

News

County trio aim to impress in Jim Clark Rally

THREE young Lanarkshire rally drivers will be able to ignore every rule their driving instructor ever taught them when they tackle this weekend's Jim Clark Memorial Rally.

For the rally, latest round in the County Saab Scottish Rally Championship, is the only rally on mainland Britain run over closed public roads.

So for 64 high-speed miles on Sunday drivers can ignore "stop" signs, double white lines and especially speed limits!

The Duns-based rally is split into a number of smaller events, with international competitors tackling two days of flat out driving, while Scottish championship drivers, and those tackling the one-make Brick and Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge take part in Sunday's Jim Clark Reivers Rally.

After a string of excellent results this season, and a 205 Challenge podium finish on last month's Scottish Rally, Bothwell teenager Alick Kerr heads to Duns in the series lead.

"I'm really looking forward to the event, although we'll be in the backyard of some of the Challenge top-runners," said Kerr. "Local knowledge will obviously be a big advantage for many drivers, but I'll be working hard to maintain my lead in the championship."

Kerr isn't the only Lanarkshire driver in with a chance of causing an upset on Sunday afternoon.

Despite being plagued by car problems which have forced him to sit out all but one event this year, Coltness Car Club's Colin Main is now raring to go.

On his last outing, in April, Main was setting some blistering times when mechanical gremlins struck and sent him to the back of the field.

"My target is a win, but we'll start slowly and try to build the pace up," Main said.

The final 205 Challenge driver making the trip to Duns is the rapidly-improving Jonathan Smith, who enters on the back of an extremely solid finish in last month's Scottish Rally.

"After the massive crash on my first Challenge outing, the target on the Scottish was to take it easy and reach the finish," said the 17 year-old from Crossford. "Although it was hot and dusty, we managed to get round in one piece."

Driving former Challenge ace Andrew Pemberton's tried and tested Peugeot 205, Jonathan will be hoping to build on his last run and challenge the championship's more established competitors.