

## **Bitter Disappointment on Round 1 for GwynneSpeed Rallying.**

Gloucestershire based rally team, Andy Gwynne and Holly Robinson travelled to North Wales on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 to contest Round 1 of the BRC Challenge, The Bulldog Rally in their Super1600 Saxo kit car.

The week running up to the event had been somewhat fraught as a result of Gwynne's newly built engine only arriving back at the GwynneSpeed workshop on the Thursday evening before the event. Thanks to the dedication and determination of the GwynneSpeed workforce, the engine was fitted by Friday lunchtime and so Gwynne drove the car up to the engine builder's to run the engine in and map it prior to scrutineering! As a result of this, Gwynne did not have time to arrange and fit the new 3-way adjustable AST suspension and so had to make do with the single way, fast road suspension already fitted to the car.

The Bulldog Rally, organised and promoted by Wolverhampton & South Staffs Car Club, was based in Bala and used some awesome, notorious stages including the 16 miles of Gartheniog! The rally started well for the GwynneSpeed team, setting 3<sup>rd</sup> overall fastest stage time and fastest class stage time. The car was generally working well although Gwynne was not happy with the suspension set up:

"We had a choice; either get the engine sorted or fit the new suspension – needless to say we chose the engine! The car was therefore very unstable to drive fast on the long straights and we really struggled with traction out of the tight corners and up hills. It was very frustrating as the new engine feels very powerful but we simply could not get the power down!"

The crew continued to dominate the class throughout stages 2 & 3 and, again, set 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest overall stage time on both stages behind Matt Edwards & Andy Murphy in the RC3 Ford Fiesta ST. However stage 4, which was the final stage of the event, brought the rally to an abrupt end for the crew. Gwynne slid wide on an 80° right hand bend and hit a large bank which damaged the suspension and forced the team to retire from the event. Co-driver Robinson comments on the accident:

"This crash was frustrating because we were 2<sup>nd</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> in class when we went off and we know that if we had had more traction, we could have accelerated out of the slide and therefore missed the bank! We're both fine and the damage is easily repairable. This particular corner caught out several other quick drivers including ex-British Champion, David Higgins & ex-works' driver, David Stokes."

This event is televised and coverage will be shown on Sky Sports 3 on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The GwynneSpeed Rallying team will be contesting Round 2 of the Championship, the Pirelli Rally, on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April based in Carlisle.

Congratulations to Matt and Andy on a very convincing win!

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The BRC Challenge is a division of the British Rally Championship designed specifically for 2 wheel drive cars and contests some superb rallies; 3 gravel rallies and 2 tarmac rallies. For more information, visit [www.rallybrcchallenge.co.uk](http://www.rallybrcchallenge.co.uk)

GwynneSpeed Rallying is owned by Andy Gwynne and managed by Holly Robinson. The company runs a rally school based in Gloucestershire and regularly holds competitors' test days on gravel, tarmac and concrete. The company also builds, prepares and hires rally cars. For more information, visit [www.gwynnespeed.co.uk](http://www.gwynnespeed.co.uk)

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