

2010 Granite City Rally – your reports, pictures and thoughts enjoy



Congratulations to David Bogie & Kevin Rae our 2010 event winners

The winner of the 2010 Station Garage Mitsubishi Granite City Rally Marshals draw is Mr Iain Miller jnr. He will enjoy a day's testing with Dave Weston jnr.

Report from Graham Bruce

Well, did we have a grand day out in the forests of Deeside and Kincardineshire or what? Well, yes we did. Starting The 2010 Granite from Aboyne was slightly out of the box for all the crews but the warm reception from the locals seemed to make it worthwhile. There was also a warm reception from the ADMC Marshals who had been on station since 0630 – hardy bunch these gals!

The rain threatened by Michael Fish etc had yet to make an appearance so we set of toward SS1 Pitfichie in good spirits and were not to be disappointed. What a cracking little stage to start a rally with! At 3.61 miles in length it was short, tight, twisty and generally technical throughout – perfect to get the crew and the car clear of cobwebs and set up nicely for the rest of the day.

The 7.22 miles of SS2 Whitehaugh were slightly more challenging but no less enjoyable. Again, tight and twisty in places but generally a fast flowing stage although a tad rougher than the first.

SS3 Clashindarroch was 6.82 miles in length and was guaranteed to give crews pause for thought. 'Clash' has always been a difficult forest to negotiate and this year was to be no different. The Organisers and Route Note Provider had had plenty of difficulties in getting through here before the rally

arrived and there was still plenty of evidence that this area had received more than its' fair share of the recent snow. Parts of the route were still heavily bordered by solid snow banks and contact with these could have proved very expensive, not just in lost time. However, we successfully traversed the stage and headed back to Aboyne for Service and a spot of lunch. No problems with the car so we expected a relaxed time and boy did we get one. Just as we were preparing to leave, word came through that there was a problem with spectators at SS4 Blackhall so we were to be held in the Service Area until this had been sorted out. This delay served only to give the various crews time to wind each other up to an even higher degree than normal. Ah well, you gotta do something to pass the time! For the record, I think it's worth noting that those crews who gave the Marshals a hard time should hang their heads in shame. The Marshals passed on as much information as they had and could not be held responsible for the delay. Next time guys, take a chill-pill and enjoy the extended break, there's nothing else you can do!

So, SS4 clear of species, we set off towards the trusty southern stages and again were not to be disappointed. Blackhall is such a flowing stage that it is relatively simple for drivers to get into their rhythm early on and maintain it to the end. Let's be honest, rally drivers need things simple, don't they?!

A pleasant jaunt over the Cairn O' Mount took us into 7.50 miles of SS5 Glenfarquhar and 10.46 miles of SS6 Fetteresso; another two stalwarts of The Granite and, on such a fine day, pretty much guaranteed to give big smiles to all who got to the end. For me, the best about these southern stages is the predictability of the road conditions. If it's a dry day it will be a tad dusty but generally this will clear quickly as there is usually enough breeze to do the job. Well maintained by the local forestry guys, these roads hold up very well often despite whatever the weather and this year was no different.

Both stages were fast and flowing with some dodgy technical bits thrown in for good measure. I am sworn to secrecy on this but there was one point when we negotiated a L9 (Left 9 or 90 degree Left bend) in a slightly more backward than forward orientation. The exact location of this particular corner can be purchased at a very reasonable price!!!! 15 seconds lost but still smiling at the end of the stages. Arriving at the Ceremonial Finish of your home rally is always a special experience and we were lucky enough to witness the large gathering of spectators and fellow competitors outside HQ. OK, so we only improved 3 places on our seeding, but with no damage to the car it has to be considered a decent result. There was to be a cherry on the cake when the results went 'provisional'; Mr Watson had won Highest Placed ADMC Driver. Well, that was him happy at least. Nowt for the ever trusty co-pilot, but, as I'm not a 'pot-hunter' there are no sour grapes. No, honestly! Nope, still no stale fruit from me!! I was given a 'special' presentation later in the evening, but perhaps more of that next issue. A grand day out indeed and congratulations to Gerry and his Team for, once again, giving us a Granite to enjoy and be proud of.

Brian Watson/Graham Bruce Car 40 (37th Overall)

Stevie rally's around local charity

The Station Garage Mitsubishi Granite City Rally saw Aberdeen & District Motor Club member Stevie Brown and co-driver Andrew Roughead challenge for a front-wheel-drive podium position in their Cash for Kids liveried Ford Fiesta R2.

In their first ever outing in a left hand drive car, Brown first drove the new Fiesta R2 only hours before the rally start in the pre-event shakedown stage. "It's a big step forward from anything we've driven before, the fact that its left hand drive and the sequential gear box will take a bit of time to get used to" explained the Neil Philip Sign Writing backed driver.

On the opening stage the Five Mile Garage supported Fiesta R2 showed no signs that the steep learning curve would hold them back, completing the stage top front-wheel-drive car. A spin on stage two would however see the North East Specialist Coatings supported crew drop over 30 seconds to front runners.

Despite recent warm weather snow banks lined much of stage 3. "It was very difficult to get good grip through there" explained Stevie at the stage end. By the mid point service halt, the Global Web backed crew were 30 seconds adrift of the front-wheel-drive lead. With three stages remaining Brown and Roughead planned to push hard over the remaining 23 miles.

Leaving the start line of stage 4 while selecting second gear, the gear stick snapped meaning Stevie and Andrew had to negotiate the entire stage jammed in second. The service team worked quickly at the stage end using the handbrake lever as a replacement to the gear stick. "We have a vertical handbrake in this car, so we were able to use it as a replacement to the gear lever. We've had to bend the gear linkage a little to make it work so hopefully it'll get us to the finish" explained Stevie.

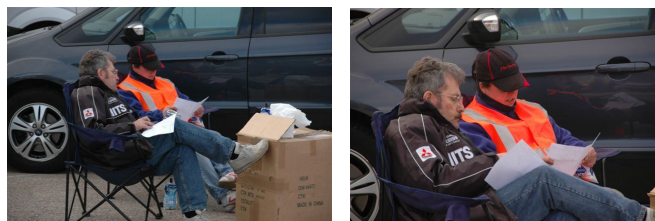
Nursing the car through the final two stages of the day, the Abermed backed team crossed the finish line 4th front-wheel-drive car. "I'm disappointed that we weren't able to push for the win over the second half of the rally, but with the gear selection problems on stage 4 it put an end to any chance we had." Stevie continues, "Looking at the stage times we had a clean run on, I'm happy with what we've achieved considering everything was new to us."

The Station Garage Mitsubishi Granite City Rally organising team gave each of the competing crews a £10 re-bate that most of the competitors donated to Cash for Kids. "Thanks to the generosity of the competitors donating their refund to the charity we raised over £450 which is fantastic "said Stevie.

Making their debut in the new Fiesta R2 Stevie and Andrew showed real potential, but a lack of budget may stop them in their tracks. "We hired the car from DGM who did a fantastic job, but we're still searching for a title sponsor to allow us to commit to a full championship" explained Stevie.

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Caption competition



Please email your suggestions to grahamanderson@abbotshall20.freeserve.co.uk

*****IMPORTANT NEWS*****

MULL RALLY – ADMC HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MARSHAL THE GLEN AROS STAGE ON THIS YEARS EVENT, WHICH RUNS FROM 8th – 10th OCTOBER 2010. PLEASE CONTACT GRAHAM BRUCE IF YOU CAN HELP OUT.

Email address copilot58@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary...

16/5/10	SDMC PCT
28-30/5/10	Jim Clark Rally
6/6/10	ADMC Fraserburgh Show
6/6/10	SDMC Autocross/Clubcross
6/6/10	63CC Autotest
26/6/10	Scottish Rally
3/7/10	DCC Crail
3 & 4/7/10	ADMC Boyndie Sprint
4/7/10	63CC Autotest