

Ilkley Jubilee Rally

12 April
Variety to the fore..



Photo: Tony Heath

The Porsche 911 of Howard Warren and Ryan Pickering came through the rain to win the Ilkley Jubilee

Over 70 cars left the 8:30am start for the Ilkley Jubilee Historic Rally - a quality field with many past HRCR champions in attendance, writes *Ryan Pickering*.

The cars first tackled two tests, repeated on the parade ground of the local army camp. Matt Warren was the fastest on these four, guided by 'Young Pup' Andy Pullan. This was followed by regularity 1. Handed out at MTC1 it was tulip diagrams with distances, and the speeds were handed out at each ITC which would become the theme for the day. There were six timing points and the best on this was last year's driver champion Howard Warren and myself, dropping 10 seconds. Darell Staniforth/Les McGuffog set the fastest times on the next pair of tests back in Otley from John Abel by just one second.

Next was the short regularity along The Chevin Ridge, past the old pub where signing on was in 2010. Two timing points saw several crews only dropped one or two seconds, none of which could match the experience and expertise of Kevin Savage being chauffeured by Jayne Wignall in the beautifully prepared Tiger, who cleaned this section.

The next regularity was to be the deciding point of the event for one crew. Warren Jr and Pullan, running at car one were given the same handout of speeds at ITC15. The instructions mentioned that there were roadworks en route and to add five minutes to arrival times at the next ITC... the only hiccup being that the temporary traffic lights had been removed for the weekend. This left the marshal giving verbal instructions to each crew and after a series of questions each left to do battle. All crews stopped just after the A road for five minutes, but lost in translation, car one had carried on at the head of the field with nobody to follow. Hence a 4.58 early penalty and a maximum ITC penalty of one



Photo: Chris Meehan

Roger and Leigh Powley brought their Porsche 911 home in sixth place



Photo: Tony Heath

Back in action, Simon Parson and Nick Cooper finished fifth



Photo: Tony North

Marshals brave the elements as Steve Entwistle/Ali Proctor's Mini prepares to start a test

minute. Matt and Andy would go on to finish 43 seconds behind the eventual winners.

Two tests at Hawpikes Farm followed (a possible RotT venue for 2015) where James Griffiths set an outstanding time over the second rough test only six seconds over bogey. The final regularity before lunch involved some tricky spot heights in and out of laybys. Some crews turning around to go the correct route but then losing the timing... aah the joys of regularity rallying. Nobody matched Ali Proctor and his driver Steve Entwistle who only dropped one second, Ali allowed out again after some time away due to family building commitments.

The marvellous test up the quarry road at Coldstones preceded lunch although judging from the results there were no penalties for any crews, all a bit of a mystery there then. Just as well because we had a huge lock up and skidded 20 metres the wrong side of a cone to reverse and correct the test before reaching the next cone from the correct direction.

Lunch was followed by some more regularity, several crews only dropping seconds. We went past the father-and-son Powley combination in the usually reliable 911 who had taken on some water which again would cost them a very decent finish. A series of three tests back at the quarry followed coffee where John Ruddock partnered by Cath Woodman set the pace. An unfortunate oversight by them on the previous regularity costing a minute and again a good result had gone begging.

A final regularity which was written instructions to be driven as seen saw some up and down time from many of the top ten. The usual final test at Scargill Reservoir had one twist that of being run downhill. This made braking slippery under the trees and a superb final test to the 2015 running of the Ilkley Jubilee Rally. Clerk of the Course, Henry, must be thanked for his continued efforts and finding clever ways to change just enough of the route each year to keep it a superb rally for Experts and Novices alike.

From a personal point of view, I believe they have the perfect mix of test and regularity challenge even without class improvement. A top five consisting of the 911, Mini, Escort, Sprite and a top 10 with Alfas, Tiger and MGBs as well, just goes to show the variety there is within our branch of this sport called motor. Why change anything?

1 Howard Warren/Ryan Pickering (Porsche 911) 04:06 2 Steve Entwistle/Ali Proctor (Mini) 04:33 3 Matt Warren/Andy Pullan (Ford Escort) 04:49 4 Darell Staniforth/Les McGuffog (Morris Mini Cooper 'S') 05:19 5 Simon Parson/Nick Cooper (Austin Healey Sprite) 05:23 6 Roger Powley/Leigh Powley (Porsche 911) 05:28 7 Jim Deacon/David Taylor (MGB) 05:37 8 John Dignan/David Dignan (MGB) 05:38 9 John Abel/John Dennett (Sunbeam Tiger) 05:46 10 Andrew Buzzard/Robb Lyne (Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint GT) 05:57



Photo: Tony North

Jayne Wignall and Kevin Savage finished 20th in their Sunbeam Tiger