

News release
29.10.17

Stuart's home and dry on historic day for Tunnock's and M-Sport

What happened?

Uddingston co-driver Stuart Loudon co-drove Matthew Wilson to the finish of what was a historic event for their M-Sport World Rally Team. Their Tunnock's-backed Ford Fiesta R5 suffered a persistent misfire through the first two stages, but a change of spark plug ahead of the third looked to have the problem solved. By then, all sights were set on the finish and joining the rest of the team at the end of an incredible week.

What else happened?

Well... M-Sport driver Elfyn Evans won the event and became the first Brit to win his home round of the World Rally Championship since Richard Burns in 2001. That's for starters; Evans' team-mate Sebastien Ogier won a fifth straight world title and M-Sport was crowned manufacturers' world champions. Not bad for a Sunday on Deeside.

What was the weather like?

Cloudy and overcast out in the woods, but the sun was shining on the Cumbrian corner of the service park. Temperatures ranged from 12 to 15 degrees.

Tell us something about Sunday...

It's the shortest day of the event and a day which ended next to Brenig lake, known locally as Llyn Brenig. It's actually a reservoir, which was first filled in 1979 and holds 60 million cubic metres of water. But, among WRC folk, it's famous for being the Rally GB powerstage.

What did Stuart say?

"There was some amount of frustration at not getting out last night, but heading for the stages again this morning was the best way to get over that. Unfortunately, the misfire started early and the road sections between the first two stages was so tight there was really no chance of getting anything done.

"We worked on the spark plugs after the second one and that helped, the engine would rev more cleanly.

"The third stage of the day was quite a tricky one. It was very different in nature to the other two and it was incredibly slippery in places. It was actually quite like driving through a park rather than a forest, but we got through with no dramas.

"For the final two stages, I think Matt and I were both thinking a little bit about what was going on at the front. Obviously M-Sport is Matthew's family

firm and his team, but I've been fortunate to work with these guys all year as well. Hearing the news that M-Sport was world champion again, Séb [Ogier] had won the drivers' title and Elfyn [Evans] had won the rally was a pretty special moment in our Fiesta too. Certainly today's a day I won't be forgetting in a while."

Tell us a Tunnock's tale:

Tunnock's has been baking biscuits in Uddingston for the last 127 years. That's a lot of biscuits.

Today was...

SS17 Alwen 1 10.41km (6.46 miles) 0834

SS18 Brenig 1 6.43km (3.99 miles) 0908

SS19 Gwydir 7.49km (4.65 miles) 1006

SS20 Alwen 2 10.41km (6.46 miles) 1109

SS21 Brenig 2 6.43km (3.99 miles) 1218

Finish Llandudno 1335

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Stuart Loudon is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 96 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.