

## ALAN HEALY MEMORAL CADWELL STAGES 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

When I joined De Lacy MC I met Harry Walshaw who is my own age and asked if I'd be interested in co-driving with him at Cadwell as he was in need of a co-driver for the event which was taking place in about a month, I jumped at the chance as this provided me the perfect opportunity to enter stage rallying however due to all my prior experience being road rallying I had none of stage rally safety gear (helmets, suits, boots) so my family were then rushing around trying to get everything together, but thankfully we managed to do it. However, Harry had been out on the East Ridings Stages and his little KA had developed some mechanical problems putting the rally in doubt as to whether the car would be ready in time. The list of problems seemed endless and the small space in the engine bay didn't help those working on the car, after hours of working up to the last minute we had the car running again and were ready to go, we picked up the car on the Friday of the rally at the motorclub ready to set off for Cadwell the next morning.



The following morning we set off in the van with the little KS strapped up, meeting up with Harry, Andy and Steve Walshaw at Doncaster services and then travelling on to Cadwell Park where we set up our service area and unloaded the KA, then it was load the KA with our racing gear and the fuel cans to leave at the self-refuelling station and we then jumped in the car and went to Noise check which we passed and then off to scrutineering which we also passed which was a relief after all the work everyone had put in to make sure it was ready, however nothing had prepared us for the challenges we would face the next day.



The Next day we were all up bright and early for the rally and had spanner checked the car. We made our way to the start feeling confident if a little nervous being my first stage rally (little did we know this confidence would be crushed). On the start line the adrenaline was slowly sinking in and we were off with Harry showing what would have been an excellent pace for the day had the car not suddenly cut out after the first lap of SS1, which would cause us to also miss SS2 getting 2 stage maximums, however after figuring out it was a blown fuse we were able to get it going at the end of SS2 and drive back to the finish line where once again it cut out but this time we off the stage and able to push it back to the service area where our fantastic service crew managed to get it sorted and we were ready to go again. However, SS3 would bring more problems after the fuse kept blowing causing us to have to stop 3 times to change it. After the service crew worked their magic on it again we then had the car ready to go again for SS4, confident the fuse would hold this time, luckily it did and we started to shift the car around the track however it hadn't quite warmed up and neither had we, as we had a very close call with a lock up into a chicane but Harry held the car and we drove through it with no other incidents. The rest of the day went really smoothly even catching a MK2 escort in the final stage and the car in front of him as we crossed the finish line!



Overall despite the mechanical issues I really enjoyed my introduction to stage rallying and would like to thank Harry, Andy and Steve for letting me sit in the silly seat around Cadwell and then for finding me another seat for the following weekend with Bob Walker in his BMW.

Corey Powell-Jones (Car 77)