

Get Connected Wyedean Stages 2008

We have been waiting for this event for quite a while, and were well wound up in the weeks leading up to the event. The tasks of cleaning and spanner checking the car seemed a lot more enjoyable than any of the previous events.

After a year of struggling with Silverstone tyres, we made the decision to change over to Kumho tyres for the year, and to register for the MSA English Rally Championship.

Fridays scrutineering went without a hitch, plus we also collected our awards for the 2007 BTRDA championship, which was a bonus.

Saturday morning came and we set off down to Chepstow. Steve decided that he was going to conquer his fear of stage 1, Chepstow Park, so we took it quickly, but aired on the edge of caution and were happy with the time at the end. At the end we found that the video camera had moved, and filmed some of the stage through the side window!

Stage 2 – Serridge1. We had a good run through here, and enjoyed the whole stage. We felt that the car was performing well with the new tyres and rear suspension modifications.

Stage 3 – Sallowvallets. The car was beginning to get hot, as the cooling fans had stopped working. We started a bit slow, but sped up as the temperature came down. We passed the car in front of us, which is always a good feeling.

Stage 4 – Piercefield Park. What can be said. A nice quick belt around the racecourse

Service meant that we could sort out the fan problem, which was traced to a burnt out relay. Nothing else was needed, apart from a swap around of the tyres and a clean.

Stage 5 – Speech House. Decided that we had to start pushing this afternoon. Had a small problem with one of the hairpins, and an intercom which kept cutting out! We set the fastest 1400 8v time on this stage.

Stage 6 – Serridge2. Another good attack at this stage, meant that we clawed back some time into the class leader. The tarmac section was taken flat out, and the car wouldn't go any faster! We both really enjoyed this second run through.

Stage 7- Mailscot. From the time when we found out that we would be running up from the river toward Staunton, Steve said that we would take it flat out, and by heck he did! The run down was a bit hairy, and we got the hairpin totally wrong. As soon as we turned by the river to go up, Steve started to wind the car up. Towards the top, there is a slight left / right over a crest which we took flat, and landed on the bank but luckily we bounced straight back onto the road! We crossed the finish with a cheer! Another fastest 8v stage time.....

We felt that the event had been the best we had competed on, and the scores at the end showed that we had done well. **2nd in class, 10th 1400 and 70th overall.** This puts us 8th overall in the MSA English and 4th in class...

Thanks to all of our sponsors, both old and new, and hope that you enjoyed the nice sunny day in the woods watching the event. A huge thanks to Leigh, John, Matthew and new boy Mike, for getting dirty and keeping the car running. Without you there is no SM Rallying team.

Next event for us, Somerset Stages in April

Steve and Mark

smrallying.co.uk