

Two Wins in a row for Mackay

Just 2 weeks after taking victory on Round 3 of the 2018 Junior 1000 Ecosse Challenge, Johnnie Mackay/Gordon Reid (Suzuki Alto) repeated the success on Round 4 – The Summer Junior Stages Rally at Crail Raceway on 9th June. But they had to fight harder for the result. Going into the final stage – stage 5 – they were tied with Lewis Haining/George Myatt (Skoda Citigo) after the lead had swung back and fore over the first 3 stages – Haining by 3 seconds after stage 1; Haining by 2 secs after stage 2 and Mackay by 1 after stage 3!! But it was Mackay who took the advantage in the final stage and came out 2 seconds ahead. Another epic battle with both drivers giving it their all and crossing the finish line with their cars intact.

Glenrothes Motor Sport Club included a few format changes in the event. Firstly, the Juniors did a separate 5 stage rally – starting at 8.30am and finishing at 12 Noon. And two of the stages were the longest that our Juniors had ever done – over 10 miles each. But both moves worked well. Any concerns about the youngsters on the long stages went out the window when they just took it in their strides.

Over the first couple of stages, Ollie Hunter/Tom Hynd (Peugeot 107) stayed in touch with the top 2 – 5 seconds back after stage 2 – but an altercation with a chicane saw them drop some time on stage 3 and this allowed Andrew Blackwood/Tom Middlemiss (Citroen C1) to move into third place which they held until the end despite some heroic moments – some caught by Eddie Kelly but he missed a 2 wheel incident.

Fraser Anderson/Ian McRae (Nissan Micra) were holding fifth place up until the final stage when an over ambitious manoeuvre put a very large lorry tyre in their path and the resulting impact destroyed the front of the Micra. But the radiator – which was bent out of shape and pushed up against the engine - did not lose its water and they were able to finish the stage and only drop about 10 seconds to push them back into seventh, but still leading the Micras and the pre 2003 class.

This moved Amy McCubbin/Stuart McBride (Skoda Citigo) into fifth place. Stuart was a late replacement for Jane Nicol and it took Amy a couple of stages to adjust but once the pair gelled, she was fine. But Dad Marc was busy taking a few dents out of Amy's door and rear quarter later in the day in prep for the car going on display at the Kames Classic Show the following day. A Father's work is never done!!

Peter Beaton/Jacob Warlington (Peugeot 107) took sixth. This was another new pairing and the day started with great enthusiasm. But it was a miracle that Beaton completed the rally. In the first stage, first time co-driver Warlington, discovered that he suffered from car sickness and was ill on almost every stage. But, to their credit, the pair soldiered on and servicing between stages involved buckets of water!!

Cameron Davidson/Sue Hynd (Nissan Micra) took 8th place after a very steady drive. The car is still waiting for a change of front suspension – they have the set from the ex Harry Chalmers car – and when Dad has the time it will be changed. In addition to Cameron's rallying, the family are running 2 younger siblings in kart championships. But the car did come in for praise from the scrutineers pre event for the quality of the prep of the Micra. Which, as is the story told by every owner of a Micra, belonged to an old lady who had the under bonnet area covered in some sort of grease when new and when it was power washed, it ended up looking as if it just left the showroom.

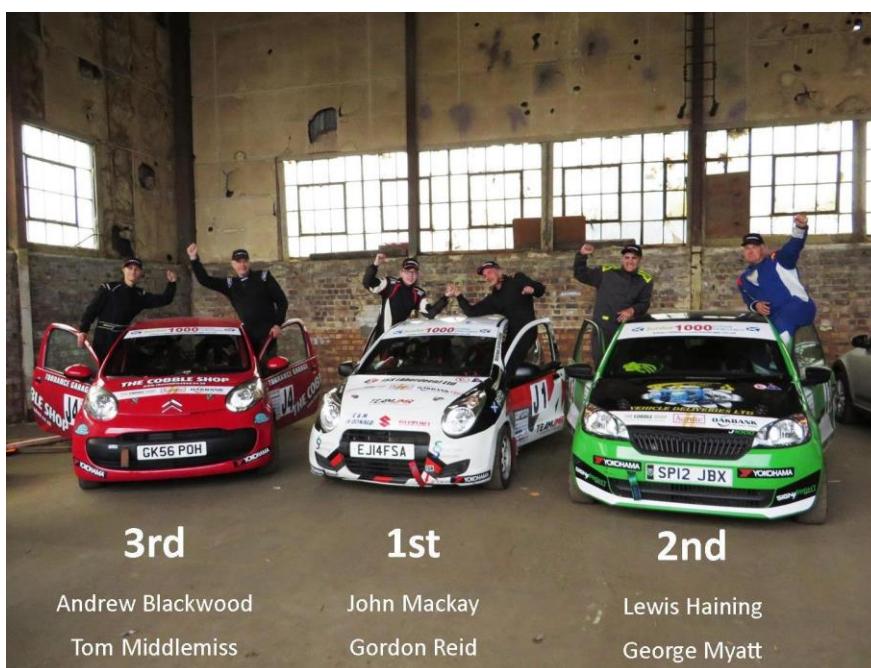
Alice Paterson/Ian Crombie (Peugeot 107) split the Micras of Davidson and Jack Hall. The only visible excitement was the loss of one of the headlights somewhere "out in the boomdocks"!! But Dad Stuart was a bit frustrated as his Subaru Impreza was not ready to do the senior rally, so a plan was hatched in the morning to put in a late entry in the senior event for Dad to drive and Alice to shout out instructions!! A novel idea. But the pair finished a very creditable 37th overall and 3rd in class 1. Is Stuart thinking of changing from 300 bhp to 70bhp anytime in the future? Maybe not.

In 10th place was Jack Hall/Robin Nicolson (Nissan Micra). By the final stage, Hall's times were getting closer to the other Micras but the car came home unscathed and the learning process continues. Co-driver Nicolson also had a busy day as he sat with 3rd place senior finisher Alan Gardner in his Millington engined Mk 1 Escort in the senior event. Only a difference of close to 300bhp!!

And Erica Winning/Mark Runciman(Nissan Micra) rounded of the list of finishers. The long 10 mile stages were a challenge for the more experienced Junior crews but Winning drove them at her own pace and continues to develop her skills. But the sheer pleasure of doing what she is doing was obvious in her face all day.

12 cars started the rally and 11 crossed the finish line. The sole retiral was Aaron Webster/Colin Baxter (Nissan Micra) who "buzzed" the engine in stage 2 and lost all compression.

There is now an 8 week gap until the next round – the annual "big event" the Solway Coast Junior Rally - when all 3 UK Junior 1000 Championships compete together over the military ranges near Kirkcudbright.



Andrew – a big drift!!



Fraser – you should see the tyre!!