



# AudiSouthWest.com

**South West Endurance Rally, 6/8 March 2009**



17 March, 2009

*Dear Marshal, Sponsor, Helper, Advertiser and Spectator,  
We were lucky with the "summer like" weather for the start but still had the remains of the recent winter weather to deal with - snow on Friday! A great entry (56 starters) enjoyed the 2 days of competition on offer this time round with SHMC man Phil Harris and James Aldridge on the maps taking the win at his third attempt!*

*We visited all the old forest favourites and found 2 new ones this year – all venues were in terrific condition if a little slippery in the wintery conditions. Chief Marshal Chris Smale once again did a fantastic job in mobilising a small army of Marshals to cover virtually every post – thanks Chris you did a fantastic job.*

*This year we were again lucky enough to receive much financial support – in addition to AudiSouthWest's generous Title sponsorship - from many local businesses. We are immensely grateful to you all, thank you.*

*It will be said elsewhere but thank you very much to all of you who helped on the build up, and over the weekend. Your efforts never went un-noticed. A special thanks to Rally Director, Roger Gillard, whose masterplan came together on the day once again!!*

*What did the competitors think of the rally that your help made possible? What follows overleaf are some of the comments posted on the BritishRally.co.uk website "forum", MandH Photography.co.uk "forum" .....*

**Once again thank you all!**

## **The Organising Team at South Hams Motor Club**

Pictures from the rally.....



Clockwise from l-r: Harris/Aldridge and at awards, Marshals getting ready for action, Dance/Gilbey, Turner/Dadswell (2<sup>nd</sup> o/a), Stuart and Linda Cariss (Class 5 winners)

*Pictures © mandh-photography.co.uk*

I must admit, when Graham asked me to sit in with him, I wasn't completely sold on enduros. I liked the idea of a long, difficult event, the apparent challenge of hundreds of miles on and between tests, of just you, your driver and the car for two days against the conditions and the clock. I like 1400s, from my limited experience with Mad Bob Walters in the woods, I know



they're not slow. But still, the nagging thought of 'cone dodging', 'boy scouts', 'shopping cars' and similar opinions made me curious, if not a little suspicious, of what I was letting myself in for.

Well, what a load of nonsense. Every rubbish little preconception I'd been led to believe defined endurance

events turned out to be absolute cobbles. The South West, for me, was fantastic. The tests were fantastic, I'll stop short of comparing them to stage events but the spirit is certainly there, some stunning venues (Penhale was a standout) and views on the road sections, and just a feeling of adventure and achievement in getting round with (relatively) few blemishes on the timecards. Incomparable.

Even with a car seemingly hell bent on detaching it's struts at regular intervals, an ambitious clutch cable that clearly wanted to move on to bigger and better things somewhere other than the gearbox, and a navigator not entirely used to the way these events work we achieved a top 15. Graham is destined for good things behind the steering wheel (the miserable, talented git that he is). Smooth and always in control, he made my life a lot easier by keeping her between the trees at all times, as well as answering my retarded questions about timing and manouvres. When do the entries open for the Welsh?

Michael, nav car 4

Arrived home about an hour ago totally knackered - but what an event! Please - all you at South Hams; give yourselves a round of applause - you deserve it! The best event in the calendar by far and in my view the best Audi SWER to date. Fantastic organisation, friendly and helpful officials, brilliant route (other organisers should adopt your the night 'bit', both in length and difficulty levels) - only problem is we've now got a year to wait until the next one.



Moving back to an Astra has worked, to be in the top 10 at Saturdays rest halt brought euphoria to the Crook car only to drop into a gully later on that evening losing some 6 minutes and throwing it all away (despite being warned at the selective start by Mr Bulpin of the conditions to follow.....).

The guys in the 4x4 who dragged us out certainly had a giggle at James and I swearing at each other after me doing my Mr Angry bit in frustration. 'Come on lads - you're here to enjoy yourselves' they said. A little difficult when you are stuck fast, can't find the torch, tow rope, towing eye or sense of humour!

The Torpoint to Plymouth ferry trip at the end was a lovely touch - thanks again. Finally well done to Phil and James on their well deserved win. Oh, I shouldn't forget my son who has put up with me for the past 3 days and made a fab job of navving us (and well done for consuming the 99 pints last night!).

Jeremy & James Crook - Car 36

*Firstly well done to Phil & James for the win. Having only ever done a couple of 12 car's, I came in to this weekend blind, But what a weekend i can't think of a better way to spend that amount time in the passenger seat, A big thanks to Dale for giving me the opportunity to navigate for him. Other than a slight mishap in penhale 2 giving us a maximum & a slightly bent passenger door which may have been to test my nerve, Dale managed to keep the nova moving in the right direction (even with a few late instructions) for some very quick times. And finally thanks to the organisers & marshals Bring on the next one, David - nav car 7*

All I can do is echo the sentiments of those above. Fantastic event once again. The route was great and the organisation was spot on.

Just like to say thanks to the boys from Dolphin Recovery (shame we needed them, twice ) and the Banhams. Without their help we'd probably still be in Cornwall somewhere!! Looking forward to the photos. Jamie (Nav car 27)



This will be a dull post in that it adds nothing new but I'd like to add my congratulations to Phil & James for their win, to all the guys at South Hams for a cracking event, my thanks to all the Marshalls (especially Dick & Diane who turn up at so many events) and of course all the competitors who create

the fantastic atmosphere and camaraderie. I am sure Bill echoes my sentiments.

Cheers, Martin Kernahan

*More praise.... It's this event that brought an old'n like me back to the sport - so thanks to all concerned for running such a magnificent event in an equally magnificent area. For 'grass roots' rallying the S Hams MC team provides a truly professional event - congratulations to you all - brilliant!*



Another excellent event, a triumph of organisation. Some fantastic forests and even a bit of snow to keep everyone on their toes.

*We're do I start? Firstly thank you for Graham Lacy for putting up with my endless questions. I think I was a bit out of my depth really! Mike Reed and I thought that we were last on Friday night but actually ended up 22nd O/all. We couldn't believe it as I had made so many cock ups. I was tired and miserable but we decided to carry on. Saturday was really good and we were both enjoying the stages until we broke a front top mount which ended our rally. I think it will take the rest of the year to get around the timing etc but we will be out for the next one. Well done to South Hams Motor Club for putting on a great event.*

*P.S. Sorry to the car that nearly hit us on the stage that we broke down on, you come from behind and we just didn't see you coming! We borrowed a spanner from car 55? I think. I have it safe for you and will return it on the next event.*



*Well what a weekend. Managed to get the new car finished on Thursday night. Started our first enduro for 3 years. Started steadily getting used to the new car and driving around cones. Had a slight nibble at a tree in fernworthy which slowed us down a little. Really enjoyed holsworthy area forests. Got held up on the regularity by a member of public costing 1 minute. Pleased to find ourselves 17th overall overnight. Managed to pick up a couple of places on Sat morning until both strut top mounts broke in dunmere 1. Tried to get around the next selective but had to call it quits taking a maximum . Rebuilt the struts and kept going, to use the event as practice. Really enjoyed the rest of the day although some of the cone*

*locations so close to ditches did mean that Nic had to get out and push a couple of times. Got held up again for 1 minute on the regularity by a BMW who i had to reverse 1/2 mile for. Finished 21st overall which all things considered was resonable.*

*Thanks To SHMC all the marshalls. James How car43*

well done south hams, brilliant event again. gutted to only be marshalling and not competing.

A late reply from me, I've only just woken up after the weekend. Thanks to all involved with organising a great event, the forests were in good condition as usual, the siting of artificial corners etc. was just right. Apart from the small delay early on Friday it all seemed to run to time. Biggest thanks has to go to Dad for nailing the car together, a few setbacks meant it was only MOTed 2 days before the event, and its still in one piece (despite my best efforts).



As for our run - we had a couple of problems with a front tie bar, and a clutch cable making a bid for freedom, but the Banhams worked their magic and kept us going. Doing Halvana with a chain holding the front wheel forward was "interesting"! Still learning how to drive the car and building up some confidence with it, so hopefully next year our times will be slightly better. Mr Gilbey - it was a pleasure, tidy. Can't wait for the Welsh. Graham Dance - Car 4

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**A few words from Phil Harris – Winning driver.....** Phew, what a weekend. In my mind the best Endurance rally in the uk at the moment, for quality and vfm. As per m&h forum(pacenotes) i guess being the local favourite and having family marshal every control obvioustly paid off J Managing to keep 4 wheels on the car also helps. Dale & Dave, you guys were the dogs on saturday, untouchable pace, not sure that you pair are wired up right with some of those times... Hard luck to Jamie/Dan H, It's nice to have somebody like Jamie watch a selectif and say that we were trying hard. Think results would have looked rather different if the clutch had lasted. I guess the luck was with the Sirion for a change.



Result would'nt have been possible without James, A, calm, confident and for a young un, a huge desire to win. The ASWMC has a bright future with young navs like James, Nic jones etc



coming through. Biggest thanks to the Banham service vehicle for saving our asses by helping to repair the manifold on friday night, as usuall they seemed to be everywhere over the weekend. First time on the Sportways, not convinced on tar, but thought they were exceptional on the loose stuff.

**A few words from James Aldridge – Winning navigator.....** Well what a weekend. Would like to start by saying a huge thanx to all the officials for another fantastic event which really is a joy to compete in. Secondly



thankyou to all the marshalls some who we saw quite a few times during the weekend, it was pretty bleak up on the hills saturady afternoon so thankyou. Unlucky to Jamie and Dan, you were really on it up untill halvana and also unlucky to Dale and David who were setting some remarkable times. Lastly i would like to thank Phil for a fantastic skid, Phil is so easy to navigate for, an

intelligent driver who puts no pressure on the navigator, just gets on with it and peddles the car bloody quickly but yet makes no mistakes. Although for the first time i did get a little worried in a rally car when the drop into the trees was approaching my side rather quickly in the snow on friday afternoon. Hell of a tank slapper and well caught sir!!!! Did put me off my stride though for the next codeboard. Big up the Sirion!!!!!!!

Wow! What an awesome event, last year was great and this year was even better.

*To say we were on a learning curve would be an understatement, new car, first event for me as a driver and a navigator who was a touch out of practice. Despite being mega nervous to start with once we had got a few of the forest tests done I started to get some confidence and felt much happier. Apart from a couple of overshoots we managed to avoid any major drama on the tests and only a 5 minute penalty for missing a LWR on the regularity section spolit the party. Car was flawless all weekend apart from a loose tank strap and we were very happy to come in 14th O/A. Thanks to all the organisers and marshals for making the event happen. DT*

9 hr drive home later.....Brilliant rally and the organisation was sublime with no major hitches - or not that we saw from the competitors' end. The food at the Village Inn deserves some sort of major rally recognition, especially the roast beef with



homemade yorkshire puds and all the trimmings!

Lovely bits of forest, the odd bit of snow, plenty of excitement, good craik, and a good turnout of some of the best crews around meant a highly competitive event. I reckon this, like the Welsh, really highlights the Endurance side of it though. High attrition rate or wot?! Well done to SHMC - a cracker!



What a great event, well done to Andy and all involved in the organisation. Really enjoyed the ferry too, peped up a tired head. Was really pleased to finish and happy with our result, was way too many times i didn't think we would finish as I struggled in the mud. Cheers to Matt for a brilliant job, don't think he has ever have to push a car so many

times on an event, and sorry for driving off without you.....twice. Big thanks to Dave and Mike for giving us a tow out of a ditch, the favour will be returned.

*A huge amount of thanks has to go to the ASW Crew, cracking event again, seems to get better every year, we'll defo be back.....*

Just to echo whats been said by all the competitors on this event, its been a real pleasure to compete in it the last three years. I feel completely lucky to have the opportunity to enter these events which have had such a massive effort put into them, its really staggering the amount of time that must be given up to put the event on, and still everyone completely relaxed and good natured throughout. A proper rally make no mistake. Many many thanks to everyone involved.



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*Well once again SHMC have pulled it off. What a superb event. ... As always i enjoyed every second, the forests were superb, the tarmac tests were superb and added that essential bit of variety, the marshaling was*

*absolutely spot on in what was at times appalling conditions and the atmosphere at this event at the rest halts and especially in the bar is second to none. Finally a big thank you to Mark for asking me to sit next to him, he did extremely well and we had a very solid run as a result, one puncture and one overshoot in 2 days of hard forest rallying was a superb effort and we were both over the moon to be soundly inside the top 10 at the finish. Roll on next year!*



Well we finished! Not the usual catalogue of disasters as per usual. Just a broken (brand new) wheel bearing, gear linkage and PTS sump guard (again). Thoroughly enjoyed the rally and don't have any criticisms. Although a tea break at a TC might be a good idea. A huge thanks to the organisers and marshals for what must be in my

mind the best rally I have ever done. Just need to wind up the pace!

*Thank you SHMC for a fantastic event. Well organised and really good fun. A special thanks to all the marshals for making this event possible.*



Looking forward to new homes across the UK, all the pixies were smiling...