

# PIRELLI CARLISLE RALLY

📍 Pirelli Carlisle Rally  
📅 30 Apr - 01 May 2016  
🏠 Cumberland Sporting Car Club  
🏁 Stages: 7 Starters: 57 Finishers: 41



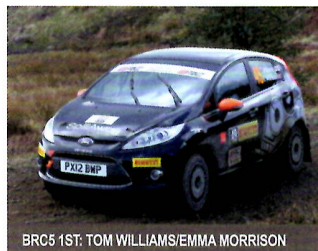
BRC2 15TH: MATT EDWARDS/WIL ROGERS



BRC3 1ST: CHRIS WHEELER/YAN GRIFFITHS



BRC4 1ST: GEE ATHERTON/KEATON WILLIAMS



BRC5 1ST: TOM WILLIAMS/EMMA MORRISON



JUNIOR BRC WINNERS ON THE PODIUM



NRC 1ST: DONNIE MACDONALD/ANDREW FALCONER



4TH: TOM CAVE/JAMES MORGAN

»» belonging to Desi Henry and Liam Moynihan. After being plagued by punctures, Henry just pipped Neil Simpson and Elliott Edmondson to the position, with the chasing Fabia crew finishing 3.7 seconds adrift in eighth.

## Championship Battle

Fredrik Ahlin's victory has promoted him to the top of the tables, five points clear of Evans. Both men have played their 'joker' cards and if their pace on the opening rounds is anything to go by, the fight for the prestigious title is likely to be between these two pilots.

So with no joker cards to come into play, and hopefully with no future 'bogey' problems, there will be a straight fight on the remaining rounds between Ahlin and Evans.

The bogey issue probably wouldn't have changed the overall result of the Pirelli Carlisle Rally but they might well have made the difference between second and third overall for Evans. And had he finished second, his name would still be at the top of the championship tables, sharing the top spot with Fredrik Ahlin.

Not only does every second count but every point counts too. It will only be at the end of the season that we'll find out if the Pirelli Carlisle Rally's bogey issue will have a bearing on the outcome of the championship title. Let's hope it doesn't...

## Juniors

There was a close fought battle between three drivers in three different car marques in the DMACK Junior BRC category. Sindre Furuseth, in his Renault Twingo R2, returned to the series after missing the Circuit of Ireland and the Norwegian led initially but suffered a puncture on the first day. Stopping to change it, he lost too much time to be in the podium tussle, with fifth being the end result after the seven stage contest.

Instead, Junior BRC Championship leader Robert Duggan stole the march once Sindre hit problems. Driving his Vauxhall Adam R2, he pulled a sizeable gap to take back-to-back victories after winning on the Circuit of Ireland.

Gus Greensmith, who won the opening round, had a disappointing weekend by his high standards. A puncture combined with a slight lack of confidence in his pace notes and driving meant he had to consolidate second. But all was not lost as he doubled his points by playing his 'joker', putting him just one point behind Duggan in the title race.

Adam Bustard was consistent as he emulated his Circuit of Ireland third place. Staying clear of major dramas, Bustard enjoyed an event-long scrap with fellow Fiesta R2T driver Meirion Evans. The Northern Irishman piped

the Welshman to the final podium spot by just 12.5 seconds.

However, it was Meirion Evans who won the SORT Oil Spirit of the Rally award. The prize put a smile of the young Welshman's face as the Fiesta R2T driver finally finished his first BRC event after a spate of retirements.

## Classes

Matt Edwards once again performed a giant killing act – his BRC2 Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9 mixing it with the more powerful R5 cars in the top 10. A puncture on the first day prevented him from claiming another outright top 10 but the British driver flung his car through the forests to end the event 15th overall and first in class.

Chris Wheeler in his Citroen DS3 R3 made it to the finish after a demanding two days to take BRC3 honours while the experienced Roger Platt used his knowledge to good effect to claim the BRC4 category. Young Tom Williams made his BRC debut in his Ford Fiesta R1 and became the first person to score points in the BRC5 class.

In the BRC National Rally Cup, it was Scotsman Donnie Macdonald in his Mitsubishi Evo 9 who made it two wins from three events – he leads the NRC as the championship heads to his home soil next time out.



## What they said...

**Tony Simpson:** "We got stuck in a field on the Saturday and unfortunately we didn't receive any help to get out for 10 minutes. In the end some marshals helped and got us going again. Then, on the Sunday, three miles from the end, one of the 'new' chicanes was over a 'logging' road and the ditch on the entrance to it just sucked us in."

**Josh Cornwell (retired SS1):** "I went off into a ditch and clipped a tree about 50 metres from the finish of the first stage. We were both gutted as we thought we had a good weekend ahead of us but that's rallying. We can learn from it and push forward."