

LLANELLI BOROUGH COUNCIL

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LLANELLI BOROUGH COUNCIL

PRESS DAY 20:5:83



Mayor's Parlour,
Town Hall,
Llanelli.
Tel. Llanelli 58181

11th May, 1983.

Dear Friends,

WELCOME TO LLANELLI and to the former Pembrey Airfield Site which was recently purchased by the Borough Council. The intention is to develop this site consisting of some 600 acres for active recreational purposes and in this respect the encouragement and development of motor sports is seen as one of the most important activities that can be successfully accommodated. Indeed, the pattern of roads and airstrips that exist, together with the flat nature of the land offering excellent visibility for spectators will ultimately enable circuits to be provided to serve all classes of race. The Venue is important both locally and nationally for club events and major race meetings.

It is particularly gratifying that a start has been made with the STAR TYRES/BRITISH TRIAL AND RALLY DRIVERS ASSOCIATION CLUBMANS RALLY CROSS CHAMPIONSHIP on the 5th June, 1983, and the WELSH ROUND - LLOYDS BOWMAKER BRITISH RALLY CROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS on the 24th July, 1983, and I wish the Organisers and participants every success.

To the visitor - THANK YOU - for supporting these events. I hope you will have an entertaining and enjoyable day out and visit this area again.

Yours sincerely,

Richard T. Peregrine,
MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF LLANELLI.

LLANELLI BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORMER PEMBREY AIRFIELD

PRESS DAY 20TH MAY, 1983.

PRESS NOTICE

The Pembrey R.A.F. Fighter Station closed in the early sixties and the site was then developed as an intensive Poultry Farming complex which continued to operate until some 2½ years ago.

Situated within the Pembrey Peninsula the former R.A.F. site was seen as a key location on which to broaden the range of recreational facilities and activities available to the Borough and as a venue for national and international eventing. For this reason and following the closure of the Poultry Farm the Borough Council acquired the site earlier this year.

The airfield runways and roads and the large areas of flat open space offering excellent visibility makes it an ideal site for the development of Motor Sports and eventing generally and the Authority has already obtained deemed planning permission for the holding of "motor sports". One objective is to develop the site as a Welsh Motor Racing Centre. A start has now been made with the Star Tyres/British Trial and Rally Drivers' Association Clubmans Rallycross Championship on 5th June and the Welsh round of the Lloyds Bowmaker British Rallycross Championships on the 24th July. Other motoring events including Karting will take place during the year.

P.T.O.

What is particularly pleasing is the interest and enthusiasm of the various organisations involved and there is a clear demand for motor sporting facilities in this area. Development to the high standards required will take time and the Borough are very grateful for the professional advice and assistance which is being received from the R.A.C. which is the parent body responsible for regulating motor racing activities.

Of course, the RAF site is an area in excess of 600 acres and future proposals are not solely confined to Motor Sports although it is evident that these will remain a major attraction in the area. There could be a demand for setting up an Equestrian Centre and there is already considerable interest in the use of the area for Parascending and Microlight aircraft. The area is a fine venue for field events generally and it is hoped to develop a regular programme of competition/ events at a local and national level and these will encompass most sporting activities.

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REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

ROGER EADY
BERT RUSSEL
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
THE DEPUTY MAYOR
BILL MANTOVANI
BOB DAVIES
ANDY LEE
ALAN WATTS
GARTH SOOKERMANY
RICHARD DAVIES
CAROL DAVIES
DR. ALLAN MOLYNEAUX
MIKE REILLY
TONY GILES
JOHN STALEY
ALAN JONES
JEREMY FONGE
ANDY NICKLESS
LINDA KEEN
PETER NEWTON
VINCE MOSELY
A. J. PEARSON
M. G. DAVIES
VAL SHENTON
JOHN NORMAN
KEN DAVIES
RON LEWIS
ARTHUR DART
ROBERT ALLANDER
HAYDN HENRY
THE MANAGER
MIKE DAVIES
HUW DAVIES
KEITH CHARLES
KEN DAVIES
GWYN JACOB
GARETH JONES

REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL MOTOR CLUBS

KEITH MORGAN
AUSTIN DAVIES
BRIAN JONES
ALUN MORGAN
GEOFF WEBB

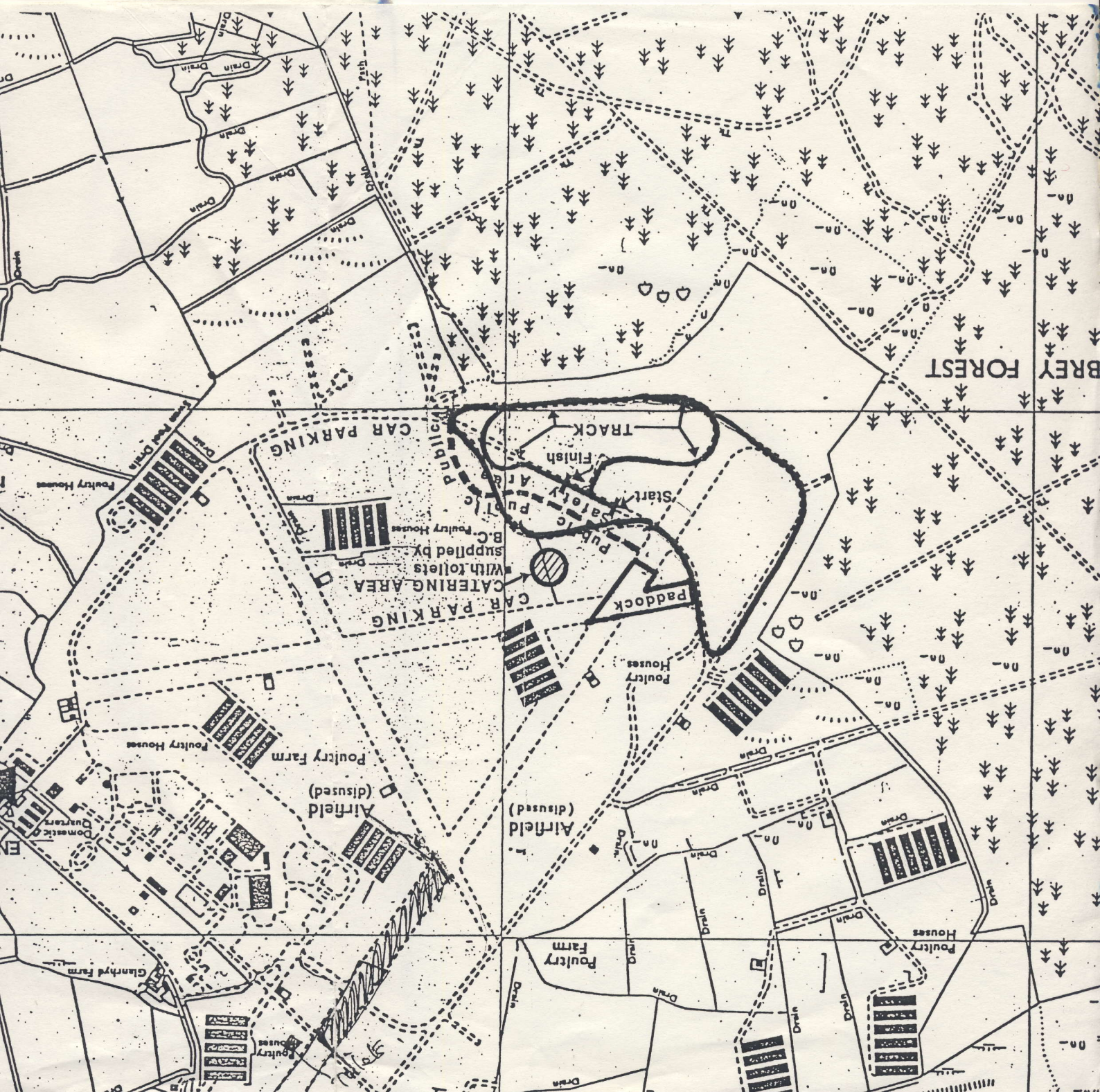
28 MEMBERS OF LLANELLI BOROUGH COUNCIL

SALLY DAVISON
TERRY DAVISON
MIKE MURPHY)
ROGER RUDALL)
HAROLD TRUMPER
GORDON RATCLIFFE
DEREK HILL

Sports Council
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Llanelli Borough Council
" " "
B.T.R.D.A.
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Swansea Sound
South Wales Evening Post
D.R.A.
Commentator
" Assistant
Texaco Ltd.
Llanelli Radiators
" "
Area Manager O.T.R. Tyres
Branch Manager " "
Carmarthen Times
" "
Motoring News
Cars & Car Conversions
Mosely Motor Factors
Branch Manager Lloyds Bowmakers
" " " "
Welsh Association of Motor Clubs
B.B.C. Wales
" " (News)
H.T.V.
Motor Sport Consultant
Welsh Motor Racing Club
Ken Rees Sound Systems
Stradey Park Hotel
Freelance Photographer
Huw Davies Computer Services
Marlboro
U.B.M. Scaffolding
Manhattan Marketing
Meysydd Garage

Assistant Clerk of the Course
Chief Marshal
Publicity Manager
Secretary
British Rallycross Driver's Association

Cothi Bridge Hotel
" " "
Design Consultants
Atlas Fire Engineering
Celtic Trailers
B.T.R.D.A.



PEMBREY RALLYCROSS TRACK

PRESS RELEASE II

BIRTH OF A NEW WELSH CIRCUIT

Continuing their quest to bring Rallycross to all parts of the country, The British Rallycross Drivers Association were particularly interested early this year when it was announced that the Llanelli Borough Council were proposing to build a Leisure complex at Pembrey. The information had come from Robert Allendar of the Welsh Racing Drivers Association and after following up this early lead, talks with the Council led to permission being granted for the building of the new track. In a very short time The British Rallycross Drivers Association decided on the location on the airfield for the Rallycross Track and drew up plans for the R.A.C.M.S.A. to approve, and an RAC track licence was very quickly obtained. The Vale of Cothi Motor Club were approached to co-promote the Rallycross meetings at Pembrey, supported by the BRDA's own Enterprise Automobile Club.

It is very true to say that interest and support for the new track, since its first conception, has been running extremely high. The Llanelli Borough Council are wholeheartedly behind the project, which is expected to go down extremely well with a high proportion of Welsh Motor Sport enthusiasts and, with the demise of the Talbenny circuit, is assured to become Wales' premier track. The local Vale of Cothi MC are well into the venture and will be co-promoting all meetings here at Pembrey which, if the BRDA's plans are met, will include International events as well as National races. The first meeting on the new track is on 5th June, when Pembrey hosts Round Two of the Star Tyres BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship. This will also prove a valuable "test day" for the leading drivers in the premier Lloyds Bowmaker British Rallycross Championship, which will take place here on 24th July.

Christening the new track at today's press day we have a number of top Rallycross drivers from across the country, most of whom have International experience. Welsh International Rallycross Driver from Neath, George Warren (Escort), Fiesta pilot, 3 times British Champion, from Kent, Trevor Hopkins, 3-litre Chevette Driver, Colin Richards, and the fabulous Porsche of John Greasley will be giving the press a driver's eye view of the new track and, of course, no day would be complete without those two highly experienced and often quoted arch rivals of the Rallycross track, Tony Drummond and John Welch (Escorts). Representing the under 1600 cc class is Hereford's own Mini/Metro builder Dave Pritchard whilst local man Wynford Walker will be proving that a Mk I pushrod engined Escort is still extremely fast, quick enough indeed to get into the "A" Final at the last round of the British Championship.

From the Llanelli Borough Council, the Vale of Cothi Motor Club, Enterprise Auto Club and The British Rallycross Drivers Association, we hope you have an enjoyable day and look forward to seeing you here for the very first meeting on 5th June, which will be a round of the B.T.R.D.A. Clubmans Championship. Entrance Fee for the public will be £1 only for adults with children under 15 years free. This event is, in fact, a rehearsal for Round 6 of the British Championship, which will visit here on 24th July. Make a note in your Diary. We look forward to seeing you at both these events.

G. MANTOVANI

PEMBREY RALLYCROSS TRACK

PRESS RELEASE III

Welcome to the very latest Rallycross circuit in the country. For those of you who have never seen Rallycross before, we can assure you that you will not be disappointed by this exciting, all action sport, whilst to the regular followers we feel sure that you will find Pembrey a fitting venue for the sport and that the track will soon become established in Rallycross alongside such venues as Lydden Hill and Brands Hatch.

So, what is Rallycross? Well, take a highly tuned racing engine, fit it into a lightened but extremely strong bodyshell that can take the rough and tumble rigour of, say, a forest track just as easily as it can cope with smooth tarmac, set eight or ten such cars off together on a circuit made up of constantly changing surfaces for a few laps and there you have it - Rallycross. Actually, it all sounds simple but in fact Rallycross is an extremely competitive and technically advanced sport, as today's cars prove, bearing little resemblance now to the Rally cars from which they take their origins. Firstly, the cars have to be extremely strong, for accidents can happen anywhere and the safety of drivers, spectators and marshals alike is all important. Secondly, power is a great advantage, not just in achieving a quick getaway but also in enabling a driver to set the car up for a corner (as in Rallying) whilst the suspension and tyres must be capable of taking the rough with the smooth and ensure that all of the available horsepower gets put where it belongs - onto the track. When a group of such cars attempt to tackle a circuit such as Pembrey all at the same time (called a heat) then that's when the action really starts.

In a Rallycross meeting, each driver normally competes in up to 3 Heats with the fastest two Heats counting towards the all important Finals. Times are recorded by each driver and the fastest cars go through into "A" or "B" finals, with the first four or five cars home in each of the class "A" Finals (there are two classes, for cars above 1600 cc and below 1600 cc) going forward into a Superfinal to decide the outright winner.

That, very briefly, is Rallycross - the Formula 1 of the Off-Roads Motor Sports - the rest you can pick up from watching the regular meetings that will take place here at Pembrey in the coming months. There are all sorts of cars competing in the sport from the venerable Mini through to Turbocharged Porsches, Escorts, Quattro's and even a Lancia Stratos. In Europe, where Rallycross has become extremely popular, there are even such cars as rapid Turbocharged VW Beetles, very quick Renault Alpines and even a Le Mans engined Twin Turbo Porsche 935. If all goes to plan, then these cars will also be seen here at Pembrey in the not too distant future. When you come to watch Rallycross here at Pembrey, one thing for certain - you won't go away disappointed.

G. MANTOVANI

A NEW MOTOR SPORT VENUE IN SOUTH WALES

The old airfield at Pembrey, near Llanelli, is to be used and developed as a leisure activity centre, with motor sport as one of the top users. This was the interesting news that motor clubs in Wales heard earlier this year. The Llanelli Borough Council intend to develop the airfield for such activities as Micro-Plane Flying, Land Yachting, Parascending, Motor Bike Meetings and much more. They recognise the need for some form of Motor Sport in the area - this attitude is a refreshing change - and Rallycross will be Pembrey's first venture into the motorsport world. The BTRDA Rallycross Championship round on June 5th. will be followed by the Lloyds-Bowmaker Championship round on July 24th. and should prove interesting as the track will be new to all competitors. Other plans for the future include extending the circuit to include a tarmac 'Sprint' course, and the Council plan to work closely in conjunction with local motor clubs, recognising the fact that such close liason is necessary to provide the expertise and knowledge for running successful events at the venue. Further possibilities could include Single Venue Stage Rallies; Rally Sprints; Autotests; etc.

There is a large area of land available, and a calendar of events will be drawn up in order to co-ordinate the maximum usage of the area and also to ensure that different sports will not clash. Apart from providing the leisure activities the Council will obviously generate business in the area. Hopefully enough people and motor club members will take an interest to show appreciation to a forward-thinking Council who are now providing the sort of facilities that have in the past been a mere pipe-dream to motor sport fans.

BRIAN JONES (Publicity Manager)

OPENING OF PEMBREY RALLYCROSS TRACK

THE CARS AND DRIVERS

George Warren - Neath - Escort Mk II (4 Star Driver)

George has been competing in Rallycross since the early days of the Embassy Series, seen on B.B.C. Grandstand in the 60s and early 70s. He is almost always one of the front runners. George is the best known Welsh International Rallycross Driver but over the last couple of years he has concentrated on International meetings in Belgium and Holland. Last year, on one of his rare appearances here, he beat the best in Britain to win the Superfinal in the Lloyds Bowmaker Championship Round at Snetterton in Norfolk. George always turns out at the Welsh Rallycross events, though, which up until last year were held at Talbenny, and no doubt we will be seeing him here at Pembrey regularly. George is looking forward to International Meetings being held here when he will be able to proudly show the Continentals Welsh hospitality.

Wynford Walker - New Inn, Gwent - Escort Mk I 1600 cc (2 Star Driver)

Wynford competes regularly all over the country in his Mk I Escort 1600 cc. The car is a pushrod example and is not as powerful as the B.D.A. engined Fiestas and Escorts that abound in Rallycross today. Nevertheless, Wynford regularly gets this car into the "B" Finals and at the last Round of the British Rallycross Championship held at Croft, North Yorkshire on Monday, 2nd May, Wynford qualified his less competitive car against the best in the country for the all important Final, where he finished a very creditable 6th.

Dave Pritchard - Allensmore, Hereford - Metro 1300 (3 Star Driver)

Dave's Metro has a very pretty space frame shell, which is his speciality. He builds lightweight rolling shells for all branches of motorsport. This example has the Leyland 1300 cc engine fitted. Dave won the "B" Final for the up to 1600 cc class at the Brands Hatch Round of the Lloyds Bowmaker Championship recently.

Colin Richards - Battersea, London, S.W.11 - Chevette 3 Litre (4 Star Driver)

Colin is the country's leading Chevette driver; indeed, he has built virtually all the Chevettas that we see in Rallycross. For the last three years, Colin has persistently stuck with his brainchild, which virtually everyone said would not work, the 3000 cc Vauxhall slant twin overhead cam engine, all other competition Chevettas run with a 2600 cc engine. The pistons in Colin's car are from Formula 5000 and are the size of saucers. The block is extended in height by the addition of a steel plate with its own waterways and oilways. Over the past 3 years, Colin has quite naturally had many development problems with this engine, but this year, maintained by Wessex, the engine is developing 320 B.H.P. and going well. Colin is determined to finish high in the British Championship; he has performed well in the Championship so far, but only outright wins are good enough, so he says.

Trevor Hopkins - Egerton, Kent - Fiesta (5 Star Driver)

3 times British Champion, 2nd in last year's British Rallycross Grand Prix at Brands Hatch against the best that Europe can put up gives you an idea of just how good this big man from Kent is. Over the winter, as an addition, he won outright 5 consecutive Rallycross meetings. There are now many Fiestas in British Rallycross, but Trevor had the first, and with sponsorship from Hopolite and backing from Fords themselves, the car was gradually, over a two year period, developed and perfected. After three rounds of the Lloyds Bowmaker British Championship this year, Trevor is in 4th Place overall, and with 5 Rounds still to go, is in a good position to take the Championship again.

John Welch - Crookham, Hants. - Escort Mk II (4 Star Driver)

John has never won a Championship, but despite this he is generally acknowledged to be our leading driver when it comes to International Rallycross. He is always up front whenever he is competing at International level. At the Rallycross Grand Prix last year against the best in the world, John qualified on Pole for the Grand Prix Final. Unfortunately he had to retire in that event due to mechanical problems. He holds the fastest time ever put up on the new Brands Hatch Rallycross Track at 2 mins. 49.1 sec. This year, though, John is concentrating on British events, and the Lloyds Bowmaker Championship in particular, so for the first time for many years he is not competing regularly on the Continent, which is our gain.

Dave Fuell - Redditch, Worcs. - Escort Mk II (4 Star Driver)

Dave and his well turned out car and transporter have been seen at all the British Championship Rounds over the last 3 or 4 years. A very consistent driver, usually to be found amongst the top six in the over 1600 cc class. This year though Dave has not had too good a start to the British Championship season. There are 8 Rounds in the British Championship this year, with only 6 Rounds to count, so Dave no doubt will be pulling himself up the Championship table over the next 5 Rounds.

Tony Drummond - Stockton-on-Forest - Escort Mk II (4 Star Driver)

Tony comes from rallying country and, in fact, up until a few years ago was one of Yorkshire's top Rally Drivers. He has a very flamboyant style of driving and is a great rival of John Welch. When Tony is on form, he can beat the best. He finished third overall in the British Championship of 1978 and third overall again in 1980. Last year he took his first Rallycross title at the Croft Track and became the Plasmor Northern Rallycross Champion.

John Greasley - Amersham, Bucks - Porsche (4 Star Driver)

John has been campaigning the Porsche since 1977; prior to that, when Rallycross Regulations were free, he was well known for his Rover V.8 engined Imp. Many of the Porsches running in British Rallycross have been built by John, and his own particular car is well known to B.B.C. Grandstand viewers. John has won the Final Round of the British Championship in front of the T.V. cameras for the last two years and is one of the few Britains who has beaten Martin Schanche, 3 times European Champion, again in front of B.B.C. Grandstand cameras at Lydden Hill.

Geoff Webb.