

Ross retires after first stage of Snowman

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Sport

By George Topp

LANARKSHIRE'S rising rally star Kevin Ross failed to shine on Saturday's Arnold Clark Thistle Hotel Snowman Rally, opening round of the County Saab Scottish Rally Championship.

Ross and Castle Douglas navigator Kirsty Riddick, in their Mitsubishi Evo 4 (pictured) had been a reliable combination last year, finishing every event entered.

But on the Inverness-based event their luck ran out, retiring after the opening stage with a blown piston.

County hopes then rested on the shoulders of young Alick Kerr (17) from Bothwell, who was running 53rd on the road in his Leaker Direct-backed Peugeot 205.

Kerr was co-driven by the experienced Tom Hynd of Inverbervie and the team

brought the car home a creditable 29th overall after 45 miles of high speed action over slippery forest stages.

They also took third place in the class, although Alick was disappointed to have pipped for second after a poor time on the second last stage.

Meanwhile, two cars behind Kerr, Ian Angell's rally was altogether different.

Angell (17), also of Bothwell, normally co-drives for Kerr in their Leaker Direct backed Peugeot 205, but was in the navigator's seat this weekend in a Vauxhall Nova driven by Mike Moates of Aberdeen.

Despite completing over 150 test miles in the newly built left-hand-drive car, the pair only made it as far as the start of stage one.

"The car was running perfectly but about three minutes before we were due to set out on the stage it just wouldn't start," said a frustrated Ian.