



Hockridge powers into championship lead

Pwllheli based Andrew Hockridge scored his second podium in as many visits to the Isle of Man when the Gino's Pizza Cheese backed Citroen pilot finished second in class on the three day long test.

Less than 10 days after suffering a dramatic roll during testing, Andrew rewarded the Geoff Jones Motorsport team for their hard work and efforts by driving a faultless rally. Despite having to adjust to a new co-driver, Rich Mills, Andrew was still third fastest Citroen through the opening stage and by the end of the evening was on the pace of the leaders and lying sixth in class.

Friday, the longest single day of rallying ever for the Welshman, saw the crews tackle 11 tough stages in ever changing weather, making tyre choice a real gamble. After struggling through the opening loop of stages with a poor tyre choice, the GRH Foods supported crew redressed the balance after first service by going fastest amongst the Citroens on the 11 mile St Runius. With the weather deteriorating Andrew chose to consolidate his position and ended the day as the second Citroen C2R2.

Saturday morning was a total contrast to Friday, with bright and sunny weather on the offering. More confident in the dry weather, Andrew was immediately quick, and a string of fastest times throughout the final day saw the little C2R2 climb up the leaderboard, returning to Douglas second in class and a brilliant 14th overall!

10 days ago I couldn't even comprehend beginning this rally, much less finishing on the podium. All credit to Nigel's Motorbody Repairs in Llanfairfechan for doing an outstanding job on the shell, and to Geoff Jones Motorsport for re-prepping the car so quickly and perfectly. This was my first tarmac rally in the wet and I lacked confidence for the first day and a half, so that is something I need to work on.

Andrew and Rich enter the second half of the Citroen C2R2cup leading the championship, but with 3 more rallies, one of which is a double points scorer, there is still a very long way to go.

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

For more on the British Championship please visit www.rallybrc.co.uk