

Memorial Garden Junior Rally – 13th April 2019

A Race Against Time!

Condor is a special place to be at on a rally day, as it is an active military base there is always an element of nervousness as anything could happen. Saturday the 13th of April was the day of the rally and going into the event, the sun was shining, the wind was cold, and the cars were ready after getting prepared to set off for the day.

The first two stages had exactly what you expect from a rally, as the cars set off you could see the gravel churning out from under the wheel and flying up into the air. Fraser Anderson/Martin Forrest was the first car out the traps and set the bar high, as he did at Ingilstone, by setting a good time on the first two stages by coming out 5 seconds in front of Oliver Hunter/Michael Cruickshank. However, after the second stage Anderson dropped 11 seconds due to some confusion on the track with barrel markers, but this did not phase him as he continued to fight until the end for the top spot with fellow counterpart Oliver Hunter as the last two stages both drivers were neck and neck.



Oli Hunter/Michael Cruickshank



Fraser Anderson/Martin Forrest

Oliver Hunter put in a whole-hearted performance into the day as he and his car gave everything to make sure that he could stay in front of Anderson. It was back and forth between the two front drivers as they switched positions throughout the day, but when it came to the final two stages Hunter came out in top after pulling in front of Anderson in stage 5 by a marginal 4 seconds, but then putting it to bed in the final stage after topping the leader board by 8 seconds in front of Anderson. Both drivers showed tremendous effort in racing and both should feel proud of what they achieved.

But the story of the day goes to third place Cameron Davidson as his car was not finished 5 hours before the event whilst both Cameron Davidson and Ian McRae put countless hours into his new Volkswagen Up. The weekend before the car had no front end to it but after the effort of Cameron's team he managed to get to Condor and not only compete but get a podium finish. The car handled well throughout the day according to Davidson and said to be a joy to drive with the only mishap being that the brakes were too stiff and some bumps and bruises.



Cameron Davidson/Ian McRae

Letisha Conn took the trip all the way from Northern Ireland to be at Condor but it didn't come with no reward as she took the Championship Novice trophy. Letisha Conn/Ian Crosbie showed great consistency throughout the day by setting consistent times and keeping up with the top 3, and also keeping in front of Tom Johnstone. Tom Johnstone/Ian Shiells also put in a consistent performance by setting good quick times, Johnstone in his Nissan Micra came out the first two stages flying showing what he can do in his car however after the service Johnstone did lose time on his third stage, but he pulled it back and gave the day a strong finish. This is another example of two drivers that have worked hard and should be proud of their efforts as they are doing well.



Letisha Conn/Ian Crosbie



Thomas Johnstone/Ian Shiell

Aaron Webster/Neil Jeffrey, Erica Winning/Ellya Gold and Daniel Hurst/Phil Sandham all put in some effort respectively by showcasing the talent it takes to take part in these events and the courage it takes to be able to go at high speeds around a track. Webster said to have enjoyed the day and felt that he had learned a lot by being out at concord as it was the first time, he, and most juniors out today, had experienced gravel and all of them handled it well. Winning and Hurst had a battle of their own as they pushed each other by setting close times and making sure that not either one of them lost sight of each other. It was a close battle by the two and it complimented their courage and mentality as they were not fazed by the position they were in and wanting to achieve their own goals and win their personal battles. All three drivers deserve plaudits for the effort they all put onto the day and should hold their head high.



Aaron Webster/Neil Jeffrey



Erica Winning/Ellya Gold



Dan Hurst/Phil Sandham

The only non-finisher was Jack Hall when his gear boxed failed on him and he was not able to recover and sadly had to retire. Hall in the three stages he participated in set very good times and drove really well also handling the track as it came to him, Hall should feel proud of what he put into his short time out on track as he showcased exactly what he can do in that short space of time.



Jack Hall/Robin Nicolson

The podium finishes of the day were Oliver Hunter/Michael Cruickshank who took top spot, Fraser Anderson/Martin Forrest came second, and Cameron Davidson/Ian McRae came third.



All the drivers of the day put in a huge effort and should all be happy with what they have done as they showed the talents they possess for the sport and have huge potential and put on a good day for all involved. I would like to personally thank everyone who helped set up the day and came along for making it a great day!

Media Reporter – Taylor Murray