

**2011**

**S & G Response Ford XR Challenge**

**Race report for: Rounds 5 & 6**

Anglesey – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011  
Championship Co-ordinator  
Dave Fairclough

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## Introduction

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### The Ford RS Owners' Club Anglesey Event

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The S&G Response Ford XR Challenge returned to Anglesey for round 5 and 6 of the championship in which we joined the Ford RS Owners Club on their Club meeting and trackday. With many competitors arriving on Saturday when the weather was not at its best with very high winds and horizontal rain most competitors decided not to put up any of their awnings, even people with tents were taking a risk. Sunday morning was not much better, high winds and rain still prevailed, even so we had 16 cars ready for the qualifying session. Again we had new and old competitors join us for the first time this year, John Ward brought along his XR2, John having purchased the car to do some track days then having watched a number of XR races decided to have a go in the championship, this meeting was to be John's very first motor race. After a long absence "Rocket" Ron Loffstadt was back with us having now purchased the Ex Marcus Riley XR3, Ron was hoping to do many more of the remaining championship rounds. Another welcome driver was Steve Rowles who was also out with us for the first time this year in the Ex Ron Loffstadt XR3 now running under the SIRO Motorsport banner. The ever popular Chris Flynn eventually had his Automech built XR3 ready to race, but with no mileage or testing been done Chris was going to be taking his time with the car!, Chris managing to do a few laps of the circuit in the morning RSOC track day sessions which proved to be trouble free.

### News from Anglesey

*Quoting from the Anglesey Circuit website on the proposed new building of facilities –*



'The control centre will include a paddock office for signing on and race administration on the ground floor, viewing for timekeepers, race officials and stewards on the first floor, and commentator and press offices on the third floor. This iconic building, designed by Llangefni based architects Russell Hughes will be constructed using state of the art materials. Anglesey Circuit's Operations Director, Richard Peacock, said that the work could begin this year now that planning permission has been granted. "Following the reconfiguration of Anglesey Circuit in 2006/7, we have striven to continually improve the facility here.

The addition of Vallelunga kerbing, marshals posts and sturdy pit wall have all made a huge difference to the circuit, but the benefits that this new control tower and garages will provide to our customers will be immense, whether they are participating in a track day, or are professional racing teams. "I am confident that our pit lane facilities will be comparable with any of the UK's leading circuits. "An influencing factor in deciding the extent of this project is the high level of interest in Enduro type events. This development will complete Phase 2 of the TRAC Project." Local tourism businesses, especially accommodation providers, and the local economy which is already reaping the rewards of having a major racing venue on its doorstep could benefit even more with bigger and better events coming to Anglesey for racing. Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones, visited the circuit on 17 March as part of Wales Tourism Week and announced that it will benefit from £200,000 funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. The circuit, in an eco-friendly fashion, feeds electricity from its wind turbine back to the grid. In 2009, Trac Môn won the Tourism and Environment award in the Anglesey Tourism Awards and is competing with Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia to be the first carbon neutral circuit. They were the first UK circuit to commit to the government's Energy Efficient Motor Sport programme in 2007. Richard Peacock, continued by saying, "We are very pleased that Mr Jones visited Anglesey Circuit, it gave him the opportunity to see the scale of the facility here and to see the site prior to the new development taking place."

## Qualifying



With the rain having ceased and the wind doing its bit the track was now dry for all 16 cars to set some times but with only 2 laps completed the session was red flagged because Terry Kellaheer hit the barriers very hard just after turn one, thankfully Terry emerged without any serious injuries but sadly the car was not so lucky and was very badly damaged so this left Terry as a spectator for the rest of the meeting.

The resumed session finished with an on form Mark Robinson on pole with Steve Poole next, John-Ifan Jones was the highest placed XR3 in third place, 4th was Simon Sheridan from Jason "Half Stig" Hennefer who was really now getting to grips with his XR3 as was 6<sup>th</sup>

place man Lee Shropshire in his XR2, Danny Leigh, Chris Flynn, Mike Heath and Tony Rudd completed the top 10.

### S&G Response Ford XR Challenge QUALIFYING - CLASSIFICATION

#### Lancashire RSOC Anglesey Track Day & Show - BULLETIN TK001

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	TIME	ON	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	MPH
1	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:48.258	7	9			69.83
2	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:49.865	6	8	1.607	1.607	68.81
3	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	1:49.908	3	9	1.650	0.043	68.78
4	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:50.585	7	9	2.327	0.677	68.36
5	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	1:51.344	9	9	3.086	0.759	67.89
6	33	A	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:51.816	6	8	3.558	0.472	67.61
7	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	1:52.096	9	9	3.838	0.280	67.44
8	77	B	Chris FLYNN	Ford XR3	1:52.418	6	9	4.160	0.322	67.24
9	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:52.919	6	9	4.661	0.501	66.95
10	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:53.197	7	9	4.939	0.278	66.78
11	13	B	Christopher NYLAN	Ford Escort XR3i	1:53.338	6	8	5.080	0.141	66.70
12	8	A	Ralph FERNIHOUGH	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:54.726	5	9	6.468	1.388	65.89
13	25	A	Steve ROWLES	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:57.541	6	7	9.283	2.815	64.31
14	11	A	Jonathan WARD	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:06.067	7	8	17.809	8.526	59.96
15	63	B	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort XR3i	2:17.459	1	2	29.201	11.392	54.99
16	35	B	Ron LOFFSTADT	Ford XR3	2:18.730	1	2	30.472	1.271	54.49

Anglesey International GP Circuit Length = 2.1000 miles. Start: 10:42 End: 11:16. Weather / Track : Cloudy / Dry

## Race 1



Still with strong winds but dry track, 14 cars lined up on the grid, the two absentees were Terry Kellaher; and Chris Nylan who was busy replacing a blown head gasket on his XR3, hopefully it would be done in time for the second race. Ron Loffstadt just managed to get his driveshaft replaced back in place after it tried to extract itself from the gearbox due to a broken engine mount in qualifying.

When the red lights went out it was Steve Poole who was first into turn one, but pole man Mark Robinson was caught napping and lost several places before the first corner, this was not a usual Robinson start, as they all arrived into Church for the first time Steve Poole had already got a commanding lead from Simon Sheridan, Lee Shropshire, Mike Heath, Danny Leigh, Chris Flynn and the rest of the field including Mark Robinson who had lost even more places going on to the back straight.

Lap one and Poole still led the field by quite a margin from Sheridan, Shropshire, Heath, Fernihough, Flynn, Rudd, Leigh, Hennefer and John-Ifan Jones who was caught up in a first lap accident but managed to continue.

Lap two and Poole was even further ahead, but further down the field Mark Robinson and John-Ifan Jones were both now starting to carve their way back up the field, Ron Loffstadt retired with the same driveshaft problem.

Lap Four and Poole still lead from Sheridan but Robinson was really on a charge and was now back up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Heath 4<sup>th</sup> having found a way around Shropshire, John-Ifan Jones was also on a charge 6<sup>th</sup> doing an equally good a job as Robinson, further down the field a good 3 car battle was taking place between Fernihough, Flynn and Leigh.

Lap six Poole still way out in front but Robinson was now attacking Sheridan for 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mark diving on the inside of Simon into turn one and as they both emerged out of the corner side by side which they both help all the way round the hairpin until unfortunately they both touched which sent them both spinning in various directions without too much damage and both being able to continue further down the field.

After 11 laps Steve Poole took a very easy win from Mark Robinson who had made another brilliant climb back through the field to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> from John-Ifan Jones who had driven a great race to come through the field to claim an equally brilliant 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Simon Sheridan was 4<sup>th</sup> from Danny Leigh who had been locked in battle with Jason Hennefer and Mike Heath, Lee Shropshire was 8<sup>th</sup> from Ralph Fernihough, Tony Rudd, Chris Flynn (with a car still set up in running in mode !!), John Ward rounded up the field in 12<sup>th</sup> place.



## RACE 1 - CLASSIFICATION

### S&G Response Ford XR Challenge

#### Lancashire RSOC Anglesey Track Day & Show - BULLETIN TK004

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:17.259			68.31	1:49.570	3
2	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:24.871	7.612	7.612	67.89	1:47.940	9
3	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	11	20:27.941	10.682	3.070	67.72	1:49.467	2
4	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:28.866	11.607	0.925	67.67	1:50.471	10
5	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	11	20:35.635	18.376	6.769	67.30	1:50.542	5
6	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	11	20:36.218	18.959	0.583	67.26	1:50.459	8
7	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:37.695	20.436	1.477	67.18	1:51.268	4
8	33	A	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:38.760	21.501	1.065	67.13	1:51.293	10
9	8	A	Ralph FERNIHOUGH	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:53.028	35.769	14.268	66.36	1:52.369	4
10	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	20:53.592	36.333	0.564	66.33	1:52.000	4
11	77	B	Chris FLYNN	Ford XR3	11	20:56.546	39.287	2.954	66.18	1:52.669	4
12	11	A	Jonathan WARD	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	20:28.324	1 lap	1 lap	61.54	2:00.246	3
NOT CLASSIFIED											
DNF	25	A	Steve ROWLES	Ford Fiesta XR2	3	6:12.095	8 laps	7 laps	60.95	2:01.164	2
DNF	35	B	Ron LOFFSTADT	Ford XR3	2	4:10.454	9 laps	1 lap	60.36		
FASTEST LAP											
	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	1:47.940	70.03 mph	112.71 kph			
	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	2	1:49.467	69.06 mph	111.14 kph			

Anglesey International GP Circuit Length = 2.1000. Start: 13:00 End: 13:21. Weather / Track : Bright / Dry

## Race 2



Prior to race two, many drivers had repairs to do, Simon Sheridan felt his engine was down on power so set to replacing his cylinder head in an attempt to find the lost power, Steve Rowles had the same problem, Steve saying after the first race "This car feels like a tired track day car". Ron Loffstadt was finally beaten by his driveshaft problem and decided to miss race two, Ron felt it was better to solve the problem properly rather than risk more damage. Race two was a reverse grid format so 14 cars lined up on the grid with Chris Flynn on pole position with



Tony Rudd alongside him, but as the lights changed it was a very surprised Tony Rudd who led into the first corner with Chris Flynn just behind and as they appeared round church for the first time Tony Rudd led the pack from Simon Sheridan, Chris Flynn, Danny Leigh with Mark Robinson next, but Mark suddenly slowed with a bunch of neutrals in his gearbox!, Mark Had no option to retire.

Just as the race got going out came the red flag which was due to a multiple accident on turn two which left Ralph Fernihough, John-Ifan Jones and Steve Poole with damage to severe to continue.

With the track cleared of all the XR2 and XR3 bits and pieces a depleted grid of 10 cars lined up on the grid, but this time Chris Flynn had engaged the traction control and the KERS system to rocket off the line to lead the pack though turn one, around church for the first time Chris Flynn led from Simon Sheridan, Mike Heath, Lee Shropshire, and Danny "Washer" Leigh. Across the line for the first time and Flynn led from Sheridan and the rest of the field, lap two was very much the same but now with Heath, Hennefer and Leigh all locked in battle.



Lap six and after many attempts to get past Chris Flynn Simon Sheridan managed to get himself into the lead of the race, 3<sup>rd</sup> place was now the property of Danny Leigh who had Jason Hennefer looking for a way past, Mike Heath and Lee Shropshire were also locked in battle.

As the flag dropped after 9 laps Simon Sheridan took a well-deserved win from a delighted Chris Flynn who was supposed to be still running the car in, 3<sup>rd</sup> place fell to Jason Hennefer who caught out Danny Leigh on the last lap to claim a brilliant 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Danny was also please to of had a good reliable points scoring days racing.

Lee Shropshire was 5<sup>th</sup> after a good battle with Mike “Flymo” Heath, Tony Rudd had his best ever result in 7<sup>th</sup>, and Chris Nylan was 8<sup>th</sup> with Steve Rowles 9<sup>th</sup>.



## RACE 2 - CLASSIFICATION

### S&G Response Ford XR Challenge

#### Lancashire RSOC Anglesey Track Day & Show - BULLETIN TK007

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	79	A	<b>Simon SHERIDAN</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	16:43.830			67.77	1:50.239	6
2	77	B	<b>Chris FLYNN</b>	Ford Escort XR3	9	16:46.053	<b>2.223</b>	2.223	67.63	1:50.423	6
3	21	B	<b>Jason HENNEFER</b>	Ford Escort XR3i	9	16:48.634	<b>4.804</b>	2.581	67.45	1:50.308	8
4	22	B	<b>Danny LEIGH</b>	Ford Escort XR3i	9	16:48.833	<b>5.003</b>	0.199	67.44	1:50.598	8
5	33	A	<b>Lee SHROPSHIRE</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	16:52.728	<b>8.898</b>	3.895	67.18	1:51.149	3
6	18	A	<b>Michael HEATH</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	16:53.235	<b>9.405</b>	0.507	67.15	1:51.190	3
7	14	A	<b>Tony RUDD</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	17:02.790	<b>18.960</b>	9.555	66.52	1:52.004	8
8	13	B	<b>Christopher NYLAN</b>	Ford Escort XR3i	9	17:26.930	<b>43.100</b>	24.140	64.98	1:54.602	8
9	25	A	<b>Steve ROWLES</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	9	17:57.487	<b>1:13.657</b>	30.557	63.14	1:58.190	3
NOT CLASSIFIED											
DNF	11	A	<b>Jonathan WARD</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	4	8:21.435	<b>5 laps</b>	5 laps	60.30	2:02.816	3
FASTEST LAP											
	79	A	<b>Simon SHERIDAN</b>	Ford Fiesta XR2	6	1:50.239	68.57 mph	110.36 kph			
	21	B	<b>Jason HENNEFER</b>	Ford Escort XR3i	8	1:50.308	68.53 mph	110.29 kph			

Anglesey International GP Circuit Length = 2.1000 miles. **Weather / Track : Bright / Dry**

## TROPHY AWARDS

<u>RACE ONE</u>		
	<b>XR2</b>	<b>XR3</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Steve Poole	John-Ifan Jones
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Mark Robinson	Danny Leigh
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Simon Sheridan	Jason Hennefer
	<b>XR2 DRIVER OF THE DAY</b> Mark Robinson	<b>XR3 DRIVER OF THE DAY</b> Jason Hennefer
<b>MPH CLOTHING PERFORMANCE AWARD</b> Danny Leigh (2 Places)		
<u>RACE TWO</u>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Simon Sheridan	Chris Flynn
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Lee Shropshire	Jason Hennefer
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Mike Heath	Danny Leigh
	<b>XR2 DRIVER OF THE DAY</b> Lee Shropshire	<b>XR3 DRIVER OF THE DAY</b> Chris Flynn
<b>MPH CLOTHING PERFORMANCE AWARD</b> Simon Sheridan (7 Places)		
<b>THE CROWN WINDOWS ACHIEVMENT AWARD</b> Mike Heath, for 2 good race results and 2 good race battles without going on the grass!		
<b>And many thanks to Sam Heath for his help with the trophy presentation.</b>		



