

## **Carmarthen Motor Club – West Wales Rally Spares Christmas Stages** **29th December 2009**

Carmarthen Motor Club round off the Welsh rallying calendar on Monday 29th December 2009 when they run their annual special stage rally, the West Wales Rally Spares Christmas Stages Rally at the Welsh Motorsport Centre at Pembrey.

Such is the popularity of the event, the entry list has been oversubscribed for many weeks, with a large number on the reserve list hoping that some of the 70 car entry will withdraw before the rally.

Leading away the field will be multiple winners at the venue, Peter Lloyd/Graham Handley, who will be looking to score another success in their Subaru Impreza World Rally Car after another successful year in National Tarmac Rallying. Their main rival is likely to be Damian Cole, who brings his Hyundai Accent WRC out on this occasion, with Cathy Watkins in the navigators seat, and the battle between these two will be well worth watching.

Last year's winners, the father and daughter pairing of Rob and Laura Tout start at three in their Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9, and they will be favourites for Group N honours and will be looking for a podium finish, The similar car of Martyn England, which is usually seen on forest rallies, starts at number four, with Dawn Sheldon alongside for this event.

Another former Pembrey winning crew, Gwyndaf Jenkins/Llinos Jones-Edwards start at five in their Darrian T90, and they are favourites to take the two wheel drive honours. Worcestershire crew Ben Williams/Mike Jode take the number seven slot in their Mitsubishi Lancer, and they are followed by the Subaru's driven by Nigel Jones and Neil Armstrong, and another Mitsubishi driven by Bryan Davies. Competition amongst the three will be close, and Davies will be keen not to repeat the roll he suffered on the last event at Pembrey.

Event sponsor, Gareth Lloyd, makes a rare Pembrey start in his Ford Escort, and he is partnered by his son, Trsytan, who is navigating for the first time, and the pair will be looking to challenge for the 2 wheel drive honours. They will face stiff competition from Richard Merriman in a Darrian, and local Manfred Kampschute in another Ford Escort, who finished second on this event in 2006.

Amongst the local crews, Eirian and Thomas Beynon will be looking to win the road rally class once again, whilst fellow Ford Escort pairing Colin and Katie Davies will be looking for another 1600cc class win.

Competitors face five, long stages at the demanding venue, and action commences at the Welsh Motorsport Centre at Pembrey at 09.45 hours, and spectators are welcome.