

Wales Motor Show 2006

The SM Rallying team were invited to attend this inaugural event along with several other crews, to represent FODMC and the launch of the 'Get Connected' Wyedean Stages Rally 2007, by having static displays and by running an hour long 'show' of rally cars.

The week up to the event was hectic, as there appeared to be no entrance passes for us, so after a quick call to the organising team of the event, some passes arrived and off we went on the Saturday morning.

The weekend before the show, we had fitted a new set of rear gravel shocks to the car, and had adjusted the ride height of the car, so we felt that this would be an excellent test and setup opportunity for us, plus give us a chance to show off the car to the local sponsors.

We got to the race course to find that no one really knew where we had to go, and pointed us in the direction of the inner section of the race course, so off we went and unloaded the car. The guys on the Citroen stand were hanging out of the window of their caravan when we drove past, so hopefully we could see them later. The car was off loaded and the easy-up erected. First things first, food and a coffee. The coffee was great, but the food was awful. Carpet burgers for sure. A quick walk around saw that most of the cars on display were 'blinged up, pimp my ride' stuff which, after a quick smile and smirk, were walked straight past with a question of 'why'?

There were some very nice older cars there, but the majority were not to our taste, but every ones welcome to do their own thing. Looked forward to seeing the drift cars later.

After Steve had fallen over his tongue looking at some lady leaning over the bonnet of a car showing everyone what she had for breakfast, we went back to the car and I was left to my normal job of 'Gas bagging' to every man and his dog, as Steve sat and watched.

We had a lot of interest in the car, and talked to a lot of people before we had to get Steve suited and booted to run around in the car. Leigh was the first of many people to go around the stage during the day, and after a couple of runs, felt that the car was moving too much on the back during braking, so thought a quick adjustment of the pedal box would cure the problem. Steve felt much happier with the car afterwards, and said that the rear handled the rough better as well. From the outside the car looked a lot more stable also.

Most of the afternoon was spent running whoever we could find around the stage to get more useful mileage in, and after a few hours, Steve cried enough. Job done. The car was good, and everyone was happy.

Let's hope that this will mean that we have better luck on the next rally.

Woodpecker, here we come with a good feeling.

Mark and Steve

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