on Saturday (April 1) and finishes after two loops of three stages in Gartheiniog and Dyfi back on Dolgellau at 1530. Spectator details are available here ([LINK http://rallynorthwales.co.uk/spectator](http://rallynorthwales.co.uk/spectator))

#### Life on ice

As far as telephone calls go, the one Osian received from Richard Tuthill was quite short. Would he like to go and drive some of Britain's best historic-specification Porsche 911s on a frozen lake?

Yes please.

Done deal.

And that's how Osian ended up spending two weeks of his life sideways in Sweden's far north. In a place called Åre, to be precise. That's Oar-eh, by-the-way. Not 'Are', as in, are you cold?

"We were doing some tuition for Richard's Below Zero Ice Driving ([LINK http://www.belowzeroicedriving.com/](http://www.belowzeroicedriving.com/)) customers," said Osian. "I'd never driven a 911 before and learning to tame one of the world's most notoriously tale-happy cars on ice was absolutely brilliant. I loved it. The place, the people and the cars were all fantastic. The only downside, if there was one, was the reindeer. Not seeing them, that was great. It was the eating of them that stopped me in my tracks a bit. In Scandinavia, Reindeer is farmed in the same way we farm beef cattle. But still, I couldn't help but think about Rudolf and Prancer when I was handed my first reindeer burger!"

#### Teaching the Texan way

Osian's globe-trotting start to 2017 continued when he was asked to head across the Atlantic to tutor American rally driver Dave Wallingford ahead of his World Rally Championship debut at Rally Mexico.

Flying into Texas for two days, Osian schooled Wallingford in the art of getting the absolute maximum out of a Ford Fiesta R2. Given that Osian won world rallying's biggest junior prize (the 2017 Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy) in one of these cars, there are very few better qualified to show the way. Osian and Dave made solid progress, helping ensure a finish on the León-based WRC round for Wallingford.

Once the sun went down Stateside, there was a chance to take a look around a part of the world Osian had never previously visited. And that included a trip to a restaurant with 105 different beers on tap all day, every day.

"What a great place," said Osian. "It was different to anywhere I'd been before, but I had a great time with Dave. Only being a couple of days, I seemed to spend all my time in a rally car, sleeping or eating... those Texans know how to make a steak! As for the beer, one down, 104 to go!"