

22.04.18
News release

Stuart sees real progress with sixth in the Speyside sunshine

Rarely has the journey from Glasgow to Elgin been so worthwhile for the world's fastest biscuit-making co-driver Stuart Loudon. His week at Tunnock's complete, his last batch of Caramel Wafers in the bag, Stuart was heading north to co-drive rising Scottish rally star Lawrence Whyte on Saturday's Speyside Stages.

The pair finished sixth, having run as high as fourth – a real improvement from the 18th position they managed on the season-opening Snowman Rally in February.

"I've been really impressed with what Lawrence has done on this event," said Stuart. "He's driven a very, very good rally."

Ahead of the Speyside, Lawrence had tested his Ford Fiesta R5 for a day and competed on the Rallynuts Stages Rally in Wales, finishing 13th.

"Given that he's had a bit more time in the car, I expected him to have made a step forward," said Stuart, "but not as much as he has done. He was showing real commitment in the higher-speed corners and he was listening and working with the notes I was giving him really well."

The edge was taken off the pair's fabulous Moray Saturday when a stone damaged the radiator on the penultimate stage of the Scottish Rally Championship round.

"We had to keep a close eye on the engine temperature," said Stuart. "It looks like a stone had gone through the radiator under braking for a corner – absolutely not Lawrence's fault and just one of those freak things. We had to stop on the road section to the final stage to fill the radiator with water and then top it up on the way to the finish. That cost us a bit of time and it was a distraction."

That radiator damage illustrated the focus needed to drive around any kind of issue with the car.

"Understandably, Lawrence was thinking about the temperature in the last stage," said Stuart, "it got into his head a little bit. I could tell he wasn't as focused on the notes in a couple of places. That's absolutely fine – this is a learning year for him and it's easy to forget he's only been about this sport for five minutes. What he takes away from Elgin, as well as a fine sixth place, is the understanding that you have to stay focused and stay on it in the car while managing any kind of problem."

“Like I said, I’m delighted with the progress we’ve made. It’s been a great event, sun splitting the trees all day. I love this rally. The stages are great, the whole thing is so well organised – it totally makes that journey up and down the A9 completely worthwhile!”

Stuart will be back at the biscuits (making them, of course) this week, before he’s alongside Lawrence for the second Saturday in succession. It’s the Pirelli International Rally next weekend. The Carlisle-based event is the opening round of the British Rally Championship and an event where Stuart has previously finished second with former World Rally Championship star Matthew Wilson.

The step up from the Scottish Rally Championship to Britain’s premier series will be a sizeable one for 18-year-old Aberdonian Lawrence, but it’s one he makes on a very special rally for Stuart.

More details of Stuart’s centenary celebration will be available in his Pirelli preview on Wednesday.

Stuart Loudon media enquiries

Sandra Evans

+44 7887 693993

Sandra@wordspr.com

Stuart Loudon is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 99 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.

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.