

All about Lanarkshire

Eighth place for Crawford in north rally

By George Topp

MOTHERWELL rally driver John Crawford took his elderly Ford Escort to a great eighth place overall in Saturday's Station Garage Mitsubishi Granite City Rally, the third round of the Hankook MSA Scottish Championship.

And in doing so, Crawford and co-driver Ian Simpson managed to beat veteran Yorkshire driver Steve Bannister, one of rallying's foremost Mk2 drivers.

Following a crash on the Border Counties – the championship's last round – Crawford and Simpson returned to action with their silver Mk2 looking pristine, complete with repaired panels and a new axle.

The pair had a slow start on the first of the six Kincardineshire forest stages, finishing the short opening stage down in 41st spot.

But by the end of the second stage, they had hauled themselves up to 19th place. Crawford continued to climb and was 10th after the penultimate stage, before leapfrogging Bannister on the final run of the day.



RALLYING ROUND: Motherwell's John Crawford finished eighth overall in Sunday's Station Garage Mitsubishi Granite City Rally. Picture courtesy of LindsayPhotoSport, Hamilton.

Young Bothwell driver Alick Kerr finished a very encouraging 16th overall at the wheel of a newly-acquired Prodrive-built Subaru Impreza N10.

This was his first competitive experience of driving a four-wheel drive car.

Kerr (20) took part in a VIP day on the eve of the rally to get the feel of the car on gravel.

The day started well for Kerr and co-driver Drew Sturrock.

They were ninth-equal fastest through the first stage and by the end of

the second test they were lying 11th overall.

However, things started to go wrong on the following stage when a bolt came out of the front-left suspension, causing the spring to move and puncture a tyre.

"The most important thing was to get experience with the new car and try to get a sensible result," said Kerr at the end of what was a steep learning curve.

"We managed both of those things so there are no complaints."