

# MINTEX NATIONAL

14th Oct  
1998

## RALLY SERIES

### Round 7 - Bulldog Rally

### IN-FORM DODD SEEKS BULLDOG DOUBLE AS MINTEX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONCLUDES IN WALES

*Despite the majority of titles having already been decided, a tense battle for the minor places rages on when over 100 cars contest the Shrewsbury-based Bulldog Rally on Saturday, October 24th.*

Mintex National Championship regulars intermingle with a sprinkling of 'wild cards' drawn to final round by the nine high quality stages, some of which will be used in the Welsh legs of British round of the world championship - the Network Q RAC Rally - in November.

Overall Mintex Champion-elect Roger Duckworth (WHITTLEBURY) (\*see footnote) is fourth over the start ramp in his Autosportif Subaru Impreza, as the field is led off by Finnish works star Jarmo Kytölehto in a Vauxhall Astra, Icelandic Champion Runar Jonsson (Subaru Legacy) and Marcus Dodd (Sunseeker Powerboats Ford Escort WRC). Dodd, from POOLE, won the Bulldog Rally 12 months ago and is seeking his third successive Mintex victory (he also won the 1998 Trackrod and Enterprise Printing rallies). But for a traumatic opening four rounds of the season when he failed to gain a finish, Dodd would surely have been pressing Duckworth for the national title. That task has largely fallen to Scotsman Murray Grierson (DALBEATTIE, Dupont Subaru Impreza) and North Yorkshire builder Martyn Harrison (MALTON, MG Metro 6R4) who could cap his comeback season, after a five year retirement, by clinching second place.

Vince Wetton (ATHERSTONE, Business Express Mitsubishi Lancer E4) and Gethin Jones (BRIDGEND, Ford Escort Super Rally Car) have wrapped up the 'showroom standard' Group N and two-wheel drive Formula 2 titles respectively, with each on a run of three straight series victories.

Wetton's usual challenge from DUBLINER Richie Holfeld (Ralliart Co-ordsport Mitsubishi Lancer E4) and local charger Roger Davies (EATON CONSTANTINE,

*\*note: Duckworth's unassailable lead is subject to a protest over the result of round 5 - the Enterprise Printing Rally\**

Ford Escort Cosworth) is augmented by the triple former Mintex Group N Champion Jeremy Easson (OAKHAM, whose Colin Easson Motors Mitsubishi Lancer E5 makes its first championship appearance of the season.

Several Class battles are still to be decided with the 1400cc Group A category proving a dog-fight between four drivers all contesting the **Nissan Micra Challenge**. Seamus Donnelly (MAGHERAFELT), Martin Sansom (KENT), Paul Crossen (Co DOWN) and Oliver Boakes (SHERBOURNE). The 1400cc Group B Class has also been dominated by one car - with a trio of competitors in the **Ford Rally Ka Championship** vying for the honours: Mark Stokoe (TATSFIELD), Edward Pugh (DOLGELLAU) AND Andrea Hall (CHIPPING NORTON). Hall is also chasing COCKERMOUTH's Gilly Handley (Flexon Vauxhall Corsa) in the **Castrol Coupe des Dames** title race.

The Woverhampton and Staffordshire Car Clubs-organised Bulldog Rally also brings to a conclusion the **Allways Executive Welsh Championship** and **Lada Challenge**. It returns to Shrewsbury for its base after many years in Aberystwyth, with the extensive Shropshire Showground being utilized for both pre-event activities and the last stage and finish, enabling the town's people easy access to some of the action. The first car leaves the start in Newtown at 8am with the winner due over the finish ramp around 5pm. The rally's nine stages cover approximately 80 miles of mainly forest tracks in the Dyfi, Gartheiniog, Dyfnant, Hafren, Tarenig Myrherin and Taliesin complexes.

**1998 MINTEX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 6 rounds)**

1. Roger Duckworth (Subaru Impreza) 110 points; 2. Martyn Harrison (MG Metro 6R4) 95; 3. Murray Grierson (Subaru Impreza) 91; 4. Steve Petch (Ford Escort WRC) 75; 5. Geoff Smith (Ford Escort Cosworth) 75; 6. Warren Philliskirk (MG Metro 6R4) 71; 7. V Wetton (Mitsubishi Lancer) 66; 8. Guy Robinson (Ford Escort Cosworth) 64; 9. Richie Holfeld (Mitsubishi Lancer) 64; 10. Alistair Tough (Mitsubishi Galant) 60.

Group N : 1. Wetton 119 points; 2. Holfeld 108; 3. Foster 80; 4. Roger Davies (Ford Escort Cosworth) 96; 5. Nick Foster (Ford Escort Cosworth) 80; 5. Gary Cooper (Ford Escort Cosworth) 77.

Formula 2: 1. Gethin Jones (Ford Escort) 57; 2. Miles Jude (Honda Civic) 45; 3. Seamus Donnelly (Nissan Micra) 36; 4. Gilly Handley (Vauxhall Corsa) 33; 5. Graham Middleton (Ford Escort) 32.

Further Details contact Keith McGhie (Mintex Championship Press Officer) on 01274 671112 until 22/10 or Keith McGhie/John Clewer (Bulldog Rally Press Officer) on 01746 231288 during the event (23-4/10)  
Rally HQ is the Radbrook Hal Hotel, Shrewsbury, Tel: 01743 236676

FREE PRESS  
INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE  
USE

# MINTEX NATIONAL

21st Oct  
1998

## RALLY SERIES

### DUCKWORTH CONFIRMED CHAMPION

***Roger Duckworth has been confirmed Mintex National Rally Champion prior to this Saturday's (October 24th) final round - the Bulldog Rally in Wales.***

Duckworth holds an unassailable points lead but has been awaiting the outcome of a protest against his failure to report at a time control during the fifth round Enterprise Printing Rally.

The RAC this week threw out the appeal to give the 33 year-old Northamptonshire engineer and his co-driver Mark Broomfield their first national titles.

The other major titles have also already been decided with Atherstone's Vince Wetton taking the 'showroom standard' Group N and Bridgend's Gethin Jones clinching the Formula 2 crown on the Trackrod Forest Stages sixth round of the championship.

#### 1998 MINTEX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 6 rounds)

1. Roger Duckworth (Subaru Impreza) 110 points; 2. Martyn Harrison (MG Metro 6R4) 95; 3. Murray Grierson (Subaru Impreza) 91; 4. Steve Petch (Ford Escort WRC) 75; 5. Geoff Smith (Ford Escort Cosworth) 75; 6. Warren Philliskirk (MG Metro 6R4) 71; 7. V Wetton (Mitsubishi Lancer) 66; 8. Guy Robinson (Ford Escort Cosworth) 64; 9. Richie Holfeld (Mitsubishi Lancer) 64; 10. Alistair Tough (Mitsubishi Galant) 60.

Group N: 1. Wetton 119 points; 2. Holfeld 108; 3. Foster 80; 4. Roger Davies (Ford Escort Cosworth) 96; 5. Nick Foster (Ford Escort Cosworth) 80; 5. Gary Cooper (Ford Escort Cosworth) 77.

Formula 2: 1. Gethin Jones (Ford Escort) 57; 2. Miles Jude (Honda Civic) 45; 3. Seamus Donnelly (Nissan Micra) 36; 4. Gilly Handley (Vauxhall Corsa) 33; 5. Graham Middleton (Ford Escort) 32.

Further Details contact Keith McGhie (Mintex Championship Press Officer) on  
01274 671112



FREE PRESS  
INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE  
USE



23rd Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## Round 7 - Bulldog Rally

### IN-FORM DODD DEFENDS BULLDOG CROWN

***Poole powerboat dealer Marcus Dodd bids for a second successive victory at tomorrow's Bulldog Rally (October 24th) in the rain-lashed forests of mid-Wales***

Dodd, 27, who dominated the event last year, drives the Ford Escort World Rally Car which has also taken him and co-driver John Bennie to victory on the last two rounds of the Mintex National Championship. Dodd failed to score on the opening four rounds of this season's championship, which has gone to Silverstone's Roger Duckworth in a Subaru Impreza, and both can expect a stern challenge from Vauxhall's Finnish works star Jarmo Kytölehto, in an Astra, and the Subaru of Icelandic Champion Runar Jonsson.

The nine stage rally begins in Newtown (8am) and finishes at the Shropshire Showground in Shrewsbury around 5pm.

#### **1998 MINTEX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 6 rounds)**

***1. Roger Duckworth (Subaru Impreza) 110 points; 2. Martyn Harrison (MG Metro 6R4) 95; 3. Murray Grierson (Subaru Impreza) 91; 4. Steve Petch (Ford Escort WRC) 75; 5. Geoff Smith (Ford Escort Cosworth) 75.***

***Further Details contact Keith McGhie (Mintex Championship Press Officer)  
or John Clewer (Bulldog Rally Press Officer) at  
Rally HQ - Radbrook Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury, Tel: 01743 236676***

RESS  
ATION



14th October  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## MUCH WENLOCK LAST STOP FOR SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

***Local star Roger Davies is the star attraction when the Mintex National Rally Championship drops in on William Brookes School in Much Wenlock prior to next week's Bulldog Rally final round.***

Davies, the 1996 Mintex Formula 2 Champion from nearby Eaton Constantine, will take his current Compomotive/Michelin-backed Ford Escort Cosworth along to show around 60 year 9, 10 and 11 pupils on the morning of Thursday 22nd October.

William Brookes School is only a stone's throw from the headquarters of Bulldog Security Products - the sponsors of the championship's seventh round - in Much Wenlock.

Davies will be joined by Mintex Competitor Liaison Officer Dilys Rogers, the driving force behind the Schools Initiatives, Ford Ka Championship front-runner Edward Pugh and Peugeot 205 driver Duncan Williams.

The Mintex Schools Initiatives are supported by Ford, Nissan, Ordnance Survey and the RAC MSA.

\*\*\* Further Details - contact: Dilys Rogers on 01530 222958 \*\*\*

*Issued by Mintex National Rally Championship Press Officer - Keith McGhie  
Tel & Fax: 01274 671112*

### STOP PRESS

- Roger Davies's daughter Sally goes to the William Brookes School
- Telford Motor Club and the RAC MSA are sending along representatives to talk about participating and careers in motorsport
- Aslo the Shropshire Rally School have promised to send a car

FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



23rd Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

ROUND 7

BULLDOG RALLY

## DODD FACES FIERCE COMPETITION IN BULLDOG DOUBLE BID

Top Ford Escort WRC driver Marcus Dodd faces a host of international stars in his bid to win the Bulldog Rally for a second successive year. Dodd, who has also won the last two rounds of the Mintex National Championship, is up against Vauxhall's Finnish works driver Jarmo Kytölehto, Icelandic Champion Runar Jonsson, plus late entries Alistair McRae and Chris Mellors.

McRae uses the nine stage final round of the championship as practice for next month's Network Q RAC Rally, which uses many of the same stages and where he teams up with elder brother and ex-World Champion Colin at Subaru.

Triple former Mintex Champion Mellors becomes the third previous winner of the Bulldog Rally (1995), along with Dodd and Steve Hill (1996), his self prepared Ford Escort WRC.

Other big names to watch include newly crowned 1998 National Champion Roger Duckworth and his predecessor Brian Lyall, both in Subaru Imprezas.

Vince Wetton and Gethin Jones have already clinched the Group N (showroom specification) and Formula 2 Mintex titles and both look for a third successive championship victory in their respective categories.

Further information - Keith McChie or John Clewer 01743 231288

FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



23rd Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## ROUND 7

12noon

BULLDOG RALLY

### SUBARU STAR McRAE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE

Alister McRae, using the Bulldog Rally as practice for next month's Network Q RAC Rally, continues to extend his early advantage. The Subaru Impreza driver has so far been fastest on three of the four stages to open a lead of almost two minutes over Andrew Burton's hybrid Peugeot/Metro/Cosworth with the MG Metro 6R4 of Martyn Harrison third.

Jeremy Easson's lead in the showroom category Group N has been cut to just ten seconds by fellow Mitsubishi Lancer pilot, local Leominster driver Mark Perrott.

The rally is progressing in driving wind and rain and is due to finish at the Shropshire Showground in Shrewsbury around 5pm today.

Finnish star Jarmo Kytola crashed his works Vauxhall Astra off the track on stage 2 and collected a stage maximum but is back up to speed, although well adrift of the leaders.

#### Positions after Stage 4

POSITION	NUMBER	CREW		PENALTY
1	119	Alister McRae/David Senior	Subaru Impreza WRC	A8 0:36:32
2	11	Andrew Burton/Rob Morgan	Peugeot Cosworth	B12 0:38:19
3	5	Martyn Harrison/Lyn Jenkins	MG Metro 6R4	B12 0:39:21
4	7	Brian Lyall/Steve Harris	Subaru Impreza WRC	A8 0:39:45
5	6	Murray Grierson/Campbell Roy	Subaru Impreza	A8 0:39:48
6	113	Chris Mellors/Brian Goff	Ford Escort WRC	B12 0:39:55
7	10	Steve Petch/Peter Croft	Ford Escort WRC	B12 0:40:14
8	19	Jeremy Easson/Alun Cook	Mitsubishi Lancer	N4 0:40:28
9	104	Mark Perrott/Paul Morris	Mitsubishi Lancer	N4 0:40:38
10	12	Glyn Jones/Huw Lewis	Subaru Impreza	A8 0:40:40

**\*\*Further details: Keith McGhie or John Clewer on 01743 231288\*\***



FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



23rd Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

ROUND 7

1pm

BULLDOG RALLY

THE SHOW CAN'T GO ON!!!  
FLOODS CAUSE CANCELLATION OF RALLY SHOWPIECE

Torrential rain has forced cancellation of the showpiece stage of today's Bulldog Rally - the final round of the Mintex National Rally Championship.

The recent foul weather has caused the River Severn to burst its banks in Shrewsbury and flood the access road to the ninth and final stage at the Shropshire Showground.

The eighth stage in Dyfnant forest will now form the rally's climax, although the cars will still go over the ceremonial finishing ramp in the Showground.

Ex-British Champion Alister McRae, in a factory Subaru Impreza, holds a clear lead in the rally after five stages.

\*\*Further details: Keith McGhie or John Clewer on 01743 231288\*\*



FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



23rd Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## ROUND 7

2.15pm

BULLDOG RALLY

### EX-BRITISH CHAMP 'CRUISING' THROUGH WATER-LOGGED STAGES

Alister McRae, debuting a works Subaru Impreza, has made light of treacherous conditions to lead the Bulldog Rally with three stages remaining

Scotsman McRae has been fastest on four of the first five rain-sodden stages and holds a two minutes and 12 seconds advantage over local star Andrew Burton in an self-built Cosworth powered Peugeot.

Three times former Mintex Champion Chris Mellors, outgoing champion Brian Lyall, triple Group N Champion Steve Petch and Metro 6R4 driver Martin Harrison are the latest competitors to suffer problems in the mud-bound forests of mid Wales.

The ninth and final stage at the Shropshire Sowground has been cancelled due to flooding from the nearby river severn and the winner is now due back at the finish in Shrewsbury just before 5pm.

#### Positions after Stage 5

POSITION	NUMBER	CREW		PENALTY
1	119	Alister McRae/David Senior	Subaru Impreza WRC	A8 0:47:40
2	11	Andrew Burton/Rob Morgan	Peugeot Cosworth	B12 0:49:52
3	5	Martyn Harrison/Lyn Jenkins	MG Metro 6R4	B12 0:51:17
4	6	Murray Grierson/Campbell Roy	Subaru Impreza	A8 0:51:20
5	7	Brian Lyall/Steve Harris	Subaru Impreza WRC	A8 0:51:26
6	19	Jeremy Easson/Alun Cook	Mitsubishi Lancer	N4 0:52:30
7	104	Mark Perrott/Paul Morris	Mitsubishi Lancer	N4 0:52:48
8	4	Roger Duckworth/Mark Broomfield	Subaru Impreza	B12 0:52:52
9	12	Glyn Jones/Huw Lewis	Subaru Impreza	A8 0:52:58
10	17	Guy Robinson/Andy Marchbank	Ford Escort Cosw.	B12 0:53:03

\*\*Further details: Keith McGhie or John Clewer on 01743 231288\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



24th Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## ROUND 7

### BULLDOG RALLY

#### CHAMPION WETTON MAXIMISES ADVANTAGE IN WELSH MUD

ATHERSTONE'S VINCE WETTON emphasized his superiority in the showroom category of the Mintex National Rally Championship by taking maximum points for the fourth successive round at the Bulldog Rally in a rain-lashed Wales.

Wetton and co-driver Joff Haigh, who had already clinched the title on the previous round in Yorkshire, steered their Mitsubishi Lancer into 12th place overall amid many more modified cars.

Ex-BTRDA clubman's champion Wetton's next outing is on November's Network Q RAC Rally - Britain's final round of the world championship.

Two Group N cars did finish ahead of them but both the similar Mitsubishi's of former champion Jeremy Eason and fast rising Mark Perrott were not registered for the championship and so didn't stop them from taking maximum points and extending their overall advantage.

Scotland's Alister McRae drove a works Subaru Impreza to a comprehensive outright victory, whilst Welshman Gethin Jones confirmed his position as Mintex Formula 2 Champion, steering his Ford Escort SRC to a fourth successive win in the two-litre, two-wheel drive category.

#### Final Group N Result (after 8 Stages)

POSN.	NUMBER	CREW		PENALTY
1	19	Jeremy Eason/Alun Cook	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:30:00
2	104	Mark Perrott/Paul Morris	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:30:41
3	20	Vince Wetton/Joff Haigh	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:32:50
4	105	Malloch Nicoll/Roy Campbell	Ford Escort Cosw.	1:34:37
5	22	Roger Davies/Richard Skinner	Ford Escort Cosw.	1:35:18

Final Group N Championship positions: 1. V Wetton (Mitsubishi Lancer) 132 pts;  
2. R Holfeld (Mitsubishi Lancer) 118, 3. R Davies (Ford Escort Cosworth) 108.

\*\*Further details: Keith McGhie or John Clewer on 01743 231288\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
FREE PRESS INFORMATION



24th Oct  
1998

# RALLY SERIES

## ROUND 7

### BULLDOG RALLY

#### JONES STORMS THROUGH THE RAIN TO EXTEND WINNING RUN

BRIDGEND'S GETHIN JONES completely dominated Formula Two on the Bulldog Rally to take his fourth consecutive Mintex National Rally Championship victory in the two-litre, two-wheel drive category.

Jones and co-driver James Phillips, who had already clinched the title on the previous round, finished a massive five and a half minutes ahead of the Nissan Micra of second placed Seamus Donnelly.

They were driving a Ford-backed Escort Super Rally Car - the prize for winning last year's Ford Rally Ka Championship.

Scotland's Alister McRae drove a works Subaru Impreza to a comprehensive outright victory, whilst Jeremy Easson took the showroom standard Group N in a Mitsubishi Lancer.

#### Final Formula 2 Result (after 8 Stages)

POSN.	NUMBER	CREW		PENALTY
1	30	Gethin Jones/James Phillips	Ford Escort Super	1:33:51
2	59	Seamus Donnelly/Danny O'Neill	Nissan Micra	1:39:29
3	61	Martin Sansom/Phil Wells	Nissan Micra	1:39:44
4	47	Paul Taylor/Andy Cook	Vauxhall Astra	1:39:49
5	109	Carl Davies/Andrew Bushe	Nissan Micra	1:41:07

\*\*Further details: Keith McGhie (Press Officer) on 01274 671112\*\*  
or Gethin Jones on 01656 652008 (d/e) or 0421 735742