

Clitheronean Road Rally
Myles Gleave - Steve Coombes
Car 3 - 1st O/A

We knew it would be tough as we were well beaten by Steve Reckless and Iain Tullie last year. The night started off with problems as we almost failed scrutineering. The horn and washers wouldn't work, but some wire wiggling later and both just about came to life.

Plotting the first section as we travelled down the motorway I felt travel sick!! Something that has never happened before and something that caused me problems all night. The first few sections were cleaned with some ease. Myles was definitely up for it. Almost collected the back of Car 1 (Steve & Iain) as we came over the brow at the bottom of Niki Nook approaching TC8. Well held by Myles as it reminded me of the off with Pete in Lowther on the Pendragon.

The first doing section was through Abbeystead and past Jubilee tower. Fastest time set as I concentrated on the code boards and not being sick. Fastest time was also set on the next doing section, across Haylots, despite the fog. Normally I don't do results until the end but our rivals were wanting to know our times and telling us theirs. I worked out we had a 20 Sec lead over car 1 and about a minute or so over the next crew at petrol.

Second fastest on the next doing section up Barbendale increased our lead but it was wiped out down Kingsdale as Steve and Iain turned up the pressure. Our cause wasn't helped by the start marshal who took 30 secs to fill in the time card. Myles was driving hard as we started with brake problems that stayed with us for the rest of the event, but I don't think it slowed us much.

Going into the last doing section I think we needed to be 15-20 secs quicker than our rivals to take the win so off we went. A clean run down Lythe saw us do all we could. Checking our time against car 1's we were amazed to now find we were 1st on the road. This meaning they had dropped at least 2 minutes more than us. I was so surprised at this that I immediately lost the route for the next 2 sections. Threw everything around the car and found it.

The last section, across the bottom of Longridge, is one that we know very well. Plotted no problem and knowing a clean run would see us take the victory off we set. First code board collected. No probs. Half way through the section I noticed we were missing the second board. Had we missed it? Back we went to double check, but no board so off to the finish we went. Missing a board is a 5 min penalty but as it turned out the board was missing.

The results were posted and declared final a short time later. My first win and a speech to make. Despite the sick feeling all night we never missed a board, control or a wrong slot all night. Myles drove superbly and the plotting was bang on. Looks to be a lucky event for me so here's to next year.