



EXCITING LADIES FINAL IN PROSPECT

The Castrol Coupe des Dames is set for an exciting finale in this Saturday's Bulldog Rally in mid Wales, final round of the Mintex National Rally Championship.

The Castrol title will be fought out between Gilly Handley from Cockermouth and Andrea Hall from Chipping Norton. They have dominated the championship with three maximum scores apiece. Although Gilly has a 20 point lead the points scoring system makes the position much closer and whichever of them gains maximum points on Saturday will be the overall winner. Competitors can only count their best five scores from the seven events and there is a 10 point bonus if they start in at least six.

The championship began in February in the south of England and has since taken competitors to northern Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. Gilly has led throughout but Andrea has closed the gap after winning the last two rounds. Gilly, driving her usual Flexon supported Vauxhall Corsa should finish ahead of Andrea's less powerful Shropshire Rally School entered Ford Ka but the class index of performance which determines the all important Castrol points means that they must aim to win their respective classes.

Gilly has only three other competitors in the Group A 1400 to 1600cc class while Andrea is in the much bigger Ford Ka Championship category which she will be going all out to win to secure a works supported drive next year. A similar class result for each of them will be to Andrea's advantage but what neither can afford is a retirement.

Three other lady drivers will be contesting the Castrol Coupe des Dames in Wales. Clare Morran from Bishops Stortford and Anna Tait from London also drive Ford Kas while Natalie Barratt from Prestbury, Cheshire returns to the series at the wheel of her brand new Mitsubishi Lancer. Clare lies third in the championship and could take the runner up spot if Andrea hits trouble.

The Castrol sponsored Coupe des Dames aims to find the best British lady rally driver at national level. After six rounds the top three positions are :-

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|----|---------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Gilly Handley | Vauxhall Corsa | 66 pts. | 5 scores from 6 starts |
| 2. | Andrea Hall | Ford Ka | 46 | 4 scores from 5 starts |
| 3. | Clare Morran | Ford Ka | 42 | 4 scores from 6 starts. |

Ends

19 October 1998

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