

SPORT

Stage set for a thrilling return of rally spectacle

By Phil James

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This weekend's Legend Fires North West Stages Rally in partnership with Simpson's Skoda and ND Civils sees closed-road motorsport return to Lancashire following its suspension in 2020/21 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The rally, which aims to raise £1000s for charitable causes, is going ahead thanks to the co-operation of Wyre Council, Lancaster City Council, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council, Garstang Town Council and Parish Councils throughout the route.

Starting with a ceremonial start in Garstang town centre on Friday evening around 18.30 hours, Saturday sees the rally start from its headquarters at Myerscough College at 08.45 hours.

Competitors will then head off to the closed-roads special stages that includes the Nicky Nook Stage, to the east of Garstang, which gets under way just after 10.00 hours and is repeated at 13.30 and 17.00 hours.

Parking is available at the Scorton Show Ground. Alternatively the Long Knotts stage, where parking is provided at Chipping Show Ground, runs at 9.20; 12.45 & 16.10 hours.

Friday's ceremonial start promises a carnival style atmosphere complete with the internationally renowned Samba Espirito drum band of Notting Hill Carnival and New York Brazilian Day fame.

Leading the field away at



John Stone of South Shore Motor Club at the Questmead Stages Rally on the Three Sisters Circuit, near Wigan

Car 1 is 2019 European Rally Champion Chris Ingram in the Skoda Fabia Rally2 in which he is competing on this year's World Rally Championship. Ingram said "I can't wait to compete back in the UK and

see the rally fans in Garstang and along the stages."

Hambleton duo Simon Bowen and Richard Robinson, who won the 2016 rally, are seeded at car 10 in their Ford Fiesta S2000T and for-

mer World Rally Championship contender Neil Wearden, from Pilling, starts at car 29 in his Hyundai i20 F2.

Blackpool South Shore Motor Club's John Stone, whose company Legend Fires

are the event's main sponsors, is seeded at car 8 in his VW Polo GTi R5, while Preesall's Neil Roskell starts one place ahead in his Ford Fiesta R5.

The similar car of Hambleton's Paul Murro and Cal-

lum Cross is seeded at car 33. They are all part of a number of South Shore members and Garstang and Preston Motor Club members who are hoping to go well on home ground.

Age was no barrier as Jack reached national final

The Preston and District Snooker League's 10-year-old Jack Wilding has reached the final of the National English Under 14s' northern section.

Having topped his group winning all three group games, the youngster moved on to the quarter-finals and knocked in breaks of 38 and 56 to win 2-0.

Wilding then won 2-0 in the semi-finals before unfortunately going down 2-0 in the

final. For one of the youngest in the tournament, the future looks bright for young Jack.

Also, special mention to must go to 11-year-old Jackson Pope who, like Wilding, topped his group by winning all three games before losing 2-1 in a close game in the quarter-finals.

Back to the league action, and in Division One St Anthony's B had a 6-1 home win against Elite A.

Zak Patel starred with breaks of 40 and 25 in a 80-51 win and was backed up by Andy Brady who won 75-30 knocking in a break of 37.

League leaders Brownedge Blue once again proved why they are the side to beat with a 7-0 away win at St Wilfrid's A.

Leigh Robinson had breaks of 34 and 30 in his 76-34 win, and James Peoples won 99-13.

In Division Two, Elite Red

have now won 17 games on the bounce, the latest of which was by a margin of 6-1 at home to St Wilfrid's B.

Harvey Falconer had a break of 41 in his 95-39 win and Robert Marsh won 62-39 which included a 33 break.

Fulwood Blue continue to keep pace though back in second place in the table with a 6-1 home win against New Longton, Liam Wilson starred with a 30 break in his

100-10 win and Mehl Singh won 82-16

In Division Three, league leaders New Meadow St B had a superb 7-0 home win against Lostock Cons B.

Nish Barot had a 33 break in his 70-34 win and was backed up by Brian Mangan who won 78-25.

St Gerard's enjoy a great night with a 6-1 home win against Whittingham A.

Cliff Burnett was in flying

form with a 99-29 win and Geoff Wilkinson won 67-40. ● Former world champion Judd Trump made a maximum break of 147 on his way to victory in the inaugural Turkish Masters.

Trump received a standing ovation from the crowd in Antalya after potting 15 reds, 15 blacks and the six colours in the 10th frame of the final against Matt Selt.