

ATS CORACLE STAGES at SWEET LAMB

SUNDAY 30th June 2002

Organised by:- Carmarthen and Epynt Motor Clubs Ltd.

This Sunday, (30th June 2002), Carmarthen and Epynt Motor Clubs join forces once again to run the ATS Coracle Stages Rally, which will be held entirely within the Sweet Lamb Complex in Mid Wales.

The event will consist of eight special stages run over the loose surface Sweet Lamb roads, and will provide a challenging day out for the 67 competitors entered. It is a round of the Sweet Lamb Welsh Clubmans, RED A.N.W.CC. and Dunlop A.S.W.MC. Loose Surface Stage Championships.

Leading away the field will be former National Champion Graham Middleton, who partnered by Llandovery's John Morgan, will wheel out his powerful Toyota Corolla World Rally Car. Whilst Middleton has enjoyed mixed fortunes this year, his impressive performance on the recent Mid Wales Stages, where he took a comfortable victory, makes him favourite to win the ATS Coracle Stages.

Having finished runner up on the last ATS Coracle Stages, Martin Healer will be aiming to go one better this time, as he returns with his Ford Escort Cosworth, and should prove to be Middleton's strongest opposition. Number three seed Mick Gilman, who won the recent Astra Clubman Stages Rally starts in his similar car, and given his previous performances at Sweet Lamb, he should be challenging for a podium finish.

Yorkshire's Simon Redhead starts at four in his Subaru Impreza, together with his Welsh navigator Alan Thomas, one ahead of Bob Morgan, who brings his Ford Escort Cosworth from the Forest of Dean.

Dave Shuttelworth starts at six in his Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 4, and he is followed away by Chris Eales, who will be looking to better his previous ATS Coracle Stages finish of fifth place. Brothers Andrew and Gary Kenny start at eight in their Mitsubishi Lancer, with a third brother, Martin starting at 22 in his Ford Escort.

John Leckie makes a rare club appearance in his Subaru Impreza, whilst Richard Fishleigh's older Subaru Legacy rounds off the top ten. Bridgend's John Morgan, who finished in second place on his first forestry event, the Red Kite Stages, brings his new Mitsubishi Lancer Evo V1 and starts at 11, one place ahead of Newtown's Geraint Mills, whose Opel Manta is the first of the two wheel drive cars entered.

Rapid North Walian Ieuan Rowlands, who finished an excellent fourth overall on the Mid Wales Stages, is the first of the 1600cc entrants, and his nearest class rival is expected to be Dorian Rees in a Peugeot 106Gti.

Up and coming young local driver Gareth Jones has a change of car for this event, as he has entered in a Nissan Micra, and is hot favourite to win the 1400cc class. He will also have a change of co-driver, as regular navigator Ryland James is Clerk of the Course for the event, so Craig Parry will replace him for the day.

Interesting entries include a number of Irish competitors, led by Brian Dunlop and John Reid, both driving Ford Escorts, and young Finish driver Jari Latvala. Just 17, Latvala made his British

rallying debut on the RSAC Scottish rally a few weeks ago, and driving a Renault Clio, he will be using the ATS Coracle Stages Rally to get more British forestry experience.

Spectators are welcome at the venue, which can be accessed from the A44 Aberystwyth to Llangurig road, with the entrance at map reference (135 / 136) 840 828. Excellent viewing is available in the "bowl complex," from where cars can be seen traversing a number of sections of the special stages.

The first stage starts at 10.00hrs, with the final stages scheduled to start at 15.00hrs.

Leading Entries

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| 1. Graham Middleton / John Morgan | Toyota Corolla WRC |
| 2. Martin Healer / TBA | Ford Escort Cosworth |
| 3. Mick Gilman / Nigel Bayley | Ford Escort Cosworth |
| 4. Simon Redhead / Alan Thomas | Subaru Impreza |
| 5. Bob Morgan / Dave Saunders | Ford Escort Cosworth |
| 6. Dave Shuttleowrth / Gary Tomlinson | Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 1V |
| 7. Chris Eales / Iain Scott | Ford Escort Cosworth |
| 8. Andrew kenny / Gary Kenny | Mitsubishi Lancer |
| 9. John Leckie / Graham Lewis | Subaru Impreza |
| 10. Richard Fishleigh / Tim Edwards | Subaru Legacy |