



Press Release - Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge

Kames might provide the shortest stages in the J1000 Ecosse Challenge but it is never short of drama, and the Albar Trophy Rally on 1st September was no exception. There were the usual incredibly tight margins, a roll from second place, and a stunning debut.

Following the torrential rain during the training session on the previous day, all eyes were on the skies, watching for the expected rain which thankfully never came.

Fastest out of the blocks on stage 1 were Kyle McBride & Jane Nicol, one second ahead of Oliver Hunter & Richard Crozier, who were one second ahead of Cameron Davidson & Ian McRae, who were one second ahead of Marcus McElwee & John Henderson, who were one second ahead of Owen Paterson & Calum McPherson, who were one second ahead of Jack Hall & Robin Nicolson, who were one second ahead of Justin Gunning & Stuart McBride. Yes, the J1000 championship redefines small margins.

McBride continued to set an impressive string of fastest times, until a collision with a tyre sent the car into a roll, and retirement from the event. Kyle, and Jane Nicol emerged unscathed, but their day was over. This left Hunter with a clear lead over Davidson, who, despite pushing as hard as he could, just couldn't match the pace of Hunter who pulled slowly but steadily further ahead to win by half a minute.

But right behind with a stellar performance on his debut event, was Owen Paterson who only turned 14 a few weeks ago, but pipped Jack Hall for third place. Hall had brake problems which meant they had to do the second half of the event with front brakes only, although it doesn't really show in the stage times. In another last minute drama at the finish, the results showed Hall and Paterson tied equal on total time. The tie-break gave the position to Paterson by virtue of having been one second faster than Hall on the opening stage. Yes, the J1000 championship redefines small margins.

Another strong performance by Justin Gunning and Stuart McBride saw Gunning take 5th place but they just missed out on the Novice trophy which was taken by Owen Paterson, and this result seals the Novice Championship in Thomas Johnston's favour, after a string of good consistent results by Thomas.

Letisha Conn led the Irish contingent home in 6th place, after a fairly drama-free run with Ian Crosbie, but the other Irish visitors didn't fare so well. Even before Kyle McBride's roll on stage 13, the third Irish crew, Marcus McElwee and John Henderson were lying in 4th place after two stages, but broke a driveshaft on stage 3, and although they rejoined to complete the event, the time loss put them well out of contention and they finished 10th.

Aaron Webster & Neil Jeffrey got through the day unscathed with an increasingly smokey engine in their Micra, while Erica Winning & Elya Gold continued to make progress.

This was Oliver Hunter's second win of the season, but talking point of the day was Owen Paterson's podium position on his first event. This performance will have the regular front runners watching over their shoulders on the coming events.

Statistic of the day was that Oliver Hunter's total time would have placed him 3rd in the Senior event. If anyone thinks that a 1000cc car must be slower than a fancy Escort, you need to visit a Junior 1000 event.

Full results from www.scotresults.co.uk

1	Oliver Hunter	Richard Crozier	16:38
2	Cameron Davidson	Ian McRae	16:58
3	Owen Paterson	Callum Macpherson	17:23
4	Jack Hall	Robin Nicolson	17:32
5	Justin Gunning	Stuart McBride	17:42
6	Letisha Conn	Ian Crosbie	18:03
7	Thomas Johnstone	Ian Shiells	18:18
8	Aaron Webster	Neil Jeffrey	19:24
9	Erica Winning	Ellya Gold	19:54
10	Marcus Mcelwee	John Henderson	49:49
11	Kyle McBride	Jane Nicol	

Issued by Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge, 2nd September 2019.