

## Sport

# Superb drive sees young Alick upstage the big boys

**YOUNG** Bothwell rally driver Alick Kerr scored the best result of his career so far by finishing seventh outright and third in class in Saturday's RSAC Scottish Rally.

Driving the Leaker Direct Subaru Impreza, Kerr and co-driver Drew

Sturrock enjoyed a fast and incident-free run in the forests of Dumfries and Galloway to score an excellent result on only Alick's third outing in the car.

The result was made all the more impressive by the fact that more

than 130 cars lined up to start the fifth round of the Hankook Scottish Rally Championships, with many believing any one of 10 cars had the potential to take the outright win.

Nevertheless, 20-year-old Alick kept his cool in the dry and dusty conditions to score a spectacular outright result and upstage many more experienced competitors.

In doing so, they set a third-equal fastest time over the short Heathhall spectator special stage.

And, as the two open-class cars that finished ahead of Kerr and Sturrock ended up second and third outright and were thus ineligible for class awards, Alick and Drew also picked up the trophies for first in open class.

"Quite simply it was just an excellent day's rallying," declared foundry engineer Kerr at the end of the gruelling event.

"That's the first time we've run the car without any problems affecting us on the stages, so we are delighted with the result."

Alick added: "With the weather being so dry and dusty we started to run into the dust kicked up by the car in front on the longer stages.

"That caused a couple of wee moments for us, but at the same time it shows we were going fast enough to catch some of the guys running ahead of us."

MSA British Rally Academy member Sturrock commented: "I was very impressed with Alick, especially considering he's only driven the car competitively twice before.

"For a virtually standard car to go so well against some newer and more powerful machinery is no mean feat, and seventh overall is a good result for my Scottish Rally Championship standing as well."

However, things didn't go so well for former champion bike racer John Crawford from Motherwell.

His Escort Mk2 was going well in that category until the Coltness Car Club member hit trouble on the forest stage.



**SMART ALICK:** Bothwell rally driver Alick Kerr recorded his best career result to date in the RSAC Scottish Rally on Saturday.