

COOKIE CLIMBS TO SIXTH

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Photo by Jakob Ebrey

CONSISTENT COOKIE EYES TOP TEN

Louise Cook from Maidstone in Kent contested the Ulster Rally this weekend for the very first time. The rally took place in Antrim, Northern Ireland and took in some of the most demanding roads in the area.

Louise took on the challenge which included the legendary Torr Head stage which entailed cliff side roads with no room for error in a roller coaster terrain. Louise's limited budget meant that she had no option but to contest on used tyres that were over 3 events old and not offering anything like the grip they should.

The rally started with a big challenge. A dodgy pace note threw the rhythm of the co-driver forcing Cookie into driving blind for the first 3 miles of the demanding Glendun stage causing some time loss in the process.

The second stage the mighty Torr Head roller

coaster was improved slightly, but front end grip was holding the youngster back through the twisty terrain.

The pace notes made with only two low speed passes of the stage by the crew before a flat out run had been made too over cautious and slowing Louise down considerably. "I would come round a corner that the note said slow right or slow left for and it should have been 10 or 20mph faster. It was a frustrating group of stages especially with the tyres."

It was back to service to fit the lamp pod for Louise's first ever night stages. "Driving the stages in the dark went well, bearing in mind it was my first try at night driving. The notes were still a bit shocking, but I am learning!"

Cookie came through to finish 4th place overall which was quite a result. It seemed some chose the caution to the wind approach and the crews dropped like flies on the demanding terrain.

The second day of the rally counted as a new rally for the challenge with full points up for grabs again. Cookie convinced her mother to lend her the money for new tyres with the promise of finding enough Promotion 50 sponsors before the Trackrod Rally in order to pay her back.

"I was getting a little depressed from the previous days stage times, so I asked my Mother nicely if she would help me out with 4 new tyres in agreement that I pay her back after the event, thankfully she said yes. It was the best decision I ever made, the car was transformed and we were immediately 3 seconds per mile quicker!"

"The grip of the new Pirelli's were amazing, as for the notes, not so amazing. I drove every corner a degree faster, which worked, but then got very hairy when some notes were actually the right speed!"

Louise managed to stay on the road and brought back to Kent another 4th place.

POS	NAME	TOTAL
1	Callum Black*	108
2	Chris Peart	105
3	John Pritchard	104
4	Alex Laffey*	97
5	Jonathan Cunningham	93
6	Louise Cook*	80

COOKIES CORNER

"I would like to say congratulations to the winner of this round Promotion 50 Top Prize, Pro-Logic Lighting from Rochester, a leading supplier of replacement Lighting Control. I would also like to say big thanks for all the local support. I would not be able to compete without you, and do so well. I hope enough support will come for the last round to be able to finish the season on a high.

