

It's been a really busy 4 weeks having done the Rali Llyn night rally in Wales, marshalled on De Lacy 12 Car rally and Co-driven 2 stage rallies my very first experience of one with Harry Walshaw in Cadwell Park and my second with Bob Walker who was also on his first stage rally at the Lookout Stages in Melbourne, I'd like to thank Andy and Harry Walshaw, Bob Walker and most importantly Mark Jones, my grandad, without who none of this would have happened. Apologies for doing 3 reports in one go but things have been hectic!

Rali Llyn Review 19/20 March

After spending a month of working tirelessly on the little orange pug to repair the aftermath of the John Robson Rally we finally had the car ready to go on the Thursday evening prior to the rally. This meant we were able to spend the Friday relaxing and going to the De Lacy Club to talk rally cars! The next morning I was rudely awoken by the very unfamiliar site of the sun in my eyes before the rally and after doing the usual routine of breakfast and then immediately working to move the trailer securing the car and loading everything into the van, we set off for the long 4 hour drive to Plas Glasfryn near Pwllheli at the far end of Wales with one stop half way to pick up one of our marshalls, suspiciously we left with the sun shining and arrived with the sun still shining – this being a night rally we were waiting for the rain to start and we all kept checking the skies waiting for it to start!.

Arriving at Plas Glasfryn we wasted no time getting the car off the trailer ready to drive to scrutineering and noise check, which we passed once again with no problems. We then went to sign on and get some food as we were all starving after the long drive. We then had a long wait for the drivers briefing so made the most of it and roamed around viewing the very many local escorts that were competing. After the briefing we were finally ready to go to collect the route only to find out it was 71/2 pages of 6 figure grid references that would take about an hour to plot. With 10 minutes left before our due leave time I completed the plotting and off we went to queue up ready to go.



The first selective began right from the first control and ran on a small farm track down the back of the start venue and then began the journey in to deepest darkest Wales on some of the best lanes I've ever seen. The first half was full of hidden slots and tight narrow lanes creating the perfect mix of difficult Welsh lanes and the dry weather, which was so unusual for a road rally, created a fun route. On the 3rd selective came some rather straight Welsh lanes (which was unusual) and around 9 plots in the same square (this was the first of many in the night) that created a rather difficult section to navigate. Having gone slightly off route at one point (71/2 pages is a lot of plotting!!!) we got back on track and then later arrived at petrol with no major issues meaning there was time for me to enjoy a pork pie at around 3 in the morning before being on our way again.



During the second half we found what is probably the longest straight lane in Wales and a rather steep hill into a 90 left, the second half was full of hidden slots and plenty of squares packed with plenty of plots but overall one of the best road rallies I've ever been on. During the second half we also came across our Marshall's who for once were not soaking wet and who both actually looked to be enjoying this rally as they weren't on the point of getting hypothermia! it was a great night and we both enjoyed the tight farm section around halfway through the second half even though it was full of hay bales and chicanes. Overall though the event was well organised and was one of the best and challenging routes I've had the pleasure of plotting.



Corey Powell-Jones (car 79)