



MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE

UK



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - 2009

Ninth season gets underway!

It was a case of quality rather than quantity for our season-opener in Bournemouth. We might not have had as many registrations as we have done in the past, but that didn't stop the 2009 Evolution Challenge kicking-off with the now familiar intense battle on the Rallye Sunseeker.

During Saturday's stages, the lead changed hands no less than five times and, after 60 stage miles in the forests of south Dorset and Hampshire, the eventual winning margin was just 2.8 seconds. I don't know why we should be surprised by the proximity of the times though, it's just business as usual for the Evolution Challenge.

Adding an international flavour to the proceedings was the appearance of four drivers from outside the UK and Ireland. These included 2008 Swedish Evo Challenge Champion Andreas Magnusson and runner-up Hans Erik-Weng (debuting his new Evo X), plus the re-appearance of the charismatic Icelandic Rally Champion Daniel Sigurdarson. Barbados driver Neil Armstrong also joined in and he's now gone back to see if we can set up an Evo Challenge in the Caribbean. Don't worry, I'll let you know when regulations are available!

I must once again apologise for the lack of contact before the Sunseeker. This was down to the legal stuff that was taking place during the week leading up to the event.

Results

1 Daniel Barry/Martin Brady	58:43.0
2 Simon Hughes/Patrick Walsh	58:45.8
3 Andreas Magnusson/Henrik Hulterskog	58:57.8
4 Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew	59:02.2
5 Owen Murphy/Dai Roberts	1:00:01.9
6 Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	1:00:52.6
7 Neil Armstrong/Max Ferri	1:03:36.8

Retirements

SS3 Daniel Sigurdarson/Isak Gudjonsson	Transmission
SS6 Jonathan Sparks/Chris Davies	OTL
SS13 Hans-Erik Weng/Roger Gunnarsson	Turbo

Other awards

Walkinshaw best improvement on seeding:	Neil Armstrong/Max Ferri
Sunoco Spirit Award:	Hans-Erik Weng/Roger Gunnarsson
JR Motorsports best prepared car:	Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew

Border Counties Rally

Round two is already upon us and I hope your preparations are going well. We only have five cars out for this one, but all of our overseas crews have vowed to return soon.

For those of you who are joining us in Kielder, please make sure that you have all of your decals in place. No stickers - no points!!! I can supply if you don't have them. Also, please make sure you park in the right place in the service area, so all our Evo teams are together. Please instruct your service crews accordingly.

As you will have seen, there are two stages in the dark - so don't forget your lights! If you need a pod, lenses or bulbs, please contact Chris Hutchings at PIAA: 01934 818430.

You will have also seen that we are supported by Carbone Lorraine this season. I will be bringing sets of pads to the event, so please come and see me if you need any or would like to try them.

Ralliart racewear

For those of you who have either won or ordered race suits, I will be bringing these with me to Jedburgh. As well as suits, we also have Ralliart gloves and boots for sale. Please give me a call if you would like me to bring any along for you to try.

Qualifying events

Having spoken to most competitors in Bournemouth, it appears that the majority of you would like us to include all eight rallies (no nominated dropped round) and count your best six scores. If I don't hear anything to the contrary, I will issue an amendment on Friday to confirm this.

For those of you who are going, I look forward to seeing you in Jedburgh.



Championship Positions after round one

Drivers

1 Daniel Barry	12
2 Simon Hughes	10
3 Andreas Magnusson	8
4 Nik Elsmore	7
5 Owen Murphy	6
6 Alan Carmichael	5
7 Neil Armstrong	4

Co-drivers

1 Martin Brady	12
2 Patrick Walsh	10
3 Henrik Hulterskog	8
4 Craig Drew	7
5 Dai Roberts	6
6 Ivor Lamont	5
7 Max Ferri	4

PIAA Junior Award

1 Daniel Barry	5
2 Simon Hughes	4

