



Press Release from Cirencester Car Club

Cirencester Car Club – Corinium Stages Saturday 30th April at Down Ampney Sponsored by Wells Masonry Services (Tetbury)

Cirencester Car Club were very proud to host the Corinium Stages Rally on Saturday 30th April at the popular Down Ampney Airfield venue.

The Stages Rally comprised 74 entrants split into two groups, the main competitors and the juniors. Some came from as far away as Germany and Ireland especially for the event. They enjoyed the slippery surfaces on the fast roads of the demanding Airfield covering 8 demanding stages and totalling 50 stage miles.

As expected, it was somewhat eventful. In the main event, Jim and Tony Munden had held a 43 second lead until a hose went in their Ford Escort, meaning they had to "tip-toe back" and that allowed Martyn and Ian England in their Mitsubishi Evo 9 to take the overall win – congratulations to them both on a fantastic drive.

Les Skeet and his navigator, Paul Brown nearly had a front wheel come off their Ford Fiesta Super 2000 when their track control arm broke. Having double rolled the car last time out they were very pleased to end up 9th after a determined drive. Whilst there were numerous punctures and spins and a few straw bales knocked out of place, ably put back by the large team of marshals, there was no major incident.

Georgina Clark, co-driver for Gavin Rogers noted that the Down Ampney layout "gives the navigator something to do for a change". Whilst Chris Butcher, had an interesting day co-driving for Nicola Parker in a Subaru Impreza. After changing the gearbox, the rear diff, a front hub and a driveshaft they eventually retired with electrical problems just before Stage 6, he still said it was a "fantastic event".

Meanwhile, in the Juniors, Lloyd Morgan, the youngest competitor at just 14 years of age, was running 2nd in his Nissan Micra until a big spin knocked him back on Stage 7. Even so, he managed a very respectable fourth position so one to look out for going forward.

The Juniors Event was eventually won by Chris Ingram and Michael Gilbey after a tied finish with Aaron McClure and Martin Taylor which meant a count back to determine the overall winner. His first event for 7 months, Chris reported "It was the most challenging Junior rally I've ever done".

Charlie Stevens in his Nissan Micra told us "well what can I say, probably the best stage event EVER with some amazing stages and some very fast straights. Luckily no punctures for us but in some places we were very close to one".

The Club's next event is their ongoing Summer Series, the next round of which will be held on Sunday 15 May – all welcome and details can be found on the Club's website: www.cirencesterclub.com.

Notes to Editor:

1. The event was a qualifying round of 4 Championships for 2011:
B.P. Motor Bodybuilders & Engineers 2011 CMSG Championship,
Subaru WRC Spares Ltd 2011 ASWMC Sealed Stage Rally Championship,
Hamilton Classic Ltd 2011 ACSMC Tarmacadam Rally Championship and
Kick Energy Pirelli Junior F1000 Championship.
2. The event was sponsored by Wells Masonry Services Ltd of Tetbury
3. This is the second Stage Rally organised and hosted by Cirencester Car Club in recent years, the first having been run in July last year.
4. The Club which celebrates its 60th anniversary next year, helps drivers and navigators whether experienced or novice, enjoy diverse motorsport from Stage Rallying and navigational scatters to It's A Knockout type events.
5. More information can be found on www.cirencesterclub.com or by contacting Martin 'Ted' Saunders the Club's Chairman on 07798 584713 or Nicola Griffiths, Press Officer, on 0773 866 5172.