

TEAM TULACHARD

PRESS RELEASE
Friday 22nd June 2007

Sponsors:



Along with the summer rain, June brings with it the fifth round of the 2007 County Saab Scottish Rally Championship, the RSAC Scottish Rally. The Scottish, on Saturday 30th June will be Calum MacKenzie's third rally this year with his 240 bhp 1980 Mark 2 Escort. For this event, Calum is teaming up with Blackpool Co-driver Simon Mills. Simon has been competing in the Scottish and Irish championships for a number of years now and has a wealth of experience. He also came highly recommended by one of Calum's mechanics, Keith Robathan, who had Simon partnering him in his Mark 2 Escort on last years McRae Stages Rally.

Simon commented on how he is feeling about doing the event;

"I'm thoroughly looking forward to it! Calum seemed to think that I may not be interested in sitting in a 2WD car, but nothing could be further from the truth. I've seen it from the outside many times and am delighted to now have the chance to see it from the inside."

The last rally for the team was the Granite City Rally in April, where Calum was partnered by his regular co-driver Alan Clark. Together they finished 12th Overall, 1st in their class, and top two-wheel drive. Despite their great result, they had a few problems on the day. They bent a steering arm in the second tarmac special stage, and suffered from lack of traction in the forestry stages, due to too soft a tyre compound in the hot temperatures.

The Scottish Rally this year is based in Dumfries, and will feature stages in Ae forest complex situated North of Dumfries. Included in the 45 mile event are two 14 mile stages in this fast and flowing forest. In these two stages alone the rally could be won or lost. For more information on the rally itself, please visit www.scottishrally.co.uk

Calum commented on how he thinks the event will go for them;

"I've only rallied in Ae forest once, and that was back in 1997 so I have no real memory of it. As normal though I will be committing to the notes 100%! I'm looking forward to it, and from what I hear about the nature of the stages it should suit the Escort better than those of the Granite."

I actually thought I was offshore for this one, but I had my dates mixed up. I wasn't keen to do it because of the running order, but I've been advised by Heather that I'll be cooking my own tea from now on unless I do it!! How's that for support!"

Leading the Scottish Championship and favourites for the Borders event are Gary and Gordon Adam in their Group A Subaru. There will be plenty of crews hot on their heels however, in order to keep their own title hopes alive. When dropped scores are taken into account, Jimmy Girvan, Andy Horne, and David Bogie are all still in with a chance of winning the Championship, so they will be doing all they can to ensure the father and son team don't bag any more maximum points.

The Group N Championship is proving very close indeed, with a host of Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9's putting in some excellent results, with the older Evolutions and Subarus pushing hard to challenge them. The Two-Wheel Drive Championship is also very competitive, with only three points separating the top crews as they head into the Scottish Rally. As with the Granite and Borders all 2WD cars up to 1600cc, including kit cars run at the head of the field, making a great opportunity for them to push hard on good road conditions for some excellent overall results.

Amongst the 2WD challengers at the Scottish will be a return of the Malton Missile Steve Bannister, who had the build of his 302 bhp 2.3 Mk 2 Escort finished last month, complete with sequential gearbox and modern Proflex suspension. Calum commented on Bannister's return;

"It's fantastic to see Banner and Kevin back out. To be fair to ourselves though, it's going to be a very tall order to be close to them on the timesheets, the cars are day and night apart, but it'll be good banter anyway! Maybe he'll take pity on us and put his car on 3 cylinders to give us a chance!!"

For the RSAC Scottish Rally "Team Tulachard" welcome the return of their faithful sponsors, Nicolson Maps, SBS Logistics, Escape Technologies, and Graham Hire.

Everyone involved with the team are thoroughly looking forward to the Scottish Rally, and hope it will bring a successful result to continue their County Saab Scottish Rally Championship Challenge.

For further information please contact the Scottish Championship website at www.scottishrallychampionship.co.uk , or the team's website at www.teamtulachard.co.uk