

Hockridge perfect on Pirelli

Welshman Andrew Hockridge ran a perfect rally when the British Rally Championship debutant won the opening round of the C2R2cup by a dominant margin, taking a podium in the 2 wheel drive category as a bonus to cap off a successful weekend.

This was Andrews' first ever International rally and with the daunting task of making their own notes both Andrew and his co-driver Tony Derrick admitted afterwards to perhaps being a little cautious, which possibly helped them stay out of trouble on this notoriously tricky rally.

Friday night was also the first time Andrew had driven in the dark since his road rallying days, but a string of steady runs kept the Gino's Pizza cheese supported pairing out of trouble and saw them return to the overnight halt sixth in class, but more importantly leading the C2 brigade.

A further 10 stages on Saturday saw the confidence grow in the car and so did their pace. Whilst not always the fastest, the pair were consistently quick and more importantly Andrew avoided unnecessary risks. Indeed the GRH Foods and Camsport backed Citroen only experienced one puncture on the whole rally. And mechanically, the Geoff Jones Motorsport run C2R2 was faultless as it returned to Carlisle for a champagne finish, seventeenth overall, third in the 2 wheels drive class and with the C2R2 cup championship lead!

I am so very, very happy. We came here with no expectations and were hoping for maybe a top 3 in the Citroens, so to take the win is amazing. We did a test on the Border Counties Rally two weeks ago and that really helped and the car was perfect, so a massive thanks to Geoff Jones Motorsport.

Andrew and Tony are off to the Isle of Man next, where they will take in the non championship RBS Manx International Rally on the 9th and 10th of May. This will be the first time either of the pairing have competed on the island.

For more on Andrew please visit www.andrew-hockridge.co.uk