

Crawford leads county charge in RSAC Rally



TITLE BID: John Crawford is leading county driver in Saturday's RSAC Scottish Rally.

By George Topp

MOTHERWELL'S John Crawford is the leading Lanarkshire competitor on Saturday's RSAC Scottish Rally, fifth round of the Hankook MSA Scottish Championship.

In line with the previous rounds this year, the Dumfries-based rally has attracted a huge entry of over 130 cars.

Crawford and co-driver Ian Simpson are seeded 15th in their Ford Escort Mk2.

The former superbike rider will be aiming to get his campaign back on track after two non-finishes so far this season – on the Granite City where his car rolled, and on last month's Jim Clark Reivers, when he lost his brakes.

Crawford currently lies fifth in class but with just six points separating him from second place there is still all to play for – with the final tally at the end of the season based on the best six rounds out of eight.

Meanwhile, Bothwell's Alick Kerr comes off the back of an impressive top 20 finish on the Reivers – which included a third-fastest stage time – in his newly-acquired ex-Bob Grant Subaru Impreza.

A month previously, Kerr took the Impreza to 16th overall and fifth in class on the Granite City Rally, his first ever competitive outing in a four-wheel-drive car.

Kerr will have regular co-driver and MSA British Rally Academy member Drew Sturrock back on the notes for the 'Scottish' and says he is looking forward to tackling the classic forest stages of south-west Scotland, including Castle O'er and Twiglees in Eskdalemuir, which were last used in 2006.

The car will also have a new part job for the Scottish after Kerr's original major sponsor, Leaker Direct, came back on board to support the talented driver for the remainder of the 2009 season.

Also taking part in the rally, and seeded at 73 in a Ford Focus, is Bothwell's Nigel Feeoey and Roger Haxton.