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MITSUBISHI RALLIART  
EVOLUTION CHALLENGE  
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# Press Information

## MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE UK ROUND EIGHT PREVIEW

- Trackrod International Rally Yorkshire  
26th September 2009.
- Mitsubishi series joins British Rally  
Championship for season finale.
- 2009 Champion Daniel Barry hoping to  
end his campaign on a high.
- Nik Elsmore targets second place.
- Alan Carmichael looking to replicate his  
asphalt pace on gravel.



21st September 2009

The final round of this year's Mitsubishi Ralliart Evolution Challenge UK sees the championship for Group N Lancers join the MSA British Rally Championship for the second time this season, when teams head to Pickering to start the Trackrod International Rally Yorkshire.

Already crowned 2009 UK Evolution Challenge Champions Daniel Barry and co-driver Martin Brady will be back for the final round, having pledged to contest all of the championship's eight rounds this season. With the title already in the bag they have set their sights on other goals for next weekend and will be looking to compare their performance against the leading British Rally Championship teams, who will be competing in similar specification machinery.

They will also be looking to equal the record for achieving the maximum number of Evolution Challenge victories in one season, an accolade currently held by Phillip Morrow for scoring six wins in 2007. They will therefore be looking for better fortune than that of their previous outing on the Ulster Rally, when they uncharacteristically crashed-out on the first day, the accident being their first of the season.

Currently third in the championship standings, fellow Evolution Challenge competitors Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew could end the season second in the championship if they finish this weekend. For Elsmore, this would be the second time as runner-up, missing out on the title last year on a tie-break decision.

Having scored their first UK Evolution Challenge victory on last month's Ulster Rally, Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont are rounding off their season with a return to England to see if they can transfer their recent pace on asphalt onto the gravel forest roads of Yorkshire.

A notable absentee from the Mitsubishi line up next weekend will be Simon Hughes, who will retain his second place if Elsmore fails to make it to the end of the event. This means that three Evolution Challenge crews will start this weekend, the reduction in numbers an indication of the sport's position in this year of economic concerns.

The Trackrod International Rally Yorkshire starts and finishes from Pickering Showground. The one-day route of 90 competitive miles includes nine special stages, eight of which use the fast and flowing gravel roads in the forests of the North Yorkshire Moors, added to which is a half-mile spectator stage within the area of the Showground.

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The 2009 Mitsubishi Ralliart Evolution Challenge is supported by Mitsubishi Motors UK, Ralliart, Pirelli tyres, Sunoco fuels, JR Motorsports, Speedline Corse wheels, Carbone Lorraine brakes, Walkinshaw Performance, Sparco racewear and PIAA lights - who sponsor the junior award for under 25-year old drivers.

#### **Mitsubishi Ralliart Evolution Challenge entries**

10 Daniel Barry (Enniskerry)/Martin Brady (Navan)

11 Nik Elsmore (Coleford)/Craig Drew (Bream)

TBC Alan Carmichael (Ballymena)/Ivor Lamont (Ballymena)

#### **Championship positions after round seven**

##### Drivers

1	Daniel Barry	70
2	Simon Hughes	50
3	Nik Elsmore	43
4	Alan Carmichael	30
5	Owen Murphy	29
7	Daniel Sigurdarson	17
6	Andreas Magnusson	8
8	Neil Armstrong	4

##### Co-drivers

1	Martin Brady	70
2	Craig Drew	43
3	Craig Parry	40
4	Dai Roberts	29
5	Ivor Lamont	18
6	Patrick Walsh	10
7	Henrik Hulterkog	8
8	Isak Gudjonsson	7
9	Max Ferri	4

ENDS

**Photo:** This weekend's Trackrod Rally Yorkshire hosts the eighth and final round of this year's Mitsubishi Ralliart Evolution Challenge, where Nik Elsmore and co-driver Craig Drew will be looking to claim second place in the final championship standings (*copyright free image*).

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