

## Motor Mods Cheltenham Stages Rally 1983

**IT WOULD SEEM** that members of Cheltenham MC have powers that other clubs can not reach: not only were they able to find a willing sponsor for their event, but after several weeks of far from summery weather the sun shone despite a forecast of thundery showers. The start of the event, at a very civilised hour of 10.00, was from the spacious Prince of Wales Stadium. Cheltenham again attracted a good entry (could this be something to do with them not running Ebworth this year?) and leading the 67 starters away was the Sunbeam Lotus of Dimi Mavropoulos/Dave Adams, with Charles Eveson/Geof East in the Team Autela Escort RS at two and the Spray Brush RS2000 of Mike Warner/Malcolm Jones at three, with additional backing from Talbot School of Motoring. At four was the Chevette of Glynn Jones/"H", with Trevor Prew/Brian Fox next in the City Speed/Larch Finance Escort RS.

The event offered the 16 stages on gravel farm tracks and tarmac perry tracks, a combination that seemed to suit most tastes. The first stage, Ford was a gravel farm track and fastest was number 10 seed Dave Kedward, with Prew second and 38 seed Dunstan third. Stages 2 & 3 were blasts around Huntsman Quarry, where Prew (on his Colway remoulds) set fastest time from Dimi, with Warner (also on Colway remoulds) third. On the second run it was again Prew, from Eveson with Dimi third.

The next two stages, both run over Chedworth airfield, saw Dimi fastest with Eveson second and the eventual winners Steve and Ray Radford third. From here the crews made their way to Latton for the longest stages of the day, Prew had his diff go on Latton and D Motterham/M Griffiths rolled their Mini in the quarry. On both the first two Latton stages Eveson was fastest with Radford second while Ward's Sunbeam put in third fastest on one with Steve King third on the other. Dimi was not so fortunate when on Stage 6 his Sunbeam engine gave up the ghost. Also out of luck on this stage was the Sunbeam of Derek Quinn-Hall, who ended up in the infamous slurry pit. To make matters worse, Glynn Jones followed him in, resulting in the retirement of both crews. The Team Abbotswold Press/Marlovian Alfa Escort of Keith Gooding/Adrian Jafferis was written off when another competitor took a short cut and drove in front of them. Not so unlucky was Mark Dominey, who rolled his Escort but was able to carry on.

Before lunch, competitors had one more stage to do, the mixed tarmac/gravel stage over South Farm. With Dimi out of the way, Eveson continued to dominate with Kedward and Radford second fastest and Warner and Dunstan third. At lunch Eveson/East were in the lead from Radford/Radford, Warner/Jones, King/King and Martin Prew/Kevin Soles. With so much tarmac it was interesting to see two cars in the top five running on Colway remoulds (much favoured by Fred Hender son), the Escorts of Warner/Jones and Prew/Soles.

After the welcome break that gave the crews time out to catch up on their sunbathing, the next two stages were again over Latton airfield. Fastest on both was again Eveson, making the most of the power from the Team Autela Escort. Second on the first of the two stages was the Davrian of Atkinson, with Dunstan third. On the next Martin Prew was second fastest from Steve King.

The next stage was over South Farm again, where crews were wary of the yump towards

the end. Eveson again took the honours from Radford and Webber. From here the crews made their way back for another two runs over Chedworth, where Eveson dominated on both stages. Second on the first was Warner and Radford, with Prew putting on the pressure third. Trying too hard was Dave Kedward, who rolled his Escort in a big way. On the second of the two Eveson had to share fastest with Radford, with Atkinson second and Warner third.

With the last three stages all on the loose, Eveson could afford to slow down a bit but on the first of these the Autela Escort broke a halfshaft, bringing retirement after a stunning performance. Also out was the Escort of Steve and Judy King. Whilst all this was going on Mike Warner set about taking fastest on the first of the quarry stages five seconds ahead of both Webber and Pete Ridler. On the second run Prew took fastest by one second from Warner, both proving that there was still plenty of meat on their Colway remoulds. Equal third were Webber and Ridler who were fighting it out for class honours, the class going to the former.

On the final stage Warner again set fastest in his RS2000, making sure of his second place. Equal second were M Walters/P O'Connor (RS2000), P Ridler/R Lees (Escort TC), R King/C Watts (RS2000) and Steve Atkinson/P Platten (Escort 1300). After an excellent event, a worthy counter to the West Midlands series, Steve Radford (driving for the first time) emerged the winner from Mike Warner/Malcolm Jones, with Martin Prew/Kevin Soles third — two out of three for those remould tyres.

### Malcolm Jones

Results (class winners in bold): 1, S Radford/R Radford (RS1800) 41m 47s; 2, M Warner/M Jones (RS2000) 42m 09s; 3, M Prew/K Soles (RS1800) 42m 32s; 4, M Walters/P O'Connor (RS2000) 42m 58s; 5, N Webber/P James (Escort) 43m 04s; 6, R Stoneman/G Stoneman (Astra) 43m 31s; 7, R King/C Watts (RS2000) 43m 36s; 8, D Gillham/A Cochrane (RS2000) 43m 47s; 9, D Tyndall/A Warren (RS2000) 43m 57s; 10, T Jeropolous/K Best (Sunbeam) 44m 02s; 11, D Brunson/R Jospeth (BMW) 44m 08s; 12, P Cox/S Mills (RS1600) 44m 09s; 13, P Ridler/R Lees (Escort TC) 44m 24s; 14, G Cooper/C Bennett (Escort) 44m 27s; 15, P Senior/A N Other (Chevette) 44m 37s; 16, S Atkinson/P Platten (Escort) 44m 39s; 17, N Bakewell/E Brooks (Escort) 44m 57s; 18, D Gay/A N Other (Escort) 45m 07s; 19, E Davies/J Tizzard (Astra) 45m 12s; =20, M Thomas/A Bull (Escort) and B Woodward/J Wanklyn (Escort) 46m 07s; 22, M McKenzie/A N Other (Escort) 46m 21s; 23, P Turner/R Collins (Escort) 46m 22s; 24, A Corns/C Barrow (Escort) 47m 15s; 25, H Statham/N Thomas (Avenger) 48m 29s; 26, G Jones/D Ives (Sunbeam) 48m 57s; 27, I Butcher/M Davies (Escort) 49m 27s; 28, C Paley/S Ellis (Imp) 49m 33s; 29, T Watson/D Watson (VW Beetle) 50m 33s; 30, R Atkinson/A N Other (Davrian) 50m 50s; 31, R Attwells/H Young (Chevette) 51m 56s; 32, M Dominey/G Holding (RS2000) 52m 47s; 33, P Twinney/R Baker (Celica) 53m 25s; 34, N Whiting/N Boardman (Escort) 54m 15s. 67 Starters/34 Finishers.