



PROMOTED BY THE MARATHON RALLY CAR CLUB INC.

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SURPRISES AT THE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD AT THE END OF DAY 2 OF THE SILVER FERN RALLY

Leading the field in the NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally after two days of competition is Christchurch's Andrew Grundy and Mark Smith in their new black Mazda RX7. Grundy took over the lead when overnight leader Brian Stokes struck problems in the day's second special stage in the St Bathans area of Central Otago.

Stokes' day began with his Escort MKII being pushed out of Parc Ferme in Queenstown, where his mechanics went to work re-fitting the gearbox to the car, which had been repaired overnight. The job took the mechanics just 16 minutes.

Then at the next service point his mechanics were then set up to replace an alternator when it failed just a few hundred metres into the St Bathans Stage, and Stokes lost around 12 minutes before it could be repaired. Stokes dropped to 25th position as a result.

Also in trouble in the St Bathans Stage was Christchurch's Jeff Judd, who had just inherited the lead after Stokes had stopped. Judd broke a wheel and punctured losing around 4 minutes. Judd said at the finish and later that "I made an idiot mistake, we just went a bit wide on a corner, and broke the rim on a rock. Oh well still a long way to go". He dropped to 7th place overall.

All this left a happy Grundy leading the event in his new Mazda RX7, from and equally surprised Craig Marshall in his little Peugeot 205 GTi 180. Marshall, son of 1970's NZ rally legend Mike Marshall had quietly snuck up on the more fancied crews, and was loving the fast roads. "The car is getting sorted as we get faster, but all is going very well thank you" a smiling Marshall said earlier today.



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Scotsman Jimmy McRae's Escort MKII is currently in third place overall, with Aucklander Dave Strong's Honda Civic R holding down fourth. Then follow Paraparaumu's Shane Murland in an Escort with Englishman Grant Shand 6th.

Drama in the last stage of the day, the return run out of the Nevis, when Rotorua's Eddie Pinkham and Bill Hunter slid off the road in their ex Rod Millen Mazda RX7. Unfortunately leaking gearbox oil dripping onto the exhaust then caught fire and a number of following crews had to stop to help put the fire out. Neither driver was injured in the incident.

The competing teams in the event have now driven the first two of eight days with each of those days stages totalling around 95kms, tomorrow they tackle the events longest day with one stage alone being 95km in the total days competition of 240kms.

The rally cars and their teams had today left another beautiful Queenstown day at 7.00am and headed for the Alexandra area where a series of four short stages were tackled north of the town before a lunchtime service break in Alexandra. The afternoon saw crews tackle the Nevis Stages before crews ended their day back in Queenstown.

Tomorrow's (Saturday Oct 18) third day of the eight day event, has some of the longest stages in the event and will see competitors travel thru the Lawrence area before finishing the day at the Dunedin Railway Station at around 4.30pm

The days competition stages will take place on roads near Hawksburn (8.00am), Lake Onslow, the longest stage of the event at 94kms (10.30am), Roxburgh (11.30) and Beaumont (12.20) before a service / lunch break in Lawrence township at around 12.30pm. In the afternoon the teams will tackle stages at Bungtown (1.30pm) and in the Berwick Forest (2.30pm), before continuing to Dunedin.

The event then travels to Invercargill, back to Dunedin, up to Timaru and Christchurch before ending up at the new Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim on Thursday October 23rd at 3.30pm.

The 2008 NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally, currently being held over 8 day's in New Zealand's South Island, is the longest duration motor-sport event being held in NZ, and takes its roots from the Silver Fern and Heatway Rallies of the late 1960's & early 1970's.



NZ Silver Fern Rally

Overall Results as at end of Day 2

Pos.	No.	Driver Co-Driver	District	Vehicle	Cls.	Day 1	Day 2	Penalty	Total Time	Tbl	Tbn
1	28	Andrew Grundy Mark Smith	Christchurch NZ	Mazda RX7	I	52:13 (3)	55:45 (1)	-	1:47:58	****	****
2	43	Craig Marshall Andrew Smith	Auckland NZ	Peugeot 206 GTi 180	H	52:18 (4)	56:50 (4)	0:20	1:49:08	+1:10	+1:10
3	2	Jimmy McRae Pauline Gullick	Lanark SCOTLAND	Ford Escort RS1800	I	53:11 (7)	56:19 (2)	-	1:49:30	+1:32	+0:22
4	17	Dave Strong Tim Driscoll	Auckland NZ	Honda Civic Type R	I	52:29 (5)	57:09 (5)	-	1:49:38	+1:40	+0:08
5	26	Shane Murland John Benton	Paraparaumu NZ	Ford Escort	B	52:54 (6)	57:26 (6)	-	1:50:20	+2:22	+0:42
6	6	Grant Shand Chris Parsons	Woodbridge UK	Ford Escort RS1800	B	54:20 (11)	57:48 (7)	-	1:52:08	+4:10	+1:48
7=	5	Jeff Judd Greg Kennedy	Christchurch NZ	Ford Escort BDA	B	52:08 (2)	1:00:07 (13)	-	1:52:15	+4:17	+0:07
7=	9	Charlie Evans Paul Matthews	Hamilton NZ	Mazda RX7	I	54:03 (9)	58:12 (9)	-	1:52:15	+4:17	****
9	7	Stumpy Holmes Mike Burgess	Waiuku NZ	Ford Escort MkII	H	54:32 (12)	58:06 (8)	-	1:52:38	+4:40	+0:23
10	44	Dermot Martin Barrie Gibb	Christchurch NZ	Ford Focus	I	53:38 (8)	59:09 (11)	-	1:52:47	+4:49	+0:09

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(for a complete listing of the days stage times, incident and field media reports visit
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Craig Marshall's Peugeot in the Nevis Stage



Brian Stokes Escort getting it repaired gearbox



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