

Motoring News March 2012

Lancastrians edge out Scots on home turf as Dunbabin and Hargreaves win battle of the Micras

Roskirk Stages Rally

By Phil James

Organisers: Blackpool South Shore Motor Club Date: March 11 Where: Three Sisters Race Circuit, Wigan Championships: ANWCC; F1000; Junior Rally Championship Stages: 12 Starters: 57 (12 Juniors)

Having headed the standings from the start, Peter Jackson and Steve Coombes brought their Ford Escort Mk2 home eight seconds ahead of Bruce Edwards and Tracey Louise Muir's Darrion T9.

All hopes the Scottish duo had of catching their rivals on home ground disappeared with what Edwards described as "a huge

tank-slapper which ended with us moving about 30 tyres" on SS3.

Ron Aitken and Brian Neale had a trouble-free run in their Escort Mk1 to claim the final podium place, a repeat of their result here last year. David Burns and Steve Hallmark won the battle of the Vauxhalls, edging their Corsa ahead of the Chevette HSR of Jason Wilson and Joe Davies on the penultimate stage.

Tim Whiting and Neil MacDonald survived a spin on SS8 but the Escort Mk2 crew had settle for sixth after the incident cost them 15 seconds. A final stage charge resulted in Andy Leech

and Craig Simkiss edging their BMW M3 ahead of Mike Taylor and Samantha Bartlett's Lotus Sunbeam. Class Two winners Alistair and David Oram claimed ninth overall in their Nova while Nick and Heather Stamper were tenth despite their Subaru's head gasket falling on SS1.

Daniel Dunbabin and Paul Hargreaves were the quickest F1000 crew, building a winning margin of 53 seconds ahead of Julien Fouques/Kris Pirie.

Charlie and Paul Stephens claimed the Junior Rally, which was made up entirely of Nissan Micras, with Lloyd Morgan

and closest rivals Alex Taylor forced to settle for second. David Humpston and Brian Cammack claimed third after overhauling Niall Moroney and Sean Moriarty.

Results

1 Peter Jackson/Steve Coombes (Ford Escort Mk2) 26m 22s; 2 Bruce Edwards/Tracey Louise Muir (Darrion T9) +8s; 3 Ron Aitken/Brian Neale (Escort Mk1) +56s; 4 David Burns/Steve Hallmark (Vauxhall Corsa) +1m 07s; 5 Jason Wilson/Joe Davies (Vauxhall Chevette HSR) +1m 13s; 6 Tim Whiting/Neil MacDonald (Escort Mk2) +1m 14s; 7 Andy Leech/Craig Simkiss (BMW M3) +1m 36s; 8 Mike Taylor/Samantha Bartlett (Lotus Sunbeam) +1m 38s; 9 Alistair Oram/David Oram (Vauxhall Nova) +1m 55s; 10 Nick Stamper/Heather Stamper (Subaru Impreza) +2m 07s. Class winners, One: Daniel Dunbabin/Paul Hargreaves (Nissan Micra); Two: Oram/Oram; Three: Burns/Hallmark; Four: Wilson/Davies; Five: Whiting/MacDonald; Junior: Charlie Stephens/Paul Stephens (Nissan Micra).



Jackson three-wheeled his Escort to victory by eight seconds