

1988 AUDI SPORT RALLY

Welcome once more to the Audi Sport Rally in the sixth year of our sponsorship of the event, which as usual is being organised by the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club.

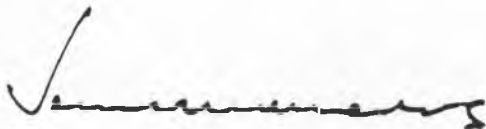
We are delighted to return to the town of Telford once more for the Rally start and Headquarters, and I hope the event will be welcomed by the people of Telford as much as it was in 1987, when we were shown tremendous hospitality and enthusiasm from everyone.

Our base once more is the Telford Moat House Hotel, again providing all the Rally Headquarters' facilities and the majority of accommodation for competitors and officials, as well as the prize giving venue on Saturday night after the event.

The event itself needs little introduction to spectators, and as you will see from the entry list, it has attracted the usual tremendous cross section of competitors, many using the event as a pre R.A.C. shakedown, others battling it out as last year for championship honours in the final round of the National Rally Championship. The closing stages of the event can be seen as last year at our usual spectator stage in the heart of Telford, but the traditional Welsh forests are where the real battles will probably take place.

On behalf of Audi, I would like to thank all the competitors and spectators who have made our event so successful over the past six years, the town of Telford for their most warm welcome to the event, and finally a special thank you to the organisers the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club and all the Rally officials and marshalls who give up a great deal of their spare time to ensure the event is a success.

Thank you for coming to the Audi Sport Rally, and I wish you a safe and enjoyable day's motoring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Meszaros', with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

John Meszaros
Marketing Manager Audi Volkswagen

Audi Sport Rally 1988

Welcome to the Audi Sport Rally which is organised by the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club Ltd.

On Friday October 21st the crews, from all over the country, plus the various international teams, presented their cars for safety examination at Hardys Garage at Trench, near Telford, and then dispersed for the official start in Welshpool at 8am on Saturday October 22nd.

Earlier today the crews were competing in the forests of Dyfnant and Dovey. There has been a service halt in the centre of Machynlleth from llam onwards and this afternoon the cars will be arriving back in Telford, Shropshire, at approximately 4pm, for the two runs through the Town Park Stage.

There will be a short ceremony afterwards to congratulate the winning trio of cars and crews and the official prize giving will be at the Telford Moat House Hotel at 10pm .

In addition to being the final round of the Cellnet/Autosport National Rally Championship the event has been a qualifying round of the Lada Challenge, the Skoda Trophy and Securicor/Shell Oils Toyota Challenge.

(This event is held under the General Regulations of the RAC Motor Sports Association Ltd (incorporating the provisions of the International Sporting Code of the FIA) and Supplementary Regulations.)

NOTICE

Warning to the Public MOTOR SPORT IS DANGEROUS

It is a condition of admission that all persons having any connection with the promotion and/or organisation and/or conduct of the meeting, including the owners of the land and the drivers and owners of the vehicles and the passengers in the vehicles, are absolved from all liability arising out of accidents causing damage or personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise) however caused to spectators or ticket holders.

Climax to a great season

by Andrew Hail

Once again this year the destination of the Cellnet/Autosport National Rally Championship title will not be known until after today's final round of the series.

The event, which witnessed the classic struggles between Alistair Sutherland and Andrew Wood in 1986 and David Gillanders, Trevor Smith and Russell Brookes last year, will prove a fitting climax to the season in which it is mathematically possible for any one of four drivers to lift the title.

Top of the points table after the Quip Forest Rally is James Renwick from Midhurst, Sussex, whose Ford Escort finished third on the Yorkshire event. However, with the best six rounds to count out of eight, he has so far only dropped one score and can therefore only increase his total by a maximum of eight points in the forests of Wales prior to the finish back here in Telford.

Current second placed man Ian Robertson is, at present, just five points behind Renwick but the garage owner from Farnham has already dropped two scores this year. This means that as many points as he can get will be added directly to his total and must put him in a better position on paper, at least.

Third place at the start today was Murray Grierson, the Scotsman whose season started with two retirements but has gradually improved since. Like Robertson, he must earn as many points as possible on the Audi Sport Rally and hope that the people in front of him don't fare too well.

A comprehensive blow-up on the last event has severely dented the chances of the championship aspirations of the Oxfordshire engineering company boss Trevor Smith. Winner of the Skip Brown, Granite City and Cumbria rallies he still needed to finish well on the last event and today's round to assure himself of the title.

However the Quip Stages was his third non-finish of the season and so even scoring maximum points today will not necessarily guarantee him the title. He, too, must hope his fellow title hunters hit trouble but, whatever happens, it is going to be another nail-biting finish.

Graham Middleton put the Group A title out of anyone else's reach on the Quip Stages but the Group N title has yet to be resolved. Ian Hughes' Mazda and George Donaldson's Ford Sierra Cosworth are neck and neck and have both only dropped one score so far.

Sparks will, no doubt, be flying as these two jockey for position in mid-Wales- and hopefully they will survive to entertain us all on the Andrew Heat for Hire Telford Town Park stage.

Another Great Entry

A host of the best amateur talent in the country, a smattering of international stars getting a "feel" of the Welsh forests in preparation for the Lombard RAC Rally next month-which incidentally stops in Telford on the night of Sunday November 20th- and some intriguing battles between Ladas, Skodas, Peugeots and Toyotas.

That's been the menu of today's Audi Sport Rally which started in Welshpool at breakfast time today and reaches its climax on the Andrews stage in Telford Town Park this afternoon.

The 160 cars which started today's event have been competing on the final round of the RAC National Rally Championship. This year the series has been sponsored by Cellnet, one of the country's leading mobile telephone and communications companies and Autosport, a national motor sport magazine.

In the Town Park this afternoon the crews which have survived the rigours of the Welsh forests, where they have been competing against the clock along miles of narrow tracks, will drive through the park twice. Initially they will be spaced at minute intervals but when they join the queue for their second run they will start at half minute intervals.

Commentator Robin Boucher will be describing the action as well as giving potted biographies about the crews during the non-stop action. News gathered from far afield on the progress of many of the competitors will be radioed to him and he will be hoping to have news of the leading competitors before they arrive in the park.

Last year the national championship was decided here in Telford and on the very last stage. However that is unlikely to happen again this year.

Favourite for the championship is a garage owner Ian Robertson in his Nissan 240RS and his main opposition will come from James Renwick a farmer in his Ford Escort. Midlands rally correspondent Andrew Haill from Sutton Coldfield has followed the progress of the championship and his up to the minute assessment is elsewhere in the programme.

But the outright winner of the Audi Sport Rally, run by the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club Ltd, is likely to come from a handful of internationals stars. Testing their Mazdas before the RAC Rally are former World Champions Hannu Mikkola from Sweden and Timo Salonen from Finland and another top Swede in action will be Per Eklund.

Heading the home list of international stars are Jimmy McRae from Scotland, winner of the RAC Open Rally Championship this year for a record fifth time. McRae winner in 1980, is joined by Malcolm Wilson, who won in 1984, Stig Blomqvist (1986) and our own Midlands star Russell Brookes, victory way back in 1976.

Some of the stars competing today.....



Russell Brookes

Stig Blomqvist

Louise Aitken - Walker

Mark Lovell

Malcolm Wilson



Telford farmer and feed merchant Roger Davies in action earlier this year in his Ford Sierra Cosworth.

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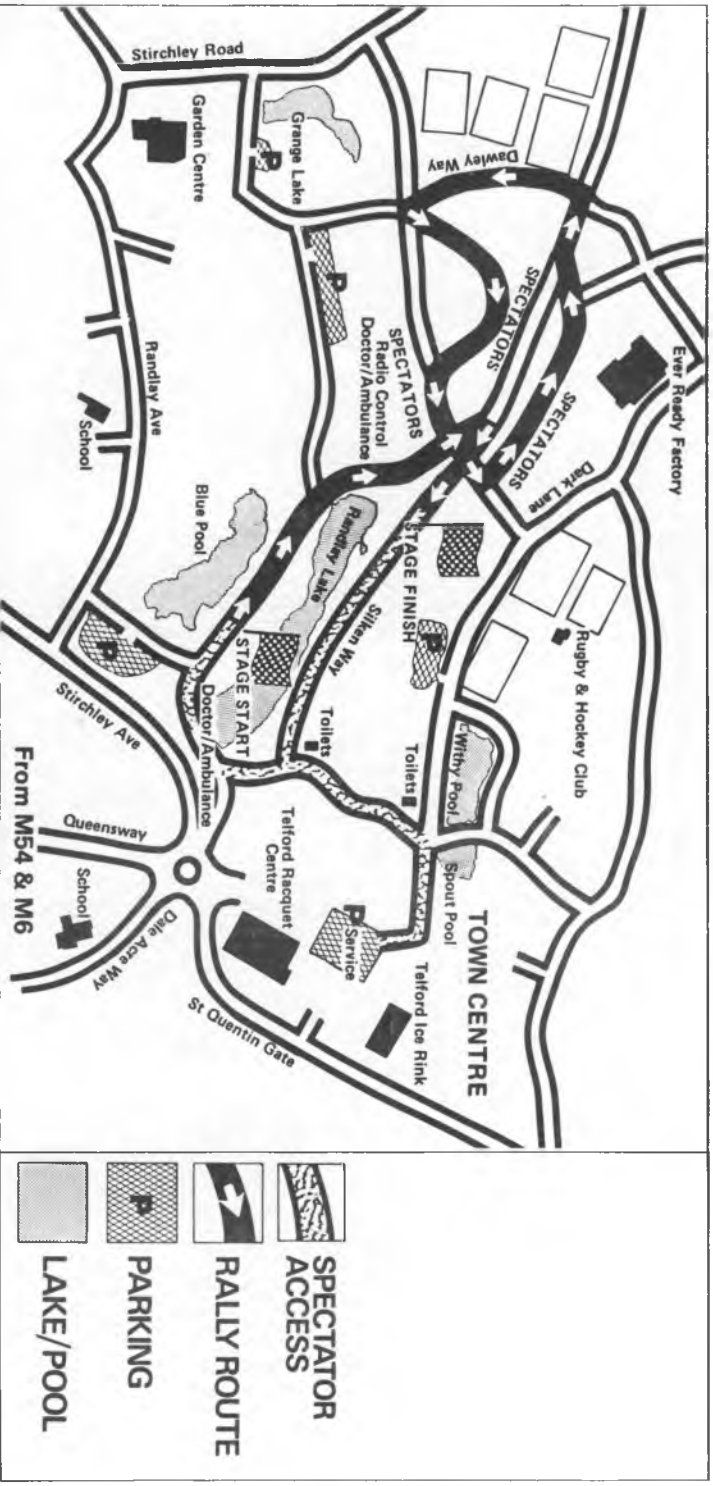
Previous winners..

1958	Tony Fisher/ Jim Thomas	1973	Not Held
1959	Bill Bengry/Pete Roberts	1974	Tony Drummond/Dave Richards
1960	Tom Gold/ Stuart Turner	1975	Tony Fowkes
1961	Brian Harper/ Ron Crellin	1976	Russell Brookes/ John Brown
1962	Pat Moss/ David Stone	1977	Pentti Airikkala/John Gittins
1963	Tony Fisher/ Brian Melia	1978	Pentti Airikkala/ Mike Nicholson
1964	Reg McBride/ Don Barrow	1979	Ari Vatanen/Dave Richards
1965	David Frizwell/ Richard Binns	1980	Jimmy McRae/ Mike Nicholson
1966	Malcolm Gibbs/Randall Morgan	1981	Henri Toivonen/Fred Gallagher
1967	Tony Chappell/ Hywel Thomas	1982	Markku Alen/Ilkka Kivimaki
1968	Colin Malkin/John Brown	1983	Michele Mouton/ Sue Baker
1969	John Bloxham/Richard Harper	1984	Malcolm Wilson/ Nigel Harris
1970	Not Held	1985	Tony Pond/ Rob Arthur
1971	Not Held	1986	Stig Blomqvist/ Bruno Berglund
1972	Pat Ryan/Mike Nicholson	1987	David Gillanders/ Ken Rees

ANDREWS Heat for Hire Town Park Stage

Audi Sport Rally

October 22nd 1988



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Our Thanks

Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club Ltd would like to thank the following without whose help the Audi Sport Rally could not have taken place today: Audi (UK) Ltd; Andrews Industrial Equipment Ltd; Officers of the Forestry Commission, Wales Conservancy; Telford Development Corporation; Montgomery District Council; Powys County Council; Wrekin District Council; Shropshire County Council; Gwynedd County Council; Police forces in West Mercia, Dyfed Powys and North Wales; RAC Motor Sports Association; Tynemouth Computer Services; Rally Radio Link; The Lions Club; Esgair Estates; Dyffryn Restaurant, Foel; Telford Moat House Hotel; Hardys of Telford; British Telecom; Morgans Bridge Garage Llanfair Caereinion; The White Horse Hotel, Machynlleth; Williams Garage, Dinas Mawddwy; All the advertisers whose messages we hope you will read or have already done so

Marshals from the following Motoring Clubs: Telford AC, Lancs & Cheshire CC, Knutsford DMC, Owen Motoring Club, Quinton MC, Wallasey MC, Monarch CC, CSMA, British Rally Marshalls Club and Chester MC. Last but not least all doctors, rescue and safety teams dotted around the route.

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Local Crews Out in Force

What have a hotel owner, a dog breeder, an oyster fisherman, a gothic castle renovator and a bank manager in common?

The answer is they are all competing on today's Audi Sport Rally-and moreover they all have fairly local connections.

The hotel owner is Mike Hill of The Four Alls in Market Drayton, who at 50 is probably the oldest competitor among the 160 crews who began today's event. He's one of three drivers entered in an Audi-his recent purchase being an Audi 80 Quattro four wheel drive car.

The dog breeder is Keith Griffiths from Shrewsbury who is co-driver to Williams Onions, also of Shrewsbury. Dog breeding is only a hobby with Keith who runs a trailer manufacturing firm.

Watch out for Lada saloon running towards the end of the event for its Wrexham occupants both have very unusual occupations. The driver, Ray Kavanagh is the oyster catcher and his co-driver Gordon Archer, also from Wrexham, has an even more unusual occupation as he does up Gothic castles.

The bank manager is Nick Petrusic from Cannock, who is co-driving a Skoda Estelle with Steve Wedgebury of Bridgnorth while the young Ludlow farmer Andrew Burton is giving his new Lancia Delta Integrale a run before the RAC Rally.

The crew who stand possibly the best chance of a high placing are Graham Middleton and Paul Watkins. Middleton runs a motor business midway between Ludlow and Leominster and has established himself as the best private Toyota driver. His co-driver Paul Watkins travels to each round from the Isle of Man.

Wrexham boats a total of three entries. John Roberts and Mike Holmes are in action in their VW Golf while an Opel Manta is the chosen steed of Colin Rowlands and Tony Hornett. But perhaps the car with the most interesting history is the Ford Escort of Shropshire crew Roy Roberts and Andy Moss which was first used by one of the stars on today' event Hannu Mikkola.Mikkola first drove the Escort on the Safari Rally in Kenya in 1971 when he was a member of the then all conquering Ford works team.

From Shrewsbury Jim Bothwell and his Newtown co-driver Jon Savage take to the forests and tarmac tracks in their VW Golf.



Scotsman Jimmy McRae (left) has just won the national rally championship title for the fifth time- a record. But he forsook the Ford Sierra Cosworth to debut the Toyota GT-Four today with Rob Arthur in readiness for the Lombard RAC Rally at the end of next month. "This car is as quick as the Metro 6R4 I drove some years ago and it's only Group A" he commented after a training stint in the forests last week. McRae may drive the car in British rallies in 1989.

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AWARDS

1st Overall
Trophy

James L Martin Challenge

and

E L Bouts Challenge Trophy

2nd - 5th Overall

individual awards to Driver and
Co-driver
Awards to Crew

1st, 2nd 3rd Private Entrants

Awards to Crew

Spirit of the Rally Award
Corporation

Coalport Bowl presented by
Telford Development

Highest placed Lady Driver

Express & Star Rose Bowl

Mixed Crew

Ironbridge Gorge award
presented by Wrekin District
Council

W'ton & S.Staffs Car Club awards:

Leading driver
" co-driver

S.W.Fletcher Trophy
Ron Moore Trophy

Best Group N Crew:Driver
Cup

Tony Lloyd-Davies Challenge

Co-driver

G.J.B.Thorne Trophy

Class awards

1st and 2nd in each category

Cut glass awards

**CELLNET/AUTOSPORT NATIONAL RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS TO THE
HIGHEST REGISTERED DRIVER AND CO-DRIVER OVERALL AND IN GROUPS A
AND N.**

Spectator Safety

Don't

- Stand on the track
- Stand below the level of the track
- Stand in front of arrows or signs
- Stand in Prohibited Areas
- Stand or sit on or near log piles walls or fences
- Sit close to the edge of the track
- Block escape routes
- Be Distracted
- Play games with your safety or that of the drivers
- Remove Stage signs or arrows
- Be the one to stop the Stage

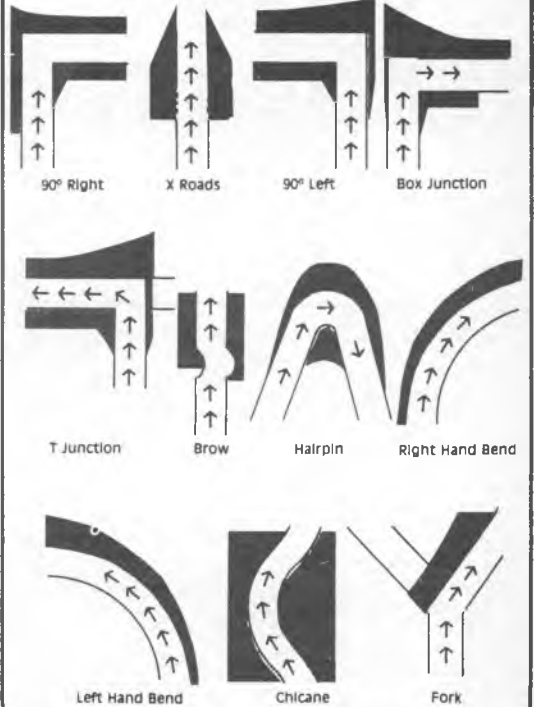
Always

- Expect the unexpected
- Listen for approaching cars
- Remain alert
- Leave yourself room to move quickly
- Try to keep behind something solid
- Keep children under supervision
- Keep dogs on a Lead
- Do as the Marshals ask
- Help the Marshals to run a safe Stage

Be Sure That -

- The unexpected can Happen
- If you Ignore Marshals' Instructions the stage will be stopped

Study the diagrams -
the shaded areas are 'No - Go'
Being there could cause delays or the
cancellation of the Stage



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Please Protect

- Yourself
- Others around you
- This Stage
- Rallying
- Motor Sport

STAY WHERE IT'S SAFE!