



PROMOTED BY THE MARATHON RALLY CAR CLUB INC.

Media Release

19 October - Immediate release

DRAMA GALORE ON DAY FOUR OF THE SILVER FERN RALLY

The fourth day of the NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally has seen drama galore, finishing with rally leader Andrew Grundy's Mazda RX7 losing around 4 minutes with a puncture in the very last stage of the day and dropping to second overall.

Scotland's Jimmy McRae and his English co-driver Pauline Gullick now lead the rally by 19 seconds in their Ford Escort MKII. However all is not well as Jimmy crashed the car off the road and into a fence post in the last stage, and his team have a lot of work to do to repair the damaged radiator and engine before the re-start at 7.30 tomorrow morning from Invercargill's Ascot Park Hotel. The team were not hopeful the repairs could be made.

On the second stage of the day just south of Dunedin, the BMW of Nelson's Garry Adcock left the road and ended up in a farmer's paddock. He was able to regain the road and continue the event, and eventually finished the day in 42nd place.

Not so lucky were the English pairing of Steven French and Colin Booth who were injured when they crashed their Ford Escort RS1800 at high speed, in the Owaka area, forcing organisers to stop and then cancel that stage. Top work by marshal's, officials and the events emergency procedures saw both promptly transported to Hospital for observation.

Bad luck continues for Christchurch's Jeff Judd whose Escort's diff was replaced overnight, after his rollover the day before, then he today experienced clutch failure in the day's second-last stage dropping him to 27th overall.

Auckland's Craig Marshall continues his fine run in the little Peugeot in 3rd overall followed by the fast approaching Brian Stokes Escort MKII in fourth 3 minutes behind.



www.silverfernally.co.nz

Several other top runners experienced problems today including Waiuku's Stumpy Holmes who was another to experience clutch failure and he limped out of Stage 23 near Wyndham, while Shane Murland slid off the road in the Burntflat stage. Englishman Iain Freestone's Escort has been beset by all sorts of little problems with the distributor, then in the second last stage of the day he went off the road and lost more time.

Very few of the competitors have actually escaped problems of some sort or another, but the field at the top is starting to bunch up unlike the previous event in 2006 where leader Brian Stokes ran away with the event. However 2 ½ hours separates first to last with French and Booth still classified and in 49th placing.

On a brighter side, Australian's Keith and Maryanne Callinan have powered their Ford Escort into 7th overall, having forsaken their previous car, a powerful tyre eating Holden Monaro, for the more nimble Escort on this event. They are closely followed by another Aussie, David Hills also in a Ford Escort.

The amazing little MGB of Auckland father and son team Paul & Andrew Walbran, continued today after engine repairs, and is placed 46th of the 49 remaining competitors.

The competing cars and their teams left a beautiful day in Dunedin at 7.00am and headed for the Catlins area before a lunchtime service break in the Owaka Township. The afternoon saw crews tackle a 40km and a 50km stage in Waikawa Valley before crews ending the day in Invercargill.

Tomorrow's (Monday Oct 20) fifth day of the eight day event, will see competitors travel south thru the northern Southland area before finishing the day outside the Scenic Circle Southern Cross Hotel in Dunedin at around 4.30pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads near Mandeville (8.15am), Chatton North (9.20am) and Wilden (10.40am), before a service / lunch break in the Tapanui township at around 11.30am. In the afternoon the teams will tackle the Burma Rd stage (2.15pm) and Adams Flat (3.00pm) before continuing to end the day in Dunedin.

The event then travels north 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 days 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													
Top 15 Results as at end of Day 4													
Pos.	No.	Driver Co-Driver	District	Vehicle	Cls.	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Penalty	Total Time	Tbl	Tbn
1	2	Jimmy McRae Pauline Gullick	Lanark SCOTLAND	Ford Escort RS1800	I	53:11 (7)	58:09 (8)	2:36:54 (3)	1:42:38 (2)	1:50	6:10:52	****	****
2	28	Andrew Grundy Mark Smith	Christchurch NZ	Mazda RX7	I	52:13 (3)	55:45 (1)	2:36:19 (2)	1:46:54 (10)	-	6:11:11	+0:19	+0:19
3	43	Craig Marshall Andrew Smith	Auckland NZ	Peugeot 206 GTi 180	H	52:18 (4)	56:50 (3)	2:38:10 (4)	1:45:05 (7)	0:20	6:12:23	+1:31	+1:12
4	1	Brian Stokes Grant Marra	Waikuku NZ	Ford Escort MkII	I	51:31 (1)	1:09:00 (42)	2:34:44 (1)	1:40:23 (1)	1:00	6:15:38	+4:46	+3:15
5	6	Grant Shand Chris Parsons	Woodbridge UK	Ford Escort RS1800	B	54:20 (10)	57:48 (6)	2:40:14 (8)	1:45:17 (8)	-	6:17:39	+6:47	+2:01
6	9	Charlie Evans Paul Matthews	Hamilton NZ	Mazda RX7	I	54:03 (9)	58:12 (9)	2:43:57 (10)	1:44:37 (5)	-	6:20:49	+9:57	+3:10
7	25	Keith Callinan Mary Anne Callinan	MacKay AUSTRALIA	Ford Escort	B	55:47 (20=)	1:01:11 (18)	2:44:01 (11)	1:46:50 (9)	-	6:27:49	+16:57	+7:00
8	14	David Hills David Callaghan	NSW AUSTRALIA	Ford Escort RS1600	B	55:47 (20=)	1:00:13 (14)	2:44:28 (12)	1:48:23 (13=)	-	6:28:51	+17:59	+1:02
9	11	Brent Rawstron Ian McKee	Christchurch NZ	Ford Escort RS1800	B	57:05 (28)	1:02:17 (27=)	2:40:09 (6)	1:50:20 (18=)	5:20	6:29:51	+18:59	+1:00
10	22	Euan Fuge Mike Gibbs	Feilding NZ	Mazda RX3	C	55:15 (15)	1:00:51 (16)	2:47:23 (16)	1:48:23 (13=)	-	6:31:52	+21:00	+2:01
11	27	Willie Rutherford Chris Cunningham	Akaroa NZ	Porsche 911	C	55:43 (19)	1:01:44 (23)	2:43:50 (9)	1:51:46 (23)	2:30	6:33:03	+22:11	+1:11
12	40	Merv Hatcher James Cowles	Christchurch NZ	Mitsubishi Starion	C	55:03 (14)	1:01:33 (21)	2:48:58 (19)	1:48:56 (16)	-	6:34:30	+23:38	+1:27
13	10	Simon Tysoe Rob Dyson	Leicester UK	Ford Escort RS1800	B	54:57 (13)	59:22 (12)	2:53:16 (30)	1:47:43 (12)	-	6:35:18	+24:26	+0:48
14	42	Allan Dipple Paul Coghill	Dunedin NZ	Toyota Corolla GT	H	55:40 (18)	1:02:13 (25)	2:47:57 (18)	1:50:20 (18=)	0:40	6:36:10	+25:18	+0:52
15	41	Gary Smith Richard Skilton	Hamilton NZ	Ford Escort RS1600	B	56:37 (27)	1:02:03 (24)	2:47:17 (15)	1:51:39 (22)	-	6:37:36	+26:44	+1:26

Last Updated: Sunday, 19 October 2008 @ 5:29pm

© ChrisSport Racing Software 2008 chris@chrissport.co.nz

For a complete listing of the day's stage times, incident and field media reports and detailed maps of the event, visit www.silverfernally.co.nz)

For further media information contact
Rally Media Manager - Paul Smith
Ph +64 274 852234

