FULL CHAT October 2026

Welcome to October's Full Chat

We start this month off with a report from David Smalley about his and Dale Glovers time competing on the Trackrod Stages Rally on 26th September.

Trackrod Rally 2026

Team AlfaSud travelled up to Filey, Yorkshire on Friday. It was a fairly eventful drive up. As we approached the Humber Bridge, Dad asked if I needed to pull over so he could drive. I wondered what he was going on about. However, the last time we crossed the bridge I was probably about four years old, and so scared that I had to put my jumper over my head. Fast forward a few years and I didn't have a jumper with me, so I had to put on my big boy pants and make it across without any issues. Scrutineering and service were based on the clifftop in Filey, with spectacular views across the bay towards the cliffs on the opposite side. As always, scrutineering was a doddle. Dale's meticulous car preparation always has people asking if the car is a new build, and they are always surprised to hear how many events it has actually completed.

Saturday arrived and we headed out to the first stage of the day, Gale Rigg. For some daft reason, neither of us put our practice headsets on during the road section. We were busy having a general chat and not paying much attention to the task in hand.

When we arrived at the start of Stage 1 and put our helmets on, we were greeted by a lot of interference in the headphones and couldn't hear each other at all. We tried numerous fixes, but there wasn't enough time to fully investigate the problem. So, we went for it. There were lots of screaming and finger-pointing from the passenger seat, with me hoping Dale could understand what I was trying to tell him. It was a quick stage and Dale was as committed as he could be without proper instructions. We managed to get through, losing only 11 seconds to the class leader.

Between stages, we swapped the battery in the intercom. Undoing six M5 grub screws while parked on a rough forest track was a challenge but, somehow, we managed it without dropping a single screw and got everything sorted for the second stage, Cropton. Dale drove well through there and I think actually being able to hear the pace notes really helped. We were just 0.2 seconds off the class leader.

Back at service, everything was quite relaxed until we realised one of the hub nut lock screws was missing. Things became a bit fraught and we thought we might end up dropping a minute leaving service. Fortunately, we escaped without a penalty.

There had been lots of cars going off in the early stages, causing delays. To close the gaps in the field, we were held for 30 minutes at the arrival control for Stage 3. During the wait, the usual 1400 family banter resumed and, as always, no member of the 1400 class was safe from the abuse.
Stage 3 featured a ridiculously rough section, very similar to parts of the Preston. I was pleased we eased off through some of it because, after the event, I saw in-car footage of an Escort going end-over-end on the roughest section. I believe the crew were okay, although the car suffered significant damage. Hopefully, we'll see them back competing again soon. We dropped three seconds on the stage.

In Stages 4 and 5, we lost four seconds to the class leader on each stage. Nothing particularly eventful happened; they were simply very fast sections where local knowledge and knowing exactly where to attack would have been a real advantage.

At the finish, we came away with second in the 1400 class and picked up more points in the BTRDA Bronze Star Championship.

With two rounds remaining, Dale sits third in the BTRDA Bronze Star Drivers' Championship, while I currently occupy second place in the Co-drivers' standings.

Our DNF in Round 1, combined with the engine not being ready in time for Round 2, has certainly hurt our championship challenge. However, we move on to the penultimate round, the Cambrian Rally in North Wales on 24 October, before the final round, the Grizedale Stages, in December.

David





Then on 7th October we had the clubs annual karting evening held at Anglia Karting Centre, with 12 teams taking part using the Sodi 200cc karts this year which every one said were better to drive. The 1hr race started on a wet track after rain earlier in the day, this made for some tricky conditions for the first half of the race, with some teams sliding about and trying to keep on the track at times. David Smalley in team 4 had to drive the whole race on his own as his teammate let him down at the last minute. Although he still had to come into the pits for a driver change, which involved him getting out of the kart and running around the kart before getting back in and rejoining the race again. A good battle was on with team 3 with fastest laps trading between them, but as the track was drying out David was able to pull away and won the race by 22 seconds from team 3 and Ed Haylock in team 8 got the fastest lap in the last quarter of the race. At the end everyone said that they had enjoyed the evening and the challenging track conditions, so well done to you all. We hope to do it again next year.







On 17th October saw club members Rob Palmer with Kevin Groom on the maps make the trip to Cumbria to compete on the Kirkby Longsdale Motor Clubs Targa rally in Greystoke Forest, after a day of tests in the forest Rob and Kevin finished 10 overall and 2nd in Class, another great result for KLDMC members well done both.

FUTURE EVENTS

- **4th November** : Norfolk 12 Car Series organised by Paul & David Smalley. Starting and finishing at Great Massingham Village Hall. Competitors and Marshals still required please contact Paul Smalley at:- paulsmalley@kier.co.uk
- **20th November** : Norfolk 12 Car Series organised by Peter Riddle starting form Wendling Village Hall, this is our last 12 car for this year so get your entries in. marshals and competitors contact Peter at:- treasurer@sccon.co.uk
- **28th November** : Brum Brum Stages Rally at Santa Pod, this is a new rally so if you want something a bit different get your entries in. Open for entries and marshals at: https://brumbrumstages.co.uk
- 9th December: Christmas Social and Quiz – Families Banham and Smalley will be hosting our annual quiz, teams of four with banter and food – look out for poster in near future.

That's all for now. Hope to see you at some of the coming events.

Dave

Dave Ottoway

Email: dave_ottoway@hotmail.co.uk