

GwynneSpeed Rallying gears up for 2008!

2003 National Super1600 Rally Champions, Andy Gwynne and Holly Robinson are ready for a return to National rallying in their new Super1600 Citroen Saxo kit car. The Gloucestershire team will be contesting the 2008 Richard Egger Insurance MSA National Asphalt Rally Championship which includes rounds in Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales and England.

Gwynne and Robinson have conducted several tests at The Brean Stages and the Wyedean Rally prior to the first round of the championship, the Tour of Epynt on 2nd March. Andy Gwynne, who designed and built the car himself, comments on recent aspects of development which the car has been through:

“Following the recent tests which we have carried out on the car, we have been very busy re-designing the suspension settings in order to improve the strut angles and therefore improve traction. I am now very happy with the car set-up and am really looking forward to the start of the championship.”

Since the Wyedean Rally on 9th February, Gwynne has had to redesign the fuel tank to incorporate an internal reservoir in order to prevent any mid-stage fuel surge problems. He has also modified the car's steering rack to facilitate a quicker, more responsive steering action which will be crucial on the technical, twisty stages. Gwynne is planning a final engine mapping session with John Beattie of Race Engine Design before the rally on 2nd March.

The crew are aiming for a class win in order to start the championship off with maximum points although there are several strong competitors in their 1600cc class including last year's 1600cc asphalt rally champion. Gwynne has had several outstanding results on Epynt which is renowned for being a particularly challenging rally venue. In 2006, he finished 4th overall in his 1600cc Vauxhall Corsa, just before he sold the car. By finishing 4th, he managed to beat several 2.0litre, turbo-charged, 4-wheel drive world rally cars and the infamously quick Metro 6R4s and Darrian T90s.

The Tour of Epynt, organised and promoted by Port Talbot Motor Club, consists of 75 stage miles on military tarmac roads in mid Wales. The rally is based in Llandovery and the 75 stage miles are broken up into 10 stages which represent all aspects of rally driving from flat-out jumps and straights to extremely technical, tight and twisty narrow roads.

For more details about the Tour of Epynt, visit www.ptmconline.com. For more information about the 2008 Richard Egger Insurance MSA Asphalt Rally Championship, visit www.asphaltrallying.com

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