

AudiSport Rally

Saturday October 24th

BULLETIN ONE

TIME: 11.05

129 Crews set off at the early hour of 08.30 on the AUDI SPORT NATIONAL RALLY, the final round of the 1987 MARLBORO AUTOSPORT NATIONAL RALLY. Leading the field away were international stars Timo Salonen/Seppo Harjanne in a Mazda 323 Turbo 4WD who are using the event as a shake down for the RAC Rally. Ahead of the competitors lay 10 demanding stages in the Dovey Forest complex and, as a sting in the tail, two spectator stages in Telford Town Park, part of which will be floodlit.

There was an early scare for Championship crew Trevor Smith/Roger Jones (Ford Sierra Cosworth) who arrived at the start to find they had lost their Road Book. Trevor's wife was despatched on the 100 mil round trip to Rally H.Q. to obtain a replacement. This upheaval didn't seem to affect Smith & Jones as they were lying in the top ten after the first stage.

Another Cosworth driver in trouble was Mark Lovell who found his car wouldn't start due to a flat battery. The car was push started and a replacement fitted before the crew tackled the first stage; without losing any time.

Last year's National Champion Alistair Sutherland reported engine problems on his Mazda 323 Turbo. They are hoping to rectify these at the first service halt.

Local driver Harry Hockley reported very icy conditions near the finish of the first stage but was surprised at the good conditions of the roads following the recent heavy rain.

Simon Stubbings/Chris Wood made a wrong tyre choice and suffered from a lack of adhesion, as the stages were less firm than expected. They are going to fit narrower tyres at service.

***Wolverhampton & South
Staffs Car Club Ltd.***



Leading 1300cc crew Colin McCrae/Derek Ringer suffered a puncture on their Nova, a mile from the finish of Stage One. They didn't stop to change it and estimate they only lost about 15 seconds.

Scots drivers dominated the opening stage with Cumbria Rally winners Steve Whiteford/Dave Adams (Metro) just 7 seconds ahead of Ken Wood/Peter Brown (Golden Wonder Metro) Pat Doran/Steve Harvey came next, just ahead of Championship Leaders Dave Gilanders/Ken Ross. The 4 wheel drive cars are dominating proceedings with the first two wheel drive car being Trevor Smith in 9th place.