

**Media Information:
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Brick and Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge

The Big Bennett Comeback

The fourth and fifth rounds of the 2015 Brick & Steel Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge took place at Kames Motorsport Complex in East Ayrshire on 4th/5th July. The very popular car rally Championship which introduces 14 to 17 year old drivers to motorsport attracted 14 crews with representatives from Scotland, England, Ireland and Italy. Yes Italy - Umberto Accornero and his team came along to sample Junior rallying in Scotland. Four crews and their families/supporters were driving on a rally for the very first time.

But the star of the weekend was Peter Bennett from Laighgall in N Ireland with Arthur Kierans codriving in a Citroen C1. The team made the decision to commit to a full Scottish season and travel back and fore for all 8 events. But things did not start well with a non finish on rounds 1 and a second place on round 2. But Bennett put that right with 2 solid first places at Kames. He took the lead from current Championship leader Finlay Retson on stage 7 out of 16 on day 1 and then led all the way to stage 14 on day 2. This moves him up to 4th place in the Championship. Bennett commented "Kames suits my kind of attacking driving and car and I really like the venue. Very happy to be back on track!!"

Finlay Retson/Andrew Falconer in another Citroen C1 came to the weekend with victories from the first 2 rounds but once Bennett got into his rhythm they did not have an answer and dropped a couple of seconds here and a couple of seconds there to end up 16 seconds behind and in second place overall for day 1. Day 2 started with much of the same and in Retson's efforts to stop Bennett building up too much of a lead, he slid off onto the grass on a tight LH/RH corner on stage 8. They lost about 4 minutes getting recovered and slid down the order to finish the day in 10th place. But they still retain their lead in the Championship. Retson commented "I like the smooth fast stuff and that is not what Kames is about. So we tried but could not really match Peter's pace. Next event will suit my driving more."

On day 1, third place overall went to Ewan Tindall/Paul Hudson in another Citroen C1. Ewan did not really put a foot wrong all day and inherited third place when Brodie Balfour/Stuart Baillie had a moment on the second last stage to drop 2.5 minutes and lose third place. This was a brilliant result for the young driver from Ryton in Tyne and Wear on his third rally.

At the end of day 2, the position at the top of the podium was unchanged with Peter Bennett/Arthur Kierans coming away comfortable winners. But the fight for second and third places was strong. In the end it was Harry Chalmers/Lisa Watson (Nissan Micra) who took the second slot and Brodie Balfour/Richard Stewart (Toyota Aygo) who took third. But it was anybodies guess what the order would be over the last 3 or 4 stage with a fast improving Umberto Accornero/Rob Gilham (Nissan Micra) featuring in the battle right up to the end but having to settle for fourth.

The 2 day event - a first for the Championship - was deemed a huge success and the fact that the weathermen got their forecasts wrong - or at least the forecasts of where the weather would be - worked well. An extra bonus was the fact that 14 cars started each day and 14 cars finished. Not all scored points but any damage was minor.

The next round of the Championship will be The usedcarparts Solway Coast Rally on 9th August when crews from all 3 UK Junior 1000 Championships will compete together over the military range roads near Kirkcudbright.

Ends

For further information contact

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Attached pictures can be freely used.

EDITOR'S NOTE:



is part of a National initiative to get youngsters in the 14 to 17 age group involved in competitive special stage rallying. The Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge started in 2012 with 10 competitors. Junior 1000 Championships also run in England/Wales and Northern Ireland



BRICK & STEEL CONSTRUCTION are a long established company covering all aspects of the construction industry, from day to day maintenance & refurbishment, through to new build projects. They are members of the Scottish Building Employers Federation, The Construction Industry Training Board and Construction line.

Final Junior Positions – ALBAR Kames Junior Rally - Day 1 4th July 2015

	Driver	Driver Home Town	Co-Driver	Co-Driver Home Town	Car	Total Time
1	Peter Bennett (15)	<i>Laighgall, NI</i>	Arthur Kierans	<i>Smithborough Co Monaghan</i>	Citroen C1	20.53
2	Finlay Retson (15)	<i>Blairgowrie</i>	Andrew Falconer	<i>Inverness</i>	Citroen C1	21.09
3	Ewan Tindall (14)	<i>Ryton, Tyne & Weir</i>	Paul Hudson	<i>Darlington</i>	Citroen C1	21.36
4	Myles Reid (15)	<i>Burrelton</i>	Ian Rae	<i>Blairgowrie</i>	Peugeot 107	21.59
5	Harry Chalmers (15)	<i>Alford</i>	Lisa Watson	<i>Inverness</i>	Nissan Micra	22.02
6	Umberto Accornero (17)	<i>Milan</i>	Robert Gilham		Nissan Micra	22.50
7	Jude MacDonald (14)	<i>Inverness</i>	Steven Hay	<i>Glenrothes</i>	Nissan Micra	23.35
8	Lewis Winder (14)	<i>Dalry</i>	Steven Smith	<i>East Kilbride</i>	Nissan Micra	23.38
9	Dale Kelly (16)	<i>Dunblane</i>	Steven Brown	<i>Inverness</i>	Nissan Micra	23.44
10	Brodie Balfour (16)	<i>Kirkcaldy</i>	Stuart Baillie	<i>Kirkcaldy</i>	Nissan Micra	23.59
11	Josh Hislop (14)	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Ellya Gold	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Peugeot 107	24.21
12	Johnnie Mackay (14)	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Martin Forrest	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Nissan Micra	24.24
13	Elvin Smith (17)	<i>Dalgety Bay</i>	Tom Middlemiss	<i>Markinch</i>	Nissan Micra	24.27
14	Cameron Russell (16)	<i>Ayr</i>	Ian McRae	<i>Glasgow</i>	Nissan Micra	24.31

Final Junior Positions – ALBAR Kames Junior Rally - Day 2 5th July 2015

	Driver	Driver Home Town	Co-Driver	Co-Driver Home Town	Car	Total Time
1	Peter Bennett (15)	<i>Laighgall, NI</i>	Arthur Kierans	<i>Smithborough Co Monaghan</i>	Citroen C1	24.43
2	Harry Chalmers (15)	<i>Alford</i>	Lisa Watson	<i>Inverness</i>	Nissan Micra	25.24
3	Brodie Balfour (16)	<i>Kirkcaldy</i>	Richard Stewart	<i>Hamilton</i>	Nissan Micra	25.30
4	Umberto Accornero (17)	<i>Milan</i>	Robert Gilham		Nissan Micra	25.36
5	Myles Reid (15)	<i>Burrelton</i>	Ian Rae	<i>Blairgowrie</i>	Peugeot 107	25.53
6	Josh Hislop (14)	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Ellya Gold	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Peugeot 107	27.20
7	Dale Kelly (16)	<i>Dunblane</i>	Steven Brown	<i>Inverness</i>	Nissan Micra	27.45
8	Elvin Smith (17)	<i>Dalgety Bay</i>	Tom Middlemiss	<i>Markinch</i>	Nissan Micra	27.47
9	Ewan Tindall (14)	<i>Ryton, Tyne & Weir</i>	Paul Hudson	<i>Darlington</i>	Citroen C1	27.59
10	Finlay Retson (15)	<i>Blairgowrie</i>	Andrew Falconer	<i>Inverness</i>	Citroen C1	29.06
11	Jude MacDonald (14)	<i>Inverness</i>	Steven Hay	<i>Glenrothes</i>	Nissan Micra	31.30
12	Lewis Winder (14)	<i>Dalry</i>	Steven Smith	<i>East Kilbride</i>	Nissan Micra	31.54
13	Cameron Russell (16)	<i>Ayr</i>	Ian McRae	<i>Glasgow</i>	Nissan Micra	DNF
14	Johnnie Mackay (14)	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Martin Forrest	<i>Aberdeen</i>	Nissan Micra	DNF