



**RALLY ACTION:** Colin Smith speeds round the course before his horror crash.

# County driver taken to hospital after high speed crash in memorial rally

By George Topp

A Lanarkshire rally driver was recovering in a Borders hospital this week after a high-speed crash during the weekend's Jim Clark Memorial Rally.

Colin Smith from Crossford had to undergo a six-hour operation to save his leg, and faces further operations to graft new skin onto the wounds.

Originally his teenage son Jonathan was due to tackle the rally, the only one in mainland Britain held over closed public roads.

But after Jonathan broke his leg in a snow boarding accident and was unable to drive his Peugeot 205, Colin decided to take over the entry.

The owner of the Valley International Park in Crossford hadn't tackled a rally for more than 10 years but was confident of putting on a good show in the Peugeot Ecosse 205 class. However at the rally's notorious Swinton Crossroads his Peugeot lost control and crashed heavily, ending up against a wall with Colin trapped inside, while his horri-

fied family, who had been spectating at the junction looked on.

Bothwell teenager Alick Kerr (18), was also in the wars, his Peugeot 205 lucky to survive a big moment at the same spot.

"We approached the crossroads cautiously," explained Tom Hynd, Kerr's long standing co-driver, "I had thought we were going too slow but the car left the ground and the rear kicked high into the air."

Kerr arrived at the service area leading the 205 class by three seconds but on the way to the final three stages, the clutch

cable on their Peugeot 205 snapped leaving Kerr to nurse the car through the stages and on to the Kelso finish.

"We made an attempt to repair the car going into Stage 5 but we didn't have enough time to get the job done," explained Kerr.

Despite the problems, Kerr managed to finish third in Class and second in the Ecosse 205 Challenge. In doing so, he retains his series lead in both the Ecosse and Scottish Rally Championships.

Young Motherwell driver

Kevin Ross suffered a torrid run on the Jim Clark, reaching the start of the first stage to discover that although it had been raining when he selected his tyres back at service, a dry line had started to emerge in the stages.

Not long afterwards, the brake pedal on Ross's Mitsubishi Lancer went straight to the floor, and remained there for the rest of the day.

"Our problem was brakes — or more accurately, the lack of them," explained Kevin. "We drove all day by using the hand-brake alone."