

News release  
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## **Stuart's ready for a Saturday on Speyside**

World renowned author Daniel Defoe described Elgin as "a very agreeable place." Who are we to disagree? And it'll be especially agreeable when the Scottish Rally Championship arrives on the banks of the River Lossie this weekend.

And Glasgow co-driver Stuart Loudon will be among those making the journey north.

"I've done the Speyside Stages four times before," said Stuart. "It's always a rally I really enjoy – even though I retired from it when I was in a Ford Fiesta R5 car with Dale Robertson last year.

"The forests up around Elgin offer some really good roads: the event's a great challenge and it's a fantastic part of the world to be competing in."

Certainly is, Stuart. In fact, it's quite possible Elgin had an impact on the world's second most translated book... Robinson Crusoe. Defoe wrote it two years after his trip to Moray's Royal Burgh.

Stuart starts the second round of this year's Scottish Rally Championship alongside Lawrence Whyte in a Ford Fiesta R5.

The pair made their competitive debut on the Snowman Rally in February, where Stuart was impressed with the way the 18-year-old had made the transition from world championship quadbike racing to being told where to go in a rally car.

"Lawrence has a real natural balance in the rally car," said Stuart. "You can feel straight away that he's comfortable in the environment. He did a rally in Wales [the Rallynuts Stages Rally, finished 13<sup>th</sup>] last weekend and he's had a day of testing, so he'll come into this event on the back of some good seat time."

It's back-to-back weekends for Stuart, with him and Lawrence contesting the Pirelli International Rally (April 28) seven days after the Speyside.

"Saturday will be a good shakedown for Lawrence and I," said Stuart. "As his first British Rally Championship outing, the Pirelli will be a bit of a step up, but I'm sure he'll be ready for it."

So, to Elgin – home of Britain's most northerly football league side, Elgin City. And anybody who knows anything about football will know Elgin City was once graced by the presence of Scottish international Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnstone

– a man whose career was celebrated with a statue and memorial garden in Viewpark, Uddingston, close to Stuart's work at Tunnock's bakery.

And just before we go... for those of you wondering, the world's most translated book wasn't written by Ian Rankin. And no, it's not Trainspotting. It's the Bible.

**Event data:**

McDonald & Munro Speyside Stages

Saturday April 21

Event HQ: Moray College, Elgin

Start: Cooper Park, Elgin 0900

Stages: 10

Competitive distance: 44.82

Total distance: 156.93

Finish: Moray College, Elgin 1615

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**Stuart Loudon** is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 98 rallies, 20 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.