



# MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE

UK



# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 - 2009

## Manx trio

Not only does the Isle of Man logo have three main constituents – so does round four of this year's Evo Challenge, our top three crews the only ones to make it over this week. Whilst this is the least amount of entries we've had since the series began in 2001, we should not take this as a negative, as there's still going to be a great battle and it's all to play for as we come up to the mid-point of the season (already).

In fear of being a bit of a 'statty', the Evo Challenge field on the Manx Telecom Rally will continue to be proportionately equal to that of other years, our three cars representing 37.5% of the ANCRO entry and 43% of the total Class N4 field.

At this point I would like to urge all our three crews to get to the finish. 1: You will all score points and win prizes. 2: The Evo Challenge podium will look a bit sparse without you! My thanks therefore goes to Daniel Barry/Martin Brady, Simon Hughes/Craig Parry and Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew for making the trip.

It's obviously a sign of our current financial times, but the situation has not been helped by there being very few direct sailings to the island from Ireland. Owen Murphy/Dai Roberts are choosing to sit this one out whilst their car's electrical system gets a make-over and Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont are also giving the Manx a miss due to time constraints.

So, just to re-cap about what happened last time: We had five crews out for the Pirelli Tour of Cumbria and, having led from stage two, Simon recorded his first Evo Challenge victory – although it was not Craig's first time – a result which certainly livens things up. Daniel (who was suffering from a cold) and Martin had to be content with second place this time round, whilst it was great to see Nik and Craig at the event following their team's recent loss. They were also on the pace too.

Speaking of being on the pace, it was interesting to note that the leading Evo Challenge times over the same stages used by the British Rally Championship were on a par with that of the leading BRC crews – and that was with organiser's notes and running later in the field, on roads which were not the smoothest in the world (see top photo). Well done!

It was a disappointing day for Owen and Dai due to electrical problems, whilst Alan and Ivor were taking it steady in what was the first gravel rally in their new Evo IX.

### Round three results

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1 Simon Hughes/Patrick Walsh  | 51:07.8 |
| 2 Daniel Barry/Martin Brady   | 51:44.7 |
| 3 Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew      | 52:06.4 |
| 4 Owen Murphy/Dai Roberts     | 53:32.7 |
| 5 Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont | 56:53.9 |

### Other awards

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Walkinshaw best improvement on seeding: | Simon Hughes |
| Sunoco Spirit Award:                    | Nik Elsmore  |
| JR Motorsports best prepared car:       | Owen Murphy  |

### Manx Telecom Rally

So our first tarmac of the year beckons. All of you going have been there before, so you know the score and where to go. With numbers such as they are, please could you all park together in the service area - and please do your best to get back to Douglas on Saturday afternoon - please!

### Overseas Evo Challenges

In Sweden, round two (the first of the season on gravel) resulted in the very first time that the Evo Challenge winner was also the overall winner! Evo Challenge crews also collected second and third overall places too. Although Jimmy Joge won on that occasion, Jocke Nyman and Marcus Hällbo share the series lead with five rounds still to go.

We have not had an event in Ireland since the Pirelli, so the situation remains the same, with Liam Egan leading and six rounds (four events) still to go. We are however, pleased to report that numbers are still rising for both overseas Challenges and we're now up to 10 in each country!

For those of you going, I look forward to seeing you on the Isle of Man.



## Championship positions after rd. 3

### Drivers

|    |                   |    |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 1  | Daniel Barry      | 34 |
| 2  | Simon Hughes      | 32 |
| 3= | Owen Murphy       | 21 |
| 3= | Nik Elsmore       | 21 |
| 5  | Alan Carmichael   | 18 |
| 6  | Andreas Magnusson | 8  |
| 7  | Neil Armstrong    | 4  |

### Co-drivers

|    |                   |    |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 1  | Martin Brady      | 34 |
| 2  | Craig Parry       | 22 |
| 3= | Dai Roberts       | 21 |
| 3= | Craig Drew        | 21 |
| 5  | Ivor Lamont       | 18 |
| 6  | Patrick Walsh     | 10 |
| 7  | Henrik Hulterskog | 8  |
| 8  | Max Ferri         | 4  |

### PIAA Junior Award

|   |              |    |
|---|--------------|----|
| 1 | Daniel Barry | 15 |
| 2 | Owen Murphy  | 12 |

