

News release – event review  
22.04.17

### **Jedburgh to Elgin via Uddingston with a long view on South America... that's Stuart's week**

*"Today has totally refocused my attention on what I want to do, I want to be back in a car and competing as soon as possible."*

Lanarkshire co-driver Stuart Loudon kick-started a busy week of rallying and Teacake making at the Speyside Stages in Elgin today (Saturday).

Stuart joined Dale Robertson for his debut in a Ford Fiesta R5 on the Scottish Rally Championship qualifier, with the pair running on the fringes of the top 10 before they retired with radiator damage on the penultimate stage.

Before Stuart started the latest Scottish Rally Championship round in Moray, he dashed 200 miles up the road from the Borders, where he'd been testing with M-Sport's British Rally Championship team.

"Doing the test yesterday really helped me slide straight into the rally car today," said Stuart. "Both Dale and I had been away from competition for longer than we wanted; it's six months for me and a year for him. I was pretty pleased with the car we were using: it was the same Fiesta I co-drove John MacCrone to victory on the Mull Rally in October."

Despite not making the finish, the pair showed plenty of pace on their first rally in one of M-Sport's cutting-edge R5 cars.

"We were caught out on a quick downhill section that was really muddy," said Loudon. "The back of the car stepped out and started to come around, which sent the front into some small trees. We made it to the end of the stage and everything looked fine, but the marshals told us there was something leaking at the front of the car – we'd damaged the radiator and that was that. It was a real shame not to make the finish, but Dale showed real progression on his first event in the car.

"I have to say, today has totally refocused my attention on what I want to do, I want to be back in a car and competing as soon as possible. There's nothing like that feeling of calling notes..."

Stuart, a graduate of British motorsport's elite Team UK, will now turn his attentions to South America and the latest round of the World Rally Championship.

"I'm not travelling to Rally Argentina with the M-Sport World Rally Team," said Stuart, "I'll be back with the team for the next European round in Portugal next month, but even though I'm not there, it's impossible to switch

off. I'm fortunate enough to be included in the team communications for the event, which is fantastic – it keeps me totally in the loop with what's going on.

"M-Sport goes to Argentina in the lead of the manufacturers' championship – a huge achievement considering its private Ford Fiesta WRC is facing teams from some of the world's biggest car makers in Hyundai, Toyota and Citroën – and with number one crew and co-driver Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia also at the top of the table.

"It's such an exciting time to be involved and working with M-Sport. This new generation of the World Rally Championship has really fired the imagination of sports fans around the world; there'll be close to a million people lining the roads around Cordoba next week."

Rally Argentina's host town of Villa Carlos Paz is four hours behind Uddingston, which means Stuart will be working double-time this week.

"We've just incorporated a new robot into the production line at Tunnock's," said Stuart, "which is always a really interesting time, just to see how that machine can further streamline the process – but I must admit I'll be keeping a very keen eye and ear on what's going on in Argentina.

"There's no doubt, it's going to be a really exciting week between Scotland and South America."

Read the Loudon-clear guide to YPF Rally Argentina [here](#).

Speyside Stages pictures available from Eddie Kelly Motorsport Photography.

**Stuart Loudon media contact:**

Sandra Evans  
Sandra@wordspr.com  
+ 44 7887 693993

**Stuart Loudon** is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 89 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.