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News release

Stuart joins World Rally Championship star for British return

Glasgow co-driver Stuart Loudon will join double World Rally Champions M-Sport when he co-drives Matthew Wilson on the Pirelli Carlisle Rally later this month.

Loudon will guide Wilson through the notorious Kielder forest in a Ford Fiesta R5 developed and run by M-Sport.

Stuart said: "Stepping aboard an M-Sport-run car will be one of the proudest moments of my career. My aim has always been to make it to the World Rally Championship and to have the opportunity to co-drive Matthew – a driver who has started 91 WRC rounds – is an honour and a huge opportunity for me to gain experience of working with a driver who has competed at the highest level of our sport."

Loudon has past experience of the Pirelli, having competed twice in 2010, 2011.

"Kielder has a fearsome reputation," said Loudon, "and not without good reason. Some of the ditches in there could swallow the Fiesta whole! This place really punishes you if you make a mistake, but equally – and looking to the positive – it really rewards commitment, precision and speed."

Having seen the resurgence of the British Rally Championship first hand on the last round in Belfast, Stuart can't wait to get his overalls on and start reading the pacenotes again.

"Nobody involved in British rallying can fail to be impressed with what British motorsport's governing body has done with the BRC," said Loudon. "Folk like Ben Taylor [IMS managing director] and Iain Campbell [BRC manager] have worked tirelessly to bring the series back and I must admit it was a bit frustrating watching from the sidelines in the service park last time out. I can't wait to get on the road down to Carlisle – especially knowing that I'm going with a world-class driver and car run by a world championship-winning team!"

The Pirelli Carlisle Rally starts from Carlisle on April 30 and finishes back in the city a day later on May 1.

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