

Smile is back on Haining's Face

Cracking day for Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge crews at the Memorial Garden Stages Junior Rally near Arbroath on 15th September 2018. This would be the first event that Condor Motorsport Club would run under their own banner at the Condor base. The aerodrome part of the MOD base is a perfect location for a single venue rally but parts of it have been known to cut up badly and this affected the total number of entries. But reports from competitors were very positive on the day and the organisers had listened to previous feedback and dropped some parts and added other better roads. The organisers must be praised for putting on such an enjoyable event.

The Junior contingent of 10 cars were first out on the stages and a pattern started to develop right from the start. Lewis Haining/George Myatt hustled their Skoda Citigo round the first 2 stages to give them a 3 second lead over Johnnie Mackay/Gordon Reid (Suzuki Alto). But not without drama. The "green machine" of Haining appeared back in service minus some bodywork after an argument with one of the large marker tyres. But Dad and Chief Mechanic Iain Haining soon had the Citigo back in shape when the stage recovery crew returned the missing bits of bodywork!! Haining then went on to build up his lead over the next 4 stages to win by 22 seconds from Andrew Blackwood/Richard Stewart (Citroen C1) A very happy Haining commented at the end "We have done it! My second junior rally victory! After the Solway Coast retirement it's good to come back with a win!"

After a good first 2 stages, Mackay seemed to go "off the boil" and gradually came within the clutches of Blackwood who whittled Mackay's 21 second advantage after stage 1 and 2 down to 1 second over stages 3 and 4. Mackay made an unusual error in stage 5 and that set him back even further losing 14 seconds to a hard charging Blackwood. More dropped time on stage 6 left Mackay/Reid in 3rd place, 21 seconds behind Blackwood. After Mackay's dramatic exit from the previous weekend's Galloway Hills Rally, he has to be credited with just going out for as many points as he could secure. Job done there.

And what about "young" Blackwood? Well we know he can switch it on (and at other times switch it off). The Memorial was a switched on day. He had a slow start - "we were a bit slow getting into it and used to how little grip there was" - but got his finger out over the other 4 stages, equalling rally winner Haining's time on stage 3, 1 second down on stage 4, 2 seconds up on stage 5 and 1 second up on stage 6!! That is quite a scorecard!! One happy chappie!!! Final comment from co-driver Stewart was "After stages 1 and 2 I told him that the quickest way through the chicanes was straight ahead rather than sideways - and this seemed to make a difference!!"

The pace for everyone was hot and I think that every car had a wee nudge at a bale or tyre at some point.

After a bit of a subdued start on stage 1 adjusting to conditions, Oli Hunter/Tom Hynd (Peugeot 107) picked up the pace to score fourth place. A slight mishap on ss5 lost them some time and a wayward rear bumper. And Hunter added another Novice Trophy to the 2 that he has already collected this year.

Posting his best finish of the year in fifth place, Cameron Davidson had Ian McRae guiding him round in his very tidy Micra. The Micra didn't cross the finish line in the same condition as at the start when they encountered the same tyre that put paid to Fraser Anderson on ss3 but got away with only a bit of damage to the front of the car.

Amy McCubbin/Jane Nicol (Skoda Citigo) were sixth after a bit of a scare on the first pair of stages when an encounter with a bale caused a shower of water onto the screen and Amy eased off thinking she had burst the radiator but it was just rainwater from inside the bale!! But after a good check by Dad Marc after ss2 the car was passed fit to continue.

Seventh overall were Jack Hall/Niall Thomson (Micra) after dropping about a minute on ss1 and then some more time at that pesky tyre that caused problems for Hunter and Anderson on ss3.

Apart from needing a new tyre to replace the one that punctured on the last stage on the Solway Coast, there were no great dramas before the start for Aaron Webster/Colin Baxter (Micra) and they survived a couple of close encounters with tyres/bales to finish eighth.

The ever smiling Erica Winning and “Speedy” Mark Runciman (Micra) adjusted well to the different conditions of pretty fast bits, chicanes and big tyre and bale obstacles – all on some slippery surfaces – to finish ninth with just a couple of marks on the nicely reliveried car (showing a bit of pink)

And recording his very first non-finish on a rally in his ex Peter Beaton Citroen C1 was Fraser Anderson with “guest” co-driver for the day Ian Shiells. After a good run through stages 1 and 2 Anderson started to attack on stage 3 and caught one of the marker tyres which threw the car over on its side. It skidded along the tar for a bit and then – from the grass stuck under bits of the front of the car – onto the grass and over onto the other side. But the roof and co-driver’s door were unmarked!! Not a good result after a promising first outing in the Citroen C1 on the Solway Coast.

The results from Memorial Stages does open up the Championship positions. Mackay will still lead with Blackwood second and Haining third. But dropped scores will come into play from now on and every point will count over the final 2 rounds.



Lewis Haining/ George Myatt



Andrew Blackwood/Richard Stewart



Johnnie Mackay/Gordon Reid



Oli Hunter/Tom Hynd

2018 Supporters



Lawrence of Kemnay

