

News release
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Sharing a Teacake with Sheeran, a Spitfire and a rally... that's Stuart's week

Glasgow rally star Stuart Loudon won't forget this week in a hurry.

He started the week in the family business at Tunnock's where he was, no doubt, making more Teacakes for Ed Sheeran.

After hanging up the famous red and white overalls on Tuesday morning, Stuart heads south of the border for another pair on Wednesday. This time the attire is a wee bit more regimented. And khaki.

This time he'll be togged out ready for a very special take-off... in a genuine, Castle Bromwich-built, Merlin-engined Spitfire. Stuart will realise his dream when he sits back seat in one of the world's most famous military aircraft – an aeroplane which helped win the Battle of Britain.

Stuart will be flying through that same, hard-fought airspace over Dover's famous white cliffs, 78 years after those heroic pilots from both sides of the English Channel.

Back to reality. Stuart will be back in the air the next day, this time flying across the Channel, bound for Belgium and Rally van Wervik.

Stuart starts Saturday's 101-mile Belgian event with Aberdonian Lawrence Whyte aboard his Ford Fiesta R5.

"It's not often you have a week like this one," said Stuart. "It started last weekend when we got the chance to go and see Ed Sheeran play in Glasgow and he walked out to start the gig eating a Teacake. How cool is that?"

"I was into the factory on Monday to make sure there were enough Teacakes made to get him through the rest of his world tour and then it was south to Goodwood Aerodrome.

"I've always been fascinated by the Spitfire, the noise, the majesty and, of course, the history of the thing. My Dad flew in the back of one of these specially converted Spitfires a while ago and I was always so keen to have a go myself. And now the time's coming, I'm counting the minutes until that big V12 engine fires into life.

"What's even more interesting for me is that I started my engineering career with the aeronautical division of Rolls-Royce. Honestly, I'm hugely excited to be fortunate enough to be living this dream this week.

“And to top that with a rally in Belgium is just the perfect end to the perfect week. My focus is 100 per cent on gaining more seat time as a co-driver and more time competing internationally. I’m talking to a few folk about the second half of this season and more towards next year, I’m working harder than ever right now to realise my ambition of becoming a professional co-driver.”

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Stuart Loudon is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 101 rallies, 19 of which are rounds of the World Rally Championship and one of which was with an Ashes-winning English cricketer. He makes biscuits in the family business when he’s not working towards his dream of becoming a factory co-driver in the WRC.