



CARS Association Of North East Midland Motor Clubs Road Rally Championship 2007

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Co-ordinator: Dave Broadley, Woodcot, Snarford Bridge, Welton Hill, Lincoln LN2 3RD Tel: 01673 885684
lastminuterallying@hotmail.com 0780 3557114

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ROUND 11 – THE BRUCE ROBINSON RALLY ORGANISING CLUB – Lincoln MC & CC

There's an old saying, something about never giving up.....

The regs were out a little late for the first round of this years Championship and a week before the rally things were looking a bit bleak but a last minute rush saw a decent 30 car entry with 35 registered ANEMMC contenders and a fair few marshalling. Unfortunately I couldn't find a navigator despite having both cars ready (that's never happened before!) so I assisted the Dimplebys with set-up on Wickenby airfield.

Top seeds were Guy Robinson/Charles Wheeldon in a 206, car 2 were Dan Robinson/Ian Gibbins, Proton, 3rd were John Wilkinson/Paul Taylor, Proton, 4th were Andy Beaumont/Mike Petch in the Mk1 Escort, 5th were Stan Featherstone/Mike Ogram in the 205. First seeded Semi-Experts were car 12, Dean Pearson/Ross O'Brien with Alastair Crosby/John Thornton at car 13 and Davo Wilkinson/Fozzi Stockdale at car 14, Davo deciding to drive this season. Ist seeded Novice was Andy Stewart at car 21 with the Favorit of Karl and Herman Ruijsenaars running car 24. Car 25 was Annette Pashley/Sasha Heriot in the 205 and Graham Reeson/Amanda Twilley in the 309 running as car 27.

The night of the event saw the previous weeks -6.5°C temperatures make way for heavy rain, the like of which I've not seen on a road rally since the Cossack about 10 years ago, making marshalling a somewhat less than pleasant experience and turning the whites into muddy lakes. The sheer amount water was causing some crews problems, notably Craig Burgess/Glyn Byard who suffered electrical problems in their 205 and were forced to retire at STC5.

Fastest on IRTC9 were Dan Robinson/Ian Gibbins on 1m30s, followed by James Carter/John Pickavance on 1m35s and Mick Smith/Rhiannon Blythe on 2m1s. Fastest Novices were Annette Pashley/Sasha Heriot on 3m5s. Father and son team the Ruijsenaars managed to beach the Skoda trying to drive round a car on a white and were marooned there for over an hour and a half until the closing cars summoned a 4x4 to recover them.

The following IRTC11 caused similar problems, Davo Wilkinson/Fozzi Stockdale broke down after a heavy landing in their Metro followed by Dean Pearson/Ross O'Brien getting stuck which made the route unpassable so penalties on this section were scrubbed. However for those still stuck the missed controls still carried 1 fail per missed control plus 5m for each codeboard missed so the penalties were high. Graham Reeson/Amanda Twilley were struggling a bit by my first control at the very wet STC15 so sensibly cut to keep in the rally.

By petrol the clear leaders of the rally were John Wilkinson/Paul Taylor on 2m50s, 2nd were Stan Featherstone/Mike Ogram on 3m15s and 3rd were Dan Robinson/Ian Gibbins on 3m30s.

Leading Semi-Experts were Davo Wilkinson/Fozzi Stockdale 4th on 4m50s and leading Novices were Annette Pashley/Sasha Heriot 12th on 10m5s.

I arrived at my second control STC25 which was just after the re-start. The course car with the c of c David Dimpleby in sounded quite sick, we had a quick look under the bonnet before they set off again only to return a minute or so later with a real death-rattle coming from the XR2 engine. So I now assumed course car duty leaving John Dimpleby to take my place in the rain. It was at this point that David Dimpleby noticed the timecards were wrong. All marshals at following controls were briefed and in the end there really wasn't a major problem. Biscathorpe fords were fairly deep with all the rain but the recent work there by the council had made them less of the challenge they used to be to man and machine. It's a pity there wasn't a photographer out this year to make use of them.

Wickenby airfield had taken us 2 days to set up including attempts to drain it as areas had flooded. Fastest ANEMMC and 2nd fastest crew on here were Dan Robinson/Ian Gibbins on 3m13s with John Wilkinson/Paul Taylor 3rd fastest on 3m18s. I must say I'm glad I'd moved my car at MRTC3 when John and Paul entered the control....they were clearly trying! 4th fastest were Guy Robinson/Charlie Wheeldon on 3m35s. Dean Pearson/Ross O'Brien were 5th fastest and fastest Semi-Experts clearly flying on 3m37s and enjoying themselves despite their earlier problems.

The results were announced at the finish venue which provided an excellent breakfast, most welcome to us soaked marshals. Winners were Dan Robinson/Ian Gibbins, clear winners on 7m43s, 2nd overall and 1st Semi-Experts on 8m30s were Davo Wilkinson/Fozzi Stockdale proving that you should never quit after, breaking down, having to fix the car then getting back into the rally (luckily the section they'd had the problems on got cut from the results) all paid off...well done lads!

3rd overall & 2nd Semi-Experts were James Carter/John Pickavance on 9m25s, 4th overall on 10m8s were John Wilkinson/Paul Taylor with Guy Robinson/Charles Wheeldon 5th on 10m19s. 3rd Semi-Experts in 10th place were Mick Smith/Rhiannon Blythe. 1st Novices and 15th overall were Annette Pashley/Sasha Heriot on 34m11s

All in all it was a well received rally, sensible handouts and navigation, a good selection of whites (although the rain didn't help matters) and plenty of marshals despite the weather!

John Dimpleby was towed to MRTC3 in the broken course car having been soaked at STC25 to find his lads exhaust had come off on Wickenby which we had to remove at the side of the road....in standing water. John's been off work for the last week with a bad cold having thoroughly earned his 30 points for marshalling!

The Championship tables are included, please look at them and let me know if you did indeed marshal or not, I've not received the ANEMMC marshals signing on sheet so have made a 'best guess' Throughout the year the most up-to-date Championship tables will be found on the www.anemmc.org website. After my marshalling stint on the Bruce I'm actually leading the championship now....2 more points and I'll have equaled last years impressive score!

2006 'BEST EVENT' AWARD

Well it's that time of the year again. Thanks for all of you who took the time to vote for what is a very important award. This award shows recognition to all the hard work that the organisers put in on your behalf for your entertainment.

The 2006 'Best Event' is once again the **Ryemoor Trophy rally**.....that's 2 years in a row.

A very close 2nd was the VK Derbyshire Rally and 3rd was the Beaver Rally. May I say well done to the winners and I'm sure you'll join me in thanking everyone who took the time to help organise and marshal on all of the rallies last year.

The Award will be given out on the 10th March at the ANEMMC awards do at the Bentley Hotel in Lincoln. Tickets are £22 each for a 4 course meal and are available from Sandra Hickling on 01159 384601. Last year the ANEMMC gave out some very nice awards so if you're an award winner please make the effort to turn up and receive it. All are welcome to come along. A full list of award winners is on the website.

FUTURE EVENTS:-

ROUND 2 – THE RYEMOOR TROPHY RALLY 17th-18th March 2007

ORGANISING CLUB – Malton MC

The second round of the Championship sees the return of the previous 'Best Event' of 2005 and now 2006 with 140m of challenging North Yorkshire roads and 3m of unsurfaced white roads on maps 100 C2 & 106 C1 with petrol available after 83m. As always sumpguards are recommended but they've all been driven in a standard road car....albeit without the clock ticking! Starting from Easingwold Golf club 100/543687 and finishing at Thompsons Fish and Chip Restaurant 106/663580 with breakfasts included in the entry fee of £58. Navigation won't be too tough allowing everyone to complete the route without too much difficulty.

If you've not received regs yet the entries secretary is Carole Davidson on 01347 822568 or email c.davidson@uwclub.net or try the website www.maltonmc.co.uk

As always marshals are needed to run a successful event, those wishing to help out and claim their 30 points should contact Nick Skaife on 01751 475455 or 07974 119934, email nick.skaife@lineone.net and anyone marshalling more than one control will get a free breakfast at the finish according to the regs!

ROUND 3 – THE VK DERBYSHIRE RALLY 31st March-1st April 2007

ORGANISING CLUB – Matlock MC

The third round of the championship and last years 2nd favourite event, the VK Derbyshire returns again for the 32nd year this year organised by regular competitor Mick Fern. The "VK" offers a very similar format to the one that has proved so popular over the last few years – standard sections timed to the minute accompanied by mixed navigation and an equal number of regularity sections timed to the second with easy navigation. Throughout the route there will be the usual smattering of whites but as in the past few years the rougher ones have been avoided (contrary to popular belief – the whites are smooth). The start venue will once again be Robinson, Chesterfield (119/374709) and the finish will be at the Robin Hood Inn, Eastmoor (119/279 721). Total mileage will be approximately 150 miles on good surface roads and 8 miles on white roads. A sumpguard is recommended for the more competitive driver. Map number 119 (C2) will be required.

Regs will be out this week – obtainable from Chris Goodall on 01246 411752. The Entries Secretary, to whom all entries must be sent, is:- David Quinney, 120 Ryknield Road, Kilburn, Belper, Derbys. DE56 OPF. Tel: 01332 883478. Marshals are once again needed to run the event and the Chief Marshal is Amanda Twilley who can be contacted on 01246 240149 or 07740 308819.

Event details and regs can be obtained from www.matlockmotorclub.co.uk

There seems to be a shortage of navigators so may I suggest that anyone who needs either a driver or a navigator for future events uses the www.anemmc.org website for this purpose.