

PIRELLI INTERNATIONAL RALLY

29TH/30TH APRIL 2011

Incorporating:
Pirelli Challenge Rally
Pirelli Tour of Cumbria Rally
Pirelli Historic Rally



PROGRAMME £3

ALL SPECTATOR/STAGE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
www.pirellinternationalrally.co.uk

LADIES DAY AT THE RACES

...BY ED GRAHAM

A bevy of attractive ladies will be turning up at Carlisle Racecourse over the weekend of the Pirelli International Rally but there won't be a dazzling dress or eye catching hat in sight, for these ladies will be plunging headlong into the man's world of high speed International rallying, intent on making an impression in the high octane, male dominated sport.



MOLLY TAYLOR



Although still only 22 years old, Cockermouth based Molly Taylor already has a wealth of experience behind the wheel and will be pushing hard on what is now her "Adopted" home event. From Sydney, Australia, Molly spent most of her early years watching her Mum, Carol, compete as a member of the Toyota factory team, while also making a name for herself in horse riding events. However, at 15 years old she completed a course at a rally school and promptly decided to try

a different variety of horsepower.

While still at boarding school, Molly was offered a drive in a Honda civic on a "Motorkhana", a type of event popular in Australia. She won her class and promptly ditched boarding school to focus more on driving. As soon as she was able to get a driving licence, Molly acquired a Holden Gemini. Then she sold her horse to buy a Toyota Celica and announced her arrival on the rallying scene by winning the Rally Des Femmes by a wide margin, on her way to becoming NSW 2WD and 2 litre Rally Champion.

Molly went on to win the Australian F16 class in both 2007 and again in 2008, a year which saw her make the long trip over to the UK to try a round of the British Rally Championship. Molly decided this was where her rallying future lay and she relocated to Cumbria, entering the 2009 British Rally Championship and the Suzuki Swift Sport Cup, in which she scored top points on three rounds and looked odds on to win that series before mechanical gremlins intervened. Her

efforts, however, landed her the MSA British Ladies Rally Championship title.

For the 2011 season, Molly, now teamed up with fellow Aussie Rebecca Smart in the co-drivers seat, is back at the wheel of a Citroen C2, mixing British Championship rounds with trips out on the new WRC Academy series which kicked off with Rally Portugal, run at the end of March. Pitted against a horde of up and coming young talent, all in identical Ford Fiestas, Molly and Rebecca finished in a very creditable 9th place on an extremely tough event.



LOUISE COOK



23 year old Louise Cook had an early start to her driving career when she was given a battery operated car for her 6th birthday, with her pet rabbit as "Co-driver" she used to whiz round for hours until the battery went flat. Her parents may have regretted this introduction to her future career, for Louise managed to write off the conservatory, two garden fences and eventually removed the front axle from the little machine!!

Louise got her first rallying experience while still just 19 and studying car design at Coventry University. She was at a car show and saw a competition advertised, aimed at getting more women into rallying. Cookie promptly

entered and was amazed to finish 2nd out of over 1000 entrants, and this gave her the confidence to enter her first event, the Rockingham Stages where, driving an old Peugeot 205, she finished a very creditable 51st and very definitely caught the rallying bug.

Desperate to get a foot on the rallying ladder, Louise came up with a scheme she calls Promotion 50, which aimed to get 500 fifty-pound sponsors, raising some £25,000. Louise managed to get 300 companies to sign up and was able to compete in the 2010 BRC Challenge, although this entailed numerous sacrifices including having to sell her road car. She also gave up her full time job to commit totally to the sport and the campaign, dragging herself round Kent's industrial estates and knocking on business's doors asking for support for the £50 scheme. A year down the line, the 23 year old is still doing this but, with a top 10 finish last year, and an R4 class win, she has absolutely no regrets.

Kent's fast female has now thrown herself in at the deep end and is set for a year in the UK's premier league of rallying, the Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship. Driving her Ford Fiesta, complete with an extremely eye

catching colour scheme which will certainly stand out on the stages, Louise's 2011 season got off to a frustrating start on the opening round, Rally Sunseeker, where a fault with the car's engine management system meant it was down on power for most of the event. So, with lost ground to make up, Louise will be going flat out on the Pirelli's stages - watch out for her and give her a wave.



BECKY KIRVAN



Becky Kirvan's career started when she was given a one day rally-school course as a birthday present. This fired her enthusiasm for the sport, so she entered the Lady Quest Scholarship competition, won it, and was rewarded with a season driving a MG ZR which took her to a class win on the Swansea Bay Rally. In 2010, Becky, from East Yorkshire, competed in the BTRDA Rally First Championship, at the wheel of a Nissan Micra. Despite a bad crash on the penultimate event, the

Woodpecker, which wrote off her car, a new one was sourced and prepared in under four weeks, and she was rewarded with the BTRDA Ladies Championship title.

For 2011, Becky has acquired an ex M-Sport Ford Fiesta ST and has entered the BRC Challenge Series. Backed by KC Communications, a Hull based company, she will be partnered by Karen Watts, forming an all-lady crew with the Gloucester based MSA English Rally Championship winning co-driver. In preparation for her assault on the BRC Challenge series, Becky has made a trip over to Sweden, taking part in an IceDrive event, where she spent two days honing her skills by driving on a frozen lake in temperatures of -17c. She has also spent time practicing at the Sweet Lamb complex in Wales.

When not out tearing through the stages, Becky is busy running a rally-car hire business, Rally4Real.com. She is also involved with the Girlracer organisation and, having studied music at university, plays the bassoon with the

Hull Philharmonic Orchestra. Just to demonstrate her versatility, Becky is a talented soprano soloist, singing at concerts and weddings, and she is always available for bookings by the way!!

