



Press Release - Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge

The days leading up to the Weeton Junior Stages saw the UK bathed in sunshine, with not a cloud in the sky. This was because the rain was being saved to be dumped on Weeton just before the Junior Rally started.

This event brought competitors from Scotland and England together for only the second time this year. Top seed, Rob Wilson & Martin Haggett set the pace from the first stage with a string of fastest times, while in the Scottish Championship, the regular protagonists were joined by Lewis Hooper who was registered in both championships, and fastest stage times were shared between Lewis Hooper & Sam Bilham, Oliver Hunter & Richard Crozier, and Cameron Davidson & Ian McRae, with only a few seconds separating them.

The Nissan Micra of Aaron Webster & Neil Jeffrey was the first casualty, as their car clipped a kerb, and suffered a bent axle on the first stage. It was a long journey from Fife for a very short rally.

Thomas Johnstone and Ian Sheils had another impressive run in their Nissan Micra and despite taking a wrong way at the split junction on stage 1, they finished 4th Scottish crew.

Justin Gunning and Stuart McBride were going well until they took a wrong way at the split junction on stage 5 costing them several minutes, but they had a clear run after that to finish 5th.

After the heavy rain in the morning, there followed a dry spell which gave more predictable grip levels as the track dried, but this seemed to lull the crews into a bit of complacency, and as the rain returned in early afternoon, stage 7 saw some more incidents. Oliver Hunter was leading the Scottish charge until rally leader, Rob Wilson got stranded in the middle of the track, and in the confusion which followed, Hunter, as the next car along, ran off the road and into a small tree. There was only panel damage, but it cost them about a minute. Also coming to grief in stage 7, Jack Hall aquaplaned on the standing water and went straight on into the undergrowth. The car was undamaged, but they were stuck among the bushes and missed the next stage as the car was recovered. They continued to finish 6th Scottish crew.

Cameron Davidson had another impressive drive with only one incident, when the VW up! slid wide on stage 8, and into a grass banking right in front of the spectators in the service area. He kept the power full on, and managed to regain the road without coming to a halt.

At the end of a dramatic day, Lewis Hooper won the event, and was top of both the Scottish and English championships, with Archie Swinscoe 2nd in the both the event overall, and in the English championship. Cameron Davidson was 3rd overall, and 2nd in the Scottish Championship, just 10 seconds behind Hooper, and Oliver Hunter was 3rd in the Scottish Championship.

This result consolidates Davidson's lead in the Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge ahead of the final two rounds at Anglesey over the weekend of 23rd / 24th November, but it is all still wide open, with several drivers still in with a chance.

J1000 Ecosse Challenge results

1	Lewis Hooper	Silsden	Sam Bilham	<i>Bingley</i>	Nissan Micra	1:13:10
2	Cameron Davidson (17)	<i>Lesmahagow</i>	Ian McRae	<i>Gartcosh</i>	Volkswagon up!	1:13:20
3	Oliver Hunter (16)	<i>Ayr</i>	Richard Crozier	<i>Kinross</i>	Peugeot 107	1:14:14
4	Thomas Johnstone (15)	<i>KettleBridge</i>	Ian Shiells	<i>Monikie</i>	Nissan Micra	1:18:39
5	Justin Gunning	<u><i>Lanark</i></u>	Stuart McBride	<i>Ayr</i>	Skoda Citigo	1:19:53
6	Jack Hall (16)	<i>Bannockburn</i>	Robin Nicolson	<i>Girvan</i>	Toyota Yaris	1:21:25
7	Aaron Webster (15)	<i>Glenrothes</i>	Neil Jeffrey	<i>Broxburn</i>	Nissan Micra	DNF