

# AUSTIN ROVER RALLY NEWS



Courtesy of

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Audi Sport Rally 24th October 1987

RALLY NEWS NO. 3

MACHYNLLETH...service...11.30 am Saturday

## UNOFFICIAL LEADERBOARD AFTER SPECIAL STAGE 5 - Cwmcellli

1st	Ken Wood/Peter Brown	MG Metro	37.41 mins.secs.
2nd	Pat Doran/Steve Harvey	MG Metro	37.43
3rd	David Gillanders/Ken Rees	MG Metro	37.52
4th	Timo Salonen/Seppo Harjanne	Mazda	38.11 Group A
5th	Bill Barton/Don George	MG Metro	38.17
6th	Grant Shand/Frank Richer	MG Metro	38.48
7th	Roger Clark/John Robinson	MG Metro	38.55
8th	Trevor Smith/Roger Jones	Sierra	39.21 group A

A few more totals....Russell Brookes 39.30. ...Mark Lovell 39.49...Malcolm Wilson 40.34... Iwan Roberts 39.44...Jan Churchill 41.23...Frank Meagher 40.24...Ian Beveridge 41.23... Steve Harris 39.35...Alistair Sutherland 41.30...

First major upset amongst the leaders of the '87 Audi Sport Rally was STEVE WHITEFORD and co driver DAVE ADAMS crashing out of the lead on a very slippery, muddy, downhill hairpin on the 2nd stage....such the same spot as Phil Collins crashed out on last year...this allowed KEN WOOD, 2nd fastest on the opening stage, to move into a slender lead in his Golden Wonder MG Metro, the Scottish driver looking remarkably cool and calm here at the Machynlleth service area, and reckons he's not pushing the car at all. PAT DORAN in 2nd place has still been hampered by gearbox problems, but has just borrowed a new unit from IAN BEVERIDGE and the mechanics are frantically working at the little MG now, as we type, to get Pat back on the road and in a challenging position.

Championship leader DAVID GILLANDERS arrived in here to service saying.."I've been going very cautiously, particularly where there are logs, it seems to be very muddy, but I'm still going for a win, and to do that we've got to finish"....his British Car Rentals MG really requiring nothing more than routine servicing.

Snippets..... JEFF CHURCHILL has retired the RS200, we're not quite sure why... but he was making gearbox noises out the window, and of course as ever his timing was immaculate - "They're open"!.....BILL BARTON almost collided with the stricken Whiteford MG, but was thrown back on to the stage by a large rock!.....PAT DORAN was far and away fastest on stage 4, despite his gearbox problem...ROGER CLARK "far too early a start"... in the R.E.D. Metro...MALCOLM WILSON lost approx. 1 minute on stage 3 with gearbox selector problems, apparently the turret came loose, but all now OK, and in fact Malcolm on a couple of stages has been 1 or 2 secs. faster than team mate RUSSELL BROOKES... the Vauxhall driver still very much with the championship title in view...and reporting his little Astra to be going very well after the spin on the 1st stage....IWAN ROBERTS has been finding no grip in the Manta, going to try cutting the tyres....GRANT SHAND still has a misfire in his Metro...GRAHAM MIDDLETON has had a rear axle of the Shell/Securicor Toyota split by a stone, he has no spare in the van and the mechanics are welding it up at the moment....TREVOR SMITH in the Ford Sierra, leading the registered group A contenders, and still very much in contention for the championship, is fettling the suspension of the Sierra...JAN CHURCHILL has a flat spot in the middle rev range of the Porsche...losing time on the soft ground...FRANK MEAGHER from Ireland has had gear selection problems with his Escort...going to try changing the oil... ALISTAIR SUTHERLAND reckons he is down on power in the Mazda = again... STEVE HARRIS No. 20 had a couple of spins early on, but is now setting respectable times...COLIN MORAE had a puncture on the 1st stage, losing a little time, his Dad JIM and Mum Margaret keeping a careful eye on 'Big Wobs'!

BRIAN & LIZ PATTERSON

