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News release

Loudon joins M-Sport in search of continued home rule

Glasgow co-driver Stuart Loudon has been confirmed as part of M-Sport's challenge for this year's British Rally Championship (BRC).

A familiar face at M-Sport's Cumbria base, Stuart has worked as a co-driver and coordinator with the team which has taken more World Rally Championship titles than any other in the last two seasons.

Alongside rising star and fellow Scot Alex Laffey, Stuart will chase the coveted British Rally Championship title as one of two official M-Sport-entered Ford Fiesta R5s this season.

Stuart said: "It's a real honour to be asked to work with M-Sport in the defence of an impeccable British Rally Championship record – the Fiesta R5 hasn't been beaten to the title at home for the last three years. We'll be working hard to make that four.

"The BRC has undergone something of a makeover in the last few years and it's quite clear it's back to its best. When you look back through the history of this series, the true greats of the sport have all come here and conquered this crown. The flying Finns regularly used the British Rally Championship as a stepping stone into the World Rally Championship, but the silverware bears the name of homegrown heroes as well: Colin McRae and Derek Ringer, Richard Burns and Robert Reid as well as M-Sport's own managing director Malcolm Wilson, who won the title with Bryan Thomas co-driving for him in 1994.

"It's that kind of heritage – along with some of the best rallies and roads in the world – that makes the BRC something special. It's fantastic to have the chance to get stuck into a season in 2019 and I'm really looking forward to working with Alex through the year ahead as well."

The six-round British Rally Championship season gets underway with the Cambrian Rally (February 16), based out of the north Welsh seaside town of Llandudno.

Nobody at M-Sport understands the importance of the British title like Malcolm Wilson does. The former champion said: "I came close to the British title a few times, so I was absolutely delighted to get it in the bag in one of my own Ford Escort RS Cosworths in 1994. Then as now, the British title was a very, very important asset to any driver or co-driver's CV.

"There's a strong record of success at home here at M-Sport and we want to see that continue. We're really pleased to have Stuart with us in 2019. We've

worked with him for a number of years in the world championship and he'll bring experience and expertise to our BRC campaign. This team's hungry for success and I'm excited to see what we can do this season."

2019 British Rally Championship

Cambrian Rally (Wales, gravel) February 16

Quality Hotel West Cork Rally (Ireland, asphalt) March 16/17

Pirelli International Rally (England, gravel) April 27

Renties Ypres Rally (Ypres, asphalt) June 28/29

Ulster Rally (Northern Ireland, asphalt) August 17

The Armstrong Galloway Hills Rally, (Scotland, gravel) September 14

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Stuart Loudon is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 104 rallies, 21 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.

Stuart Loudon and Words PR work their socks off to make sure every last dot and detail of the document is 100 per cent accurate – but we can't be responsible for any changes to the itinerary or stage distances.