



## **2021 BTRDA Rallycross Championship Preview**

On behalf of the BTRDA Rallycross Committee, welcome to Lydden Hill, for Round 1 of the 2021 Autosport International BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship presented by Cooper Tires.

We are extremely positive about the season ahead coming on the back of a disrupted schedule in 2020 which only saw us run 3 rounds at Lydden Hill, Blyton and Knockhill.

The 2021 Championship now boasts a 6 round championship starting here at Lydden Hill, then to Blyton Circuit on June 27<sup>th</sup>, Pembrey Circuit on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, back to Blyton on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and finishing off the season at Knockhill on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

On a pleasing note it is amazing to see such a large entry of over 80 cars here at Lydden Hill, which sees many new driver and car combinations. Not only has Round 1 received such a large, strong entry, but 2021 Championship registrations now at 98 drivers is the biggest number ever seen in the Championship since its first ever season back in 1977.



### **So who are the runners and riders to watch out for this year?**

The Clubman 4x4 Category will have a 3-round championship at Pembrey in August and Knockhill in October. Interest in the category seems strong with all of the following likely to attend 'some' if not all the events. Scottish driver Graeme Reid will race his Nissan Pulsar in a full championship having recently purchased the car from Estonia. Welshman Nigel Burke will bring his Subaru to Pembrey and will be joined by fellow Subaru driver Kevin McCann and Derrick Jobb. The new ALL4 Mini Countryman cars should see 3 drivers at Pembrey in August with; Adrian Turner, Martin Hawkes and David Bell all likely to hit the track. Additional entries may also come from Willie Singleton (Ford KA) and Patrick Ryan (Mitsubishi) travel permitting.

The Production 4X4 Category has certainly taken its time to gain momentum and each season we hope for more, hopefully we will see growth in 2021. We already know that Paul Davis (Subaru), Chris Baker (Subaru), Aaron Shaw (Subaru WRX) and former production driver Bradley Sampson in his Mitsubishi Lancer EVO will all compete in a full championship and will be joined by Nick Potter and Darren Clark. 2019 Champion Dan Beattie will also return having had a season off.

The Super Modified category must be the most wide open in many years with a whole host of present and new drivers joining the mix. Possibility starting as favorite is Alan Crocket in his now 2500cc Vauxhall Corsa. He will be hard pushed and it's the likes of Jason Bleasdale (VX220), Todd Crooks (BMW Mini), Sam Bovill (Astra), Gary Cook (Fiesta) and one of the fastest drivers in 2020 Fred Ling (Fiesta). Add to the mix some very powerful BMW's and whole gaggle of R53 BMW Mini's and the Championship really could be anyone's.



The ever-popular Production category will continue to be the biggest entry of the Championship and 2019 champion Dale Ford is sure to start as favorite for the coming season. As the entry level into the BTRDA championship it will see a whole host of new drivers in 2021 including: Chris Gilbert (C2), Richard Maroney (Saxo), Darren Hockly (Saxo), Simon Cofield (206), Paul Oakley (Saxo) and James Avison (Focus). Looking to challenge Dale will be the likes of James Orton, Harry Vaulkhard, Maciej Florczak, Rory Denning and Ryan Randall in his new Renault Clio 197.

Marc Jones probably starts the season as Classic Category favorite and is sure to face some stiff opposition this year with a whole host of regular and new drivers looking to do a full season. BTRDA regular David Ewin, Vince Bristow, John Cross and Davy Crockett are likely to be the closest challengers to Marc. However, with the likes of Barry Stewart in his 500 bhp, rwd Porsche and Supercar driver Andy Grant looking to do full seasons it looks like being a great season.

The Junior category is wide open with the likes of Luke Constantine and Tom Ovenden moving on and a whole host of other drivers gaining in experience it certainly could be a great. There are 2 debuts in the category with Will Ovenden taking the reigns of Tom's car and Alfie Campbell racing the ex-Abbie McGuinness VW Lupo. Add in the likes of James Hawkes (Swift), Kacper Potyra (Saxo), Max Watt (Swift), Caitlin May (Swift), Corey Padgett (Swift) and Owen Robbins also in a Swift, it really could be a great season.



The 2021 season already promises to be a great season, I don't think we have ever gone into a season with so many drivers capable of winning and no real favorites across any of the 6 categories.