



CHAMPIONSHIP CO-ORDINATOR

John Horton

PO Box 200 Sutton Coldfield

West Midlands B75 7TR

(tel) 0121 378 2828

(fax) 0121 378 0500

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Newsletter Six:

After the sixth and final round of the  
Motoring News/Demon Tweeks Historic Rally Championship  
The Bulldog Historic Rally - Saturday 24th October 1998

### Tuthill dominates finale

Richard Tuthill, driving a Porsche 911, was the runaway winner of the Bulldog Historic Rally, the sixth and final round of this year's Motoring News/Demon Tweeks Historic Rally Championship.

The 23 year old Student from Banbury, co-driven by his 22 year old sister, Katy, was fastest over all six special stages in the rain-lashed forests of mid Wales.

Despite intermittent fuel surge, Tuthill led from start to finish, recording a winning margin of almost six minutes after 58.26 miles of competitive driving.

Maximum Championship points, for the second time this season, promoted Richard from fourth to second in the overall Drivers' Championship.

Heavy rain, floods and high winds added to the challenge of the Shrewsbury-based Bulldog Historic Rally, ably organised by Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire Car Club Ltd, who were forced to cancel only the final spectator stage in Shrewsbury Agricultural Showground when the River Severn breached its banks.

Seventeen of the 25 starters in the Historic event were Championship contenders. Noticeable by their absence were Ulsterman and Champion elect, Dessie Nutt and Mansfields' Stephen Hall who held second place in the Championship standings after the Corkills Manx Historic Rally.

Graham Waite proved that given appropriate seeding he can deliver a result. The Volvo driver from Nuneaton claimed second place despite co-driver Gary Titchmarsh suffering from the effects of 'sea-sickness' in the waterlogged conditions. With four class wins from five starts Waite is Class B4 Champion.

Mike Corns and Ana Goni, recently back from the hot and dusty 'Shield of Africa' Marathon, adapted well to the extreme weather conditions, finishing third overall and winning Class B3 in their Historic Motorsport Lotus Cortina and, as a result, the Motoring News/Demon Tweaks Championship class as well. Mike also improved six places in the Drivers' Championship to end the season eighth overall.

John Spiers only problem on his way to fourth overall and first in Class B6 was driving off the edge of the finish ramp and grounding his Austin Healey 3000. Spectators and officials, after some head scratching, lifted the car and removed John and co-driver Paul Rothwell from their embarrassing predicament.

Dave Preece, equipped with gardening gloves and hiking boots (a fact verified at prizegiving by his co-driver Rowand Prentice) sailed his day-glow orange Porsche 911 fifth overall and second in class to Richard Tuthill.

David McErlain and Andrew Merifield were sixth in the Charrington's Porsche 911 after a damp but relatively trouble-free day.

Peter Wiseman and Mark Bentley (Morris Cooper S) won Class B2 on the Bulldog Historic and in doing so confirmed themselves as Champion Class B2 winners. From five starts they had recorded four maximum point scores.

Oxford-based Scotsman Alistair Bell finished 11th overall and won Class B1 in his Austin Cooper S.

Neil Calvert and Arlene Cookson rolled a front tyre off its rim in stage 5 (Taltiesin) losing over six minutes while they found somewhere safe to stop and change the wheel. "The only mousse we had in the car was for Arlene's hair!" said a philosophical Neil Calvert. Eventually they finished 12th overall.

Christopher and Hilary Green, on only their second Championship outing, were 13th overall in their Cortina GT Mark 1, one place ahead of the Saab Sonett of Andrew Street and Simon Gaden, the unique Swedish car having left most of its exhaust system in stages 6, 7 and 8...

The bright yellow Saab had attracted the attention of Finland's Jarmo Kytölehto during Friday's scrutineering session, when the young Finn took time to look over the Droitwich SAAB backed car.

The Whitney's - Nick and Paul - finished 15th overall, twelve seconds ahead of David Atherton and David Penn; both teams in Ford Lotus Cortina models. Ten Championship points for David Atherton has moved him up into runner-up position in Championship Class B3.

Notable retirements included Adrian Kermode (Corkill's Porsche 911) who was reported to have hit a log pile and rolled in stage 5; Graham Samuel (Volvo 122S) who was reported to have slipped off the road in stage 4 (Myherin); Phil and Aggie Foster who struggled through stage 5 but failed to bring their Anglia out of stage 6 (Dyfi Main) where the normally reliable car was sidelined by electrical problems; Geoff Stewart, with his mechanic Colin Thompson (who had worked round the clock to ready the Porsche 911 after its Corkill's Manx crash), slid into a ditch in stage 5.

\* Out and about was Martin R Fox, still wearing a neck and head brace after his Manx accident.

He brought us up to date with his recent news: "I was released from Nobles Hospital in Douglas six days after the accident but still in considerable pain. I went to Basingstoke Hospital where they diagnosed that I had a broken neck, three broken ribs, a collapsed vertebrae and bruising to the front of my brain. I will know on November 4th how long I will have to wear the neck and head brace but I will be out of Motorsport for at least a year and sadly I have had to suspend my preparation business, Renard Autosport until I am fully fit. I still want to be actively involved in Historic Rallying and I will be attending as many events as is practical."

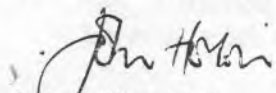
\* Details of next year's Championship will be forwarded to 1998 registered drivers and co-drivers as soon as regulations and event details are formalised.

Input on the format and preferred events has come from the majority of drivers who had contended all the Championship rounds prior to the Bulldog Historic Rally.

\* For the moment, can I thank everyone who has supported the Championship as a contender, the event organisers for putting on such excellent events and, on behalf of the registered contenders, a sincere thank you is due to Ray Dale and John Hopwood for their involvement.

On a personal note I thoroughly enjoyed my first year with the Championship and I am already looking forward to next year's series - details of which should be distributed after the Coys Historic Rally of Great Britain.

Yours sincerely,



John Horton  
Championship Co-ordinator

Enc: Bulldog Historic Rally Results  
Motoring News/Demon Tweeks Historic Rally Championship  
points after the sixth and final round.