

Rally News

**Audi Sport Rally
22 October 1988**RALLY NEWS NO. 1

RALLY HQ...FRIDAY...8.30 pm

"Yes, its definitely here!" laughed British Rally Champion JIMMY MCRAE in the Telford Moat House Hotel"but co driver ROB ARTHUR isn't!" apparently Rob was, like so many people, stuck in the motorway traffic.... but the main thing is that McRae's new Toyota Celica GT-Four, resplendent in its new Securicor Communications livery with touches of Shell and Pirelli colouring as well, is here in Telford ready for its British debut on the Audi Sport Rally, last round of the Cellnet/Autosport Championship.

"I've really only done some tarmac driving in the Toyota" went on Jimmy "So its going to be a real learning curve tomorrow. I just hope people don't expect too much - its a brand new car, and there could well be a few teething problems"....

In front and behind McRae are 3 former World Rally Champions - STIG BLOMQUIST starts at 1 in the 'works' Ford Sierra Cosworth - the car, D774 SVW, having seen very little service on a couple of German Championship gravel events - the Swede will be using a lightweight car on the RAC. Behind McRae at 3 and 4 are HANNU MIKKOLA and TIMO SALONEN, with Hannu remarking.."Yes, these are the World Championship cars. We have tested for 3 days here in Wales this week. Went well. Nothing new for the cars, just preparation for the RAC" from the blue eyed blonde Finn.

Lots more interesting cars and drivers...PER EKLUND at 5 has a new X-trac 6 speed transmission in his Nissan March Turbo...plus a new co driver in the shape of Autosport's KEITH OSWIN. MARK LOVELL is a non starter at 6...while MALCOLM WILSON at No. 7 debuts the new 16 valve 2 litre Astra...the Cumbrian, telling us that the German originated left hand drive car needed a little fine tuning to the electronics.

RUSSELL BROOKES' as ever immaculate Andrews Sierra starts at 8, with PHIL COLLINS and TREVOR SMITH in similar Ford Cosworths at 9 and 10. Smith, his car totally rebuilt with all new components for this last round of the National Championship, is one of only 4 drivers who can take this year's title...the other 3 being IAN ROBERTON, MURRAY GRIERSON and JAMES RENWICK....should be a real cliffhanging finish to the eight round Cellnet/Autosport National series!

All sorts of class battles as well...24 Toyota Corollas starting...DAVID BRIAN only has to finish in the top 5 of the 1600 gp.N category to clinch his class, even if fellow Toyota Corolla pilot JOHN SAINT wins that class. While in Gp.N overall...GRAHAM MIDDLETON debuts his new Toyota Celica GT-Four, up against gp.N Sierra hotshots GWINDAF EVANS, GEORGE DONALDSON and young COLIN MCRAE in the PRESSPART example.....we'll try to keep you informed of all the happenings throughout the event...have a safe and enjoyable Audi Sport Rally...

PS...ROB ARTHUR HAS COME...

BRIAN & LIZ PATTERSON