

TEAM TULACHARD

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 4th September 2007

Sponsors:



SBS
LOGISTICS



GRAHAM HIRE

The Merrick Forest Stages Rally, in Newton Stewart on Saturday 8th September is the seventh round of the 2007 County Saab Scottish Rally Championship. It will be Calum MacKenzie's fifth rally this year with his faithful old Escort, and he will be partnered by regular co-driver Alan Clark. Calum and Alan's last event was the Gleaner Oils Speyside Stages in Elgin on Saturday 11th August, where they finished top two-wheel drive, first in their class and 14th Overall. From the four events contested this year the team have finished top 2WD on three events, and ended up upside down on the other! They will be looking to try and make sure they keep the car shiny side up in Newton Stewart, and will hopefully be fighting for top 2WD honours as well.

The Merrick will feature stages in and around the Galloway forest. There will also be the use of a new purpose built service area near Glentrool, which has recently been opened. The event will include five competitive forest stages, with the first and the last being the longest at 16.5 miles, and 14 miles respectively. These two stages alone could decide the rally result, especially for the 2WD competitors where tyre choice will be crucial. It will be essential to decide on a tyre which will give optimum grip, whilst ensuring it provides the durability to last the length of these stages.

The last time Calum and Alan contested this event was in 2003 when it was previously titled the Park Systems Stages. They finished the event a fantastic fourth overall, top 2WD, top Ford car, and first in their class. An awesome feat for an ageing Mark 2 Escort! For more information on the rally itself, please visit www.merrickstages.co.uk

Calum has been quite busy with the car since the Speyside Stages where they lost fifth gear. He had to strip the gearbox with the help of (Uncle) Keith Robathan, which identified a damaged selector block. Unfortunately there has been a delay getting the part required from the manufacturer, leaving very little time to get the gearbox rebuilt. Although he has been a little stressed out with the delay, Calum is looking forward to the event, and he has commented on how he thinks it will go for them;

“The big thing for us on this event will be avoiding punctures on the long stages. The intention is to keep it tidy, with no major drifts or heroics, but we’ll wait and see what we drive like on the day! Of late, we seem to have lost a little time to the Group N 4WD cars so I’m not sure if they have moved up a gear or we are getting slower! On this event however, there are going to be a lot of 2WD competitors, with plenty of extra Escorts out, so I’m looking forward to having a good battle with them.”

Co-driver Alan is also looking forward to the event and in particular the return of their main rival Steve Bannister;

“It is great to be back out against Bannister again. We always have a good tussle. Willie Stuart and Keith Robathan are also going to be out, so there’s going to be some strong competition. The stages are great at this rally, and I’m really looking forward to getting back into them. I really enjoy Glentroll in particular, it is a great stage.”

Heading out for a top result at the Merrick, will be family duo, Gary and Gordon Adam. Having already secured the Scottish Championship title on the last event in Elgin, the pressure will be off and they can attack hard without worrying about points. Things have been very competitive for the remaining top slots in the Championship this year, with Inverness man Jimmy Girvan and young star David Bogie battling hard for 2nd overall. However, should they let their guard down, there are plenty of others waiting in the wings, namely; Malloch Nicoll, Mike Faulkner and Steven Clark.

The Two-Wheel Drive Championship is also very competitive, with Carl Tuer and George McDonald leading on equal points. However, if Calum and Alan are to bag top 2WD points in Newton Stewart, they can still work towards challenging for the overall 2WD championship.

For the Merrick Forest Stages 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 Merrick Stages, and hope it will bring a successful result to continue their challenge for the overall two wheel drive and class championship.

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