



MSA BRITISH RALLY ELITE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to another edition of the MSA British Rally Elite Newsletter. Although June has been a relatively quiet rally month several of the Elite and Academy squad members have been continuing their competition successes.

Elite co-driver Robbie Durant scored an impressive overall win at the Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally, the latest round of the Rally America National Rally Championship held in Pennsylvania, USA. The victory moves Robbie's US-based driver to the head of the standings whilst a missed event due to a BRC clash leaves Robbie in a close third place.

Fellow Elite scheme member Phillip Morrow continued his winning ways in the Mitsubishi Evo Challenge by taking maximum points on the Severn Valley Rally to stretch his lead at the top of the championship standings. Meanwhile on the same event Tom Walster was flying the flag for the MSA British Rally Academy by taking victory in the Fiesta Sporting Trophy.

Further afield Scott Martin took part in the FIA WRC candidate event in Poland gaining valuable experience of the event that is tipped to be part of the World Rally Championship next year.

Robert Reid
Performance Director

THE FOREST EXPERIENCE – DRIVER SKILLS COACHING

The next event on the MSA British Rally Elite calendar will be a two-day training session at David Higgins' Rally School. The event will be geared towards the Academy level with the Elite co-drivers also participating for a personalised skills session in conjunction with the two-day programme. Day one will focus on car setup with an emphasis on suspension, tyres, how dampers work and setting up the car for different conditions. Then in the afternoon 2003 WRC champion co-driver Phil Mills, along with both Elite co-drivers, will take the guys through a practical pacenote coaching session.

Day two will then be purely hands-on as the Elite members hit the forest at David's complex in Wales. All drivers will bring their own cars making it an even more worthwhile experience ahead of the competition-busy month of August. It will be the perfect opportunity for the drivers to practise their skills in the forest while being instructed at an internationally renowned level of coaching. As the practical session runs through day two, our two Elite co-drivers will spend time in a personalised learning session with Mills covering the deeper topics involved with the highest level of co-driving.

ELITE COMPETITOR RESULTS

It has been a very successful month for our Elite members with wins for both Robbie Durant and Phillip Morrow. Phillip, with his co-driving brother Simon, picked-up his third Evo Challenge win for the year with only four events being run so far. The 24-year-old took his latest win on the Severn Valley National Rally against a 16-strong field and now extends his lead in the Evo Challenge to four points. Morrow's and his brother's performance was also good enough to see them win the event's production class and finish in fourth place overall. He also won the PIAA Junior and Gravel Championship awards for under-25-year-old drivers. Over in the US Durant and his driver – Australian Andrew Pinker – have won the Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally, round five of the Rally America National Rally Championship, by 19 seconds. This now puts Durant third in the co-drivers' championship standings just five points shy of the top spot with four rounds remaining. Even though the event is in the US, Durant is the third person involved with the Elite scheme to win the event. The other two were MSA British Rally Elite graduate Daniel Barritt in 2002-03 and Elite training co-ordinator Glenn Patterson in 2004.



Scott Martin and James Wozencroft have also had a fairly busy June in their respective roles. Martin and Stobart driver Barry Clark headed to Poland for the WRC candidate rally – a great opportunity for the pair as the event is short-listed for inclusion on next year's WRC calendar. After starting 50th on the road Martin was running as high as 32nd and first in class until gearbox troubles brought an unfortunate end to his rally. Still it was another fine performance by the pair, providing them extra experience and perhaps a head start over their rivals should the event be accepted into the 2008 WRC. Wozencroft and Academy co-driver Chris Ridge ventured over to Donegal in Ireland for the 2007 Donegal International

Rally, round five of the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship. The pair began well setting some impressive times but unfortunately Wozencroft suffered with the car constantly jumping out of third gear and, on most stages, he had to drive one-handed to keep the car in gear until the transmission finally expired on stage 10 – Knockalla.

For our Academy members who make up a healthy proportion of the UK Fiesta Sporting Trophy series it was a very successful round four of the championship at the mid-Wales-based Severn Valley Clubmans Rally earlier in June. Tommi Walster dominated the event, blitzing the field to claim top spot in the FST class and fourth overall for the clubman event. This now puts him eight points off the championship lead in second. Elyn Evans continued his improved pace picking up his second podium in as many rallies finishing in a well earned third position. After missing the third round – the RBS Manx International – Bobby Mitchell returned with new co-driver and fellow academy member Chris Ridge to claim a solid eighth position.