

Oz WRC drive for Colin



COLIN McRAE

FORMER World Rally Champion Colin McRae is to contest the final event in this year's championship behind the wheel of a factory Skoda.

The Lanark driver made his international rallying comeback in September's Wales Rally GB, Britain's world championship counter.

That was his first WRC drive for almost two years and he impressed Skoda bosses by finishing seventh overall, giving the team their first world championship points of the year.

Team spokesman Juan Sureda said: "He helped our engineers with the car and we improved quite a lot when he did the Rally GB with us."

Now the 1995 world champion is to drive for them again this weekend, in the championship's final round, Rally Australia, an event he won in 1994 and 1997.

McRae is hoping for another good result Down Under and plans to use his relatively low road position to capitalise on higher-seeded drivers sweeping the road ahead of him.

The Scot has been linked to a

drive with Skoda for 2006 but the Czech company have still to decide whether to enter the championship next year.

Meanwhile, Lanarkshire teenagers Alick Kerr and Ian Angell, both 17 years old, had bad luck trailing them right from the start of the weekend's final round of the Belmont 205 Ecosse Challenge, the Kingdom Stages Rally at Crail.

Coming out of the first left-hand hairpin on the opening stage, their Peugeot broke a drive-shaft and they had to crawl to the end of the stage, losing about five minutes in the process.

The drive-shaft was changed during the first service but there was also an engine mount problem so the second stage was taken at a slower pace.

A puncture in stage three only half-a-mile in saw another slow stage time, leaving the duo with the task of simply concentrating on finishing instead of pushing for a good placing.

Their next outing will be the Coppermines Grizedale Stages Rally in the Lake District on December 3.