



SQUARE LEFT

NEWS

Pearson forced to miss Snowman through injury



Scottish Rally Championship hopeful Garry Pearson has suffered a setback before the season has even begun, with a fractured fibula ruling him out of the opening round in Inverness.

Pearson hasn't contested the SRC since his engine expired after the penultimate stage of the 2016 Galloway Hills Rally with the championship in sight.

He spent the majority of last season on the side-lines, but made an impressive showing on the Pirelli International Rally, running fourth overall in the British Rally Championship before being claimed by one of Kielder's many ditches.

The Duns driver's plan was to contest a full campaign in the Scottish championship with the aim of taking the 2018 title, but missing the Snowman Rally is going to make it a tough quest.

The Fiesta R5 pilot is now forced into taking his dropped score on round one, meaning he can ill-afford any bad results on the remaining six rallies.

"I fractured my fibula three and a half weeks ago," Pearson explained.

"I fell on the ice running across the yard.

"Originally I thought I would be ready for the Snowman, but it's taking a lot longer to heal than I thought."

Pearson will instead use the budget he's saved from pulling his entry on an extended test ahead of round two, the Border Counties Rally.