

# Teenager rally team narrowly miss major win

By George Topp

**LANARKSHIRE'S new kid on the rallying block almost pulled off his first major victory at the weekend.**

Seventeen-year-old Coltness Car Club members Alick Kerr and Ian Angell have been competing in the Belmont 205 Ecosse Challenge.

Nine Peugeot drivers contested the championship's second last round in

Northumberland on Sunday, amongst them the Lanarkshire teenagers in their Leaker Direct backed Peugeot 205 GTi.

The Keith Knox Stages Rally was held on the smooth tarmac surfaces of the military ranges at Otterburn, roads which have a reputation as being fast but unforgiving if mistakes are made.

Despite their tender years it was the Lanarkshire pairing of Alick and Ian who shone brightest on the day.

The teenagers were leading Challenge car on all but two of the nine stages and

were eight seconds ahead of their nearest rival going into the final run.

Kerr swapped fastest stage times with Robbie Pearson (18) from Duns in a similar Peugeot throughout the 95 mile rally, with both crews building up a margin of four minutes over the third placed 205.

Lying seventh overall in the main rally and leading the Belmont Challenge by four seconds at the beginning of the last stage, Kerr and Angell succumbed to the fog and failing light with a mile left.

"We could barely see 50 metres in front of the car and we messed up a tight corner after a long straight," said Kerr, "I went straight off down a hill and it took spectators to push the car back."

Despite losing five minutes with the off road excursion, Kerr managed to finish fourth 205 Challenge car.

"Given that we had only a mile to go, I was very disappointed to throw it off so near the end," said Kerr, "Fortunately, we managed to finish and the car was only slightly damaged so there shouldn't be too much work before the next rally."

"However, we were delighted with our pace all day on the tricky surface."

The next outing for the Lanarkshire duo is the Kingdom Stages at Craill.



**ON THE ROAD:** Alick Kerr and Ian Angell show their skill on the latest rally.