

The Loudon-clear guide to... RSAC Scottish Rally

Officially, Saturday is the RSAC Scottish Rally. But to you, me, and the wider world of British rallying, it's The Scottish.

It's this country's biggest rally and one no summer would be complete without. The Scottish has been running since 1961 and the list of winners is a real who's who of world rallying. All three of the rallying McRaes: Jimmy, Colin and Alister won it, as did M-Sport World Rally Team boss Malcolm Wilson.

And the Finns have had fair success north of Hadrian's Wall too; Ari Vatanen, Hannu Mikkola, Pentti Airikkala, Simo Lampinen, Mikael Sundstrom and Tapio Laukkanen all took at least one win. Tommi Makinen might have four world titles, but he's only for an F2 win on the Scottish...

The event has evolved down the years and it's no longer the race up and down the land it once was, but a Dumfries base still offers access to some of the world's most wonderful woods. Stages like Twiglees and Castle O'er are part of British rallying legend and it's fantastic to see the best of the British Rally Championship lining up there on Saturday morning.

As you'd expect, there's a bit of a family connection with the Scottish: my father (Fergus Loudon) scored his best result on this rally when he co-drove John Gray to 11th overall in a Group A Ford Sierra Cosworth in 1990. They finished just one place behind a certain Jimmy McRae, taking the award for top privateer crew. In those days, the Scottish was a European as well as British Rally Championship qualifier and included 226 miles of competition – more than your average World Rally Championship counter these days.

It's an event that's close to my heart and after finishing second with Matthew Wilson on the last British Rally Championship round (Pirelli Carlisle Rally, April 29-May 1), I'm gutted not to be back aboard a Ford Fiesta R5 to try and emulate that result on my home round of the series.

Have a great Scottish. And don't forget to take yourselves a Teacake or two home.

The rally ahead...

MSA British Rally Championship round 4/7

Date: June 25

Based: Dumfries

Service: Heathhall

Stages: 8

Competitive distance: 99.87km (62.06 miles)

Liaison distance: 113.50km (170.53 miles)

Total distance: 374.29km (232.59 miles)

Longest stage: Mount Joe SS8 17.12km (10.64 miles)

Shortest stage: Burnfoot (SS6) 8.99km (5.59 miles)

Sunrise: 0436

Sunset: 2158

Itinerary

Saturday June 25

Ceremonial start – Whitesands, Dumfries 0800

SS1 Twiglees 8.93 miles (14.37km) 0903

SS2 Castle O'er 5.89 miles (9.47km) 0926

Service Heathhall 1046

SS3 Glencorse Hill 6.63 miles (10.66km) 1152

SS4 Gubhill Rig 9.60 miles (15.44 km) 1219

SS5 Rivox 6.61 miles (10.63km) 1319

Service Heathhall 1428

SS6 Burnfoot 5.59 miles (8.99km) 1533

SS7 Knockenshang 8.17 miles (13.14km) 1602

SS8 Mount Joe 10.64 miles (17.12km)

Finish – High Street, Dumfries - 1821

Top 10 entries

- 1 Elfyn Evans/Craig Parry (Ford Fiesta R5)
- 2 Fredrik Åhlin/Morten Braahamsen (Ford Fiesta R5 Evo)
- 3 David Bogie/Kevin Rae (Škoda Fabia R5)
- 4 Tom Cave/James Morgan (Ford Fiesta R5 Evo)
- 5 Josh Moffett/John Rowan (Ford Fiesta R5)
- 6 Desi Henry/Liam Moynihan (Škoda Fabia R5)
- 7 Jonathan Greer/Kirsty Riddick (Citroen DS3 R5)
- 8 Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton (Peugeot 208 T16)
- 9 Jock Armstrong/ Paula Swinscoe (Subaru Impreza)
- 10 Garry Pearson/Robbie Mitchell (Ford Fiesta)

Stuart Loudon's key stage:

When you have Castle O'er and Twiglees on the itinerary, it's impossible to choose between the two of them. These are both absolute classics and definitely two of my favourites in Scotland.

Stuart will be watching... David Bogie/Kevin Rae #3 Škoda Fabia R5
Being the local, David has got to be one to watch. He's got good experience of the stages and has shown some great pace this year. Sticking with the Scottish theme, if you asked me to name another driver to watch I'd say Scottish Rally Championship frontrunner Garry Pearson. It'll be interesting to see his pace compared to the British Rally Championship regulars.

Weather with you:

18 degrees. Sunshine. Thundery showers.

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Friday June 24: 0900-2100

Saturday June 25: 0600-2100

Stuart's restaurant recommendation:

Dumfries is a great place. David Coulthard's from here and so was Robert Burns (known Rabbie Burns in these parts). Burns' old house has now been turned into a pub – the Globe Inn (56 High Street, Dumfries, 01387 252335). Go there, it's really cool. Have Cullen Skink to start followed by haggis, neeps and tatties. And a Caramel Wafer for desert (obviously).

Recent winners:

2006: Dave Weston/Dave Robson (Ford Focus RS WRC)

2007: Gary Adam/Gordon Adam (Subaru Impreza)

2008: Dave Weston/Dave Robson (Ford Focus RS WRC)

2009: Mike Faulkner/Peter Foy (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo VI)

2010: David Bogie/Kevin Rae (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)

2011: Jock Armstrong/Kirsty Riddick (Subaru Impreza)

2012: David Bogie/Kevin Rae (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)

2013: Euan Thorburn/Paul Beaton (Ford Focus WRC)

2014: David Bogie/Kevin Rae (Ford Fiesta R5)

2015: David Bogie/Kevin Rae (Ford Fiesta R5)

MSA British Rally Championship stat centre

Rounds run: 3

Mid Wales Stages (March 5), winners: Evans/Parry; Circuit of Ireland Rally (April 7-9), winners: Moffett/Rowan; Pirelli Carlisle Rally (April 30-May1), winners: Åhlin/Abrahamsen)

Stages completed: 27

Accumulated winning time: 4h09m26.1s

Accumulated competitive distance completed: 271.61 miles (437.10km)

Accumulated liaison distance completed: 536.38 miles (863.18km)

Accumulated total distance completed: 807.99 miles (1300.28km)

Longest stage of the season so far: Chirdonhead 16.15 miles (25.84km, Pirelli Carlisle Rally)

Shortest stage of the season so far: Shepherdshield 6.51 miles (10.41km, Pirelli Carlisle Rally)

BRC fastest stage times (after round 3/7)

1 Elfyn Evans GBR/Craig Parry GBR (Ford Fiesta R5) 15

2 Fredrik Åhlin SWE/Morton Abrahamsen NOR (Ford Fiesta R5) 9

3 David Bogie GBR/Kevin Rae GBR (Škoda Fabia R5) 4

BRC stages led (after round 3/7)

- 1 Evans/Parry 9
- = Åhlin/Abrahamsen 9
- 3 Josh Moffett/John Rowan 6

Junior BRC fastest stage times (after round 3/7)

- 1 Robert Duggan IRL/Ger Conway IRL (Vauxhall Adam R2) 11
- 2 Mattias Adielsson SWE/Andreas Johansson SWE (Vauxhall Adam R2) 6
- 3 Sindre Furuseth NOR/Goril Undebakke NOR (Renault Twingo R2) 5

Junior BRC stages led (after round 3/7)

- 1 Duggan/Conway 19
- 2 Gus Greensmith/Alex Gelsomino 5
- 3 Furuseth/Undebakke 3

Standings

MSA British Rally Championship standings (after round 3/7)

- 1 Åhlin 65
- 2 Evans 60
- 3 Moffett 30

Junior MSA DMACK British Rally Championship standings (after round 3/7)

- 1 Duggan 56
- 2 Greensmith 55
- 3 Furuseth 36

Stuart Loudon is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 84 rallies, 18 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.