



YOUNG STARS: seventeen-year-olds Alick Kerr and Ian Angell finished 14th overall in their first ever rally, driving their Leaker Direct backed Peugeot 205 GTi.

Crowds will flock to see McRae in action

By George Topp

THE sight of Colin McRae back in the forests again driving a World Rally Car is expected to attract massive crowds to this weekend's Park Systems Furniture Stages Rally.

McRae is driving for Skoda on Wales Rally GB, this month's British round of the World Rally Championship which takes place next weekend, and this week he has been testing his new Skoda Fabia WRC in the Galloway forests.

And at Saturday's rally, penultimate round of the County Saab Scottish Rally Championship, he and co-driver Nicky Grist will be running as "00" ahead of the 100-strong entry.

The Newton Stewart-based rally is also a counter in the MSA National Gravel Championship, for which it has received a poor entry.

Unlike the championship's last round, the Gleaner Speyside Stages, there are no top running drivers from Lanarkshire.

On the Speyside, Bothwell's Robbie Head, ex-works driver turned world championship TV commentator, made a rare return to the sport competitively and finished a remarkable 4th overall, with near neighbour Jon Burn making his first appearance of the year to take 6th.

On Saturday's event, it is being left to the youngsters to uphold county honours.

Making a welcome return to the sport after a horrific accident is Colin Main, from Larkhall, driving a Peugeot.

And one of rallying's finds of 2004, teenager Kevin Ross, from Motherwell, is also taking part, teaming up with experienced co-driver Kirsty Riddick in his Mitsubishi Evo IV.

This will be the third time Kevin and Kirsty have got together with their best result an outstanding 3rd overall at the UK Rally Challenge.

The rally's youngest crew, however, will be 17-year-olds Alick Kerr and Ian Angell from Bothwell.

They took part in their first rally at the weekend, contesting a tarmac round of the English 205 Rally Challenge in Bont, South Wales.

Just four days after his 17th birthday, Kerr had a solid start on the first half of the two-day event and steady

improvement on day two, finally finishing an excellent 14th overall.

This weekend, for his first gravel rally, Alick will be co-driven by the experienced Jim Howie from Kilmarnock.

If watching fast cars in forests is not your scene, then the fastest racing drivers in Scotland will line up on Sunday for the penultimate round of the Scottish Motor Racing Club's 2005 Championships at Knockhill Racing Circuit.

Competitors in every single class will be seeking to gain an advantage and a few precious points over their rivals as the Scottish Motorsport season heads for a breathtaking finale on October 9th.

And there is county interest in the highly popular and spectacular American Legends Championships, where Peterhead racer Ben Mason, who currently leads this class, will be looking out for Knockhill-based legends preparation guru Aly Hunter who currently occupies 2nd place in this fiercely competitive class. Aly, who was the man responsible for introducing the amazing Yamaha motorcycle-engined cars from the USA, will himself be on guard as Gerard McCosh, from Biggar, is in confident mood and looking to improve on his current third overall placing in the Championship.