

ROAD RALLY ROUND-UP

Gleaves and Coombes go one better to make up for 2007 near-miss

Clitheronian Road Rally

By Ian Mills

Organisers: Clitheroe & DMC and CSMA (North West)
When: September 27/28 Where: North Lancashire and
Cumbria Championships: ANWCC, ANCC & SC34MSG
Route: 160 Miles Starters: 29.

Last year Myles Gleaves/Steve Coombes had to be content with the runner-up spot on the Clitheronian. This year they took an emphatic win, coming home almost six minutes clear.

The pairing had taken fastest time over the first section but were being chased hard by 2007 winners Steve Retchless/Iain Tullie. At Petrol the two crews were separated by 20 seconds and soon afterward Retchless/Tullie took the lead. However it was shortlived. A navigation error made them wrong slot, losing six minutes and missing a code board. They finally finished in fifth, while Gleaves/Coombes maintained their pace to take victory.

Fresh from co-driving Barry Greer on the Trackrod Rally, Martyn Taylor navigated Tony Harrison to the runner-up spot on the Clitheronian. While the



Gleaves won when his chief rival made a navigational error

Dovey Valley MC crew of Robert Evans/Richard Morris took an impressive third place.

The first retirements of the night were Terry Martin/Jerry Hettrick whose Proton suffered a damaged exhaust after a heavy landing.

Results

1 Myles Gleaves/Steve Coombes (Peugeot 205) 18m

08s; 2 Tony Harrison/Martyn Taylor (Rover 200) 23m 52s; 3 Robert Evans/Richard Morris (Proton Compact) 25m 45s; 4 Jonty Bloxham/Nick Bloxham (Peugeot 106 GTI) 27m 07s; 5 Steve Retchless/Iain Tullie (Ford Escort) 29m 02s; 6 Hugh Granish/David Bell (Rover 25) 29m 02s; 7 Malcolm Gradale/Bob Hargreaves (Escort Mk4) 30m 38s; 8 Andy Nixon/David Taylor (Escort Mexico) 31m 51s; 9 Roger Powley/Leigh Powley (Toyota Corolla) 32m 40s; 10 Simon Boardman/Mark Blunt (Proton Compact) 37m 31s.
Class Winners, Semi-Experts: Boardman/Blunt;
Novices: Mark Yates/Niall Cook (Peugeot 106 Rallye);
Clubsport: Steve Jennings/Neil Bye (Peugeot 106).