

# Street

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## Record Louise has her sights on winning rally championship

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THREE months ago she was a Kent County Council receptionist. Now Louise Cook is a full-time racing driver but the radical transformation was not an easy one.

For the 22-year-old Maidstone racer, racing in the British Rally Championship Challenge is the realisation of a life-long dream and years of dedicated hard work.

After competing in Silverstone Rally School Lady Quest Competition at the age of 19, Louise suffered a massive setback in 2008 when she crashed in training, breaking her collarbone and nine ribs.

Determined to compete, she battled back from injury, but has had to fight almost as hard again to get enough sponsorship to compete in this year's BRC Challenge - a feeder series for the BRC itself.

She committed herself fully to her ambitions in February when she gave up her job as a receptionist at Oakwood House, Maidstone.

She raced in Kielder forest in Carlisle, dubbed Killer Kielder, in the Cumbrian round of the BRC, and now has her sights on winning the competition outright.

The challenge of racing the

notorious Cumbrian course, on which 16 drivers crashed or rolled this year, was made even tougher as Louise had been loaned a car and was under strict instructions to return it in one piece.

She managed it, coming in 12th out of 20 starters to claim her first points of the season.

Louise, from Sittingbourne Road, said: "It was the scariest thing I have done and the most exciting at the same time. I have heard for years about Killer Kielder and it's car destroying, so it did not help on the psychological front. I was over the moon to finish."

She added: "I am looking forward to Jim Clark now and being out in my own car."

The Jim Clark rally takes place in the Scottish Borders, south of Edinburgh, at the end of May, and Louise still needs sponsorship to enter.

Instead of focusing on large £10,000 deals she has been asking for just £50, whereby each £50 sponsor is entered into a free prize draw to win prime spots on the car and a guaranteed spot.

Find out more about the Maidstone racer at [www.cutecookie.co.uk](http://www.cutecookie.co.uk)



Maidstone rally driver Louise Cook

## ...and other ladies in fast lane

ON A weekday you will find Jackie Tong smartly-dressed for her job as a medical secretary.

But at weekends she's more than likely to be dressed up in leathers indulging in her favourite pastime of biking.

Jackie 'Tenfold' Tong is one of a number of women part of the all-woman biking club Medusa MCC who recently held a show at Headcorn Aerodrome.

The club, based across Kent, is chaired by nurse Kirsty Walker whose biking name is Kirky.

Jackie, who is secretary of the club, said she had a great day. The 49-year-old added: "The day is called Show Us Your Ride and everyone who comes seems to have a great time."



Members of the Medusa MCC at Headcorn

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