



SQUARE LEFT

FEATURES

David Higgins talks BRC



Manxman David Higgins has had a very successful career: thirteen major rally championships including a monumental seven American titles and the 2004 British Rally Championship.

At 45, Higgins is still as competitive as ever, and has enjoyed fruitful relationships with many manufacturers such as Peugeot, Mitsubishi and most famously Subaru.

To many of us of a certain age, David Higgins is a name of nostalgia. Not least because his brother competed in the British Rally Championship too and won it thrice.

As well as his overall title in 2014, Higgins won the Group N title in 1997, '99 and 2002, competing in arguably the series' greatest ever era: F2.

Recently, he has been making a name for himself in the USA, competing for Subaru in a highly specialised Impreza which would give a full blown World Rally Car a run for its money.

He is set to do it all again in 2018, looking to reclaim the title Travis Pastrana took from him in 2017.

But what does Higgins think of the British Rally Championship in its current guise?

"I think it's going the right way," he said.

"There's some good battles and lots of R5 cars which is nice to see.

"I find the events are still a shadow of their former selves though as they aren't nearly as long, but that's all down to cost.

"Ideally it also needs some factory teams or supported drives as at the moment it's all down to who can find budget for it. And then if you find the budget to compete you have to justify it.

"Back in the day it was worth doing to get noticed by the works teams as there were always drives available."

The last time we saw Higgins rallying on UK soil was Wales Rally GB 2015. He ran the livery that donned Colin McRae's Group A Impreza 20 years beforehand when he won the World Championship.

Any hopes of a full scale return appear dead in the water however, primarily because of the contract he has in place with Subaru USA.

"There is nothing in the pipeline," he explains

"A return is hard for me as I am contracted to Subaru and they don't have a car that fits with the BRC at the moment. Maybe the RAC Rally in a historic Legacy..."



Picking a highlight from such a glittering career isn't easy. Higgins wouldn't be drawn on a specific moment that stood out for him, feeling every rally and season has been special for different reasons.

"Looking back on my career, I don't really have any special moments that I'm most proud of as every season has its own challenges and I always give 100% on every event I do," he said.

"Maybe when I stop competing I will look back and have more of an idea but for now my eyes are firmly fixed on the future."

And not just on his own future. Higgins' children Alicia and son Matthew are following in their father's footsteps, who is a former karting champion as well as rally champion.

"I am now getting a lot of satisfaction from watching and helping my kids Alicia and Matthew who are both doing very well in kart racing," Higgins reveals,

"I now start to get a picture of what Mark and I put our parents through over the last god knows how many years!"