



SQUARE LEFT

NEWS

Pearson tackles Speyside despite injury



Garry Pearson will contest the McDonald & Munro Speyside Stages next weekend despite being affected by the same injury that [ruled him out](#) of the Snowman Rally in February.

The Scottish Rally Championship contender broke his leg in the run-up to the season-opener, and is likely to still be in pain as he takes his Ford Fiesta R5 into the forests around Elgin.

“Unfortunately we aren’t fully fit yet,” Pearson said.

“However the Speyside [Stages] is a must-do event as we need the points, even if we’ll be in pain while doing it.

“We won’t allow our dropped score to affect us. Many other top crews missed points on the Snowman too so they are in a similar position to us.”

Pearson came one stage away from winning the Scottish Rally Championship in 2016, but his last competitive rally was 51 weeks ago on the Pirelli International Rally.

The Duns driver admits he may be “rusty” after such a long spell out of the car.

“After being out of the car for a year, the Speyside will be a learning curve,” he said.

“Considering our last outing was the Pirelli last year where we managed to get through just four stages and the rally before that was the Galloway Hills [September 2016], we’ll be doing well to get into the top five.”

Garry Pearson isn’t the only driver making his comeback on the Speyside Stages. Double SRC champion Jock Armstrong is back after having his license suspended for

six months following an offence while marshalling, while five-time SRC champion David Bogie will also start the event as a warm-up for the British Championship opener in Carlisle.

Bogie has won the event eight times in the past, and starts as number one seed next weekend. Fellow BRC competitor Rhys Yates will also contest the event, fresh from finishing eighth overall in the European Rally Championship three weeks ago.

Andrew Gallacher, the current Scottish Rally Championship leader, starts at four in his Ford Focus WRC with Mike Faulkner missing the event due to an injury sustained to co-driver Peter Foy in a previous rally.