

AUSTIN ROVER RALLY NEWS

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Audi Sport Rally 24th October 1987

RALLY NEWS NO. 4

Service...Dinas...2 pm Saturday

UNOFFICIAL LEADERBOARD AFTER SPECIAL STAGE 9

1st	Pat Doran/Steve Harvey	MG Metro	1.10.37 hrs.mins.secs.
2nd	David Gillanders/Ken Rees	MG Metro	1.10.42
3rd	Ken Wood/Peter Brown	MG Metro	1.10.44
4th	Bill Barton/Don George	MG Metro	1.11.18
5th	Timo Salonen/Seppo Harjanne	Mazda	1.11.21 group A
6th	Trevor Smith/Roger Jones	Sierra	1.14.07 group A
7th	Russell Brookes/Neil Wilson	Astra	1.14.21 group A

What a grand slam finish looks in store on this Audi Sport event, the Marlboro/Autosport Championship for sure going to be decided on the last spectator stages through Telford town stages....there is just 1 forest stage left...and then its on to the tarmac for the last short blast, the culmination of a season long competition....Gillanders must win outright to take the title...if he doesn't registered group A winner, at the minute Trevor Smith, with Russell Brookes breathing down his neck, will drink the champagne....its all so close at the front...with Ken Wood leading by 2 secs. after stage 8 from the tying Gillanders and Doran....but Doran's time of 8.38 on that stage 9 was 5 secs. faster than Gillanders, 9 better than Wood....

TIMO SALONEN in 5th position in the Mazda changed on to a softer rear suspension this morning, to make the little 323 more nimble for the "blind" stages....one rear shock absorber has more or less seized coming in here to service, so the Mazda crew are going to renew the shockers. Team Manager SCHIM WARMBOLD here on the rally with his 9 year old son ANTONY is well pleased with the performance of the car so far...Salonen actually getting amongst the outright fastest times on the twistier stages....

SNIPPETS.....young Irish driver FRANK MEAGHER had a puncture on stage 6, lost little time but has been swapping front and rear tyres ever since....IWAN ROBERTS has retired on stage 9 with an engine blow up, and we've just discovered the reason that Iwan was wearing the shades this morning, was that he had an eye operation last week to remove a piece of metal....PAT DORAN's new gearbox is OK...he was 3 mins. unpenalised leaving Machynlleth service....ROGER CLARK has had a problem with a "skewiff" rear suspension, now repaired....MARK LOVELL in the Daily Mail Sierra has changed the suspension just now, after trying a different setup which wasn't as good as original.. Mark reckons also the limited slip diff isn't doing its job.....on stage 2 earlier today PAUL DYAS in the Brooklyn Sierra rolled on top of a marshal's car, flattening it....JOHN MIDGELEY in the group N 1600 Toyota Corolla, with Andrew Bodman on the maps, was delayed on an earlier stages behind a crashed Lancia....in group N ALLAN EDWARDS is in control in his Sierra Cosworth, and thats despite spinning on virtually every stage, Allan not used to gp.N motoring after the 4 wheel drive car....STEVE WARD has retired his Ascona after sliding wide on a corner and getting stuck in stage 5, GRAHAM MIDDLETON borrowed an axle from David Mann to keep the 1600 Shell/Securicor Toyota in its class winning position....HARRY HOCKLY had punctures on stages 4 and 5 in the 1300 gp.A Nova, Harry was 50 secs. ahead of COLIN MCRAE at Machynlleth... GEORGE DONALDSON retired in Machynlleth, co driver FRED GALLAGHER telling us that they happened upon the Lancia accident also, but they unfortunately clipped a log and damaged the suspension too badly to stay in the rally...

BRIAN & LIZ PATTERSON

