

A note from the winning navigator – Ian Collings.....

After being told by jamie and matt that i HAD to do the speech at the prize giving my brain was still completely fried from the event so it ended abruptly after some mumblings about marshals and organisers and i passed over to jamie who is far more experienced in these matters! There was however some other things i wanted to say so i'll have a go now. The marshalling was 1st class all weekend, all the marshals seemed happy 4th 5th and 6th times around for some of them despite the weather! Roger, Andy and the South Hams team did an amazing job with this event, the South West is now considered by many (including me!) as unmissable, even over the Lombard. Both of us worked extremely hard all weekend, (jamie a little harder in some places to make up for my mistakes!) but at no point could we back off, the 3 way battle with Dale and Phil was so unbelievably close right up until the bitter end. I've never been under that kind of pressure for that long before but it made it all the more satisfying when we came out on top. As always the time in the bar was as fun as the time in the car, there were endless stories of peoples escapades throughout the weekend flying around. funnily enough by 3:30am the same stories were being retold in a slightly more exaggerated fashion but it made them all the more entertaining! Thanks again to everyone involved, i'm still grinning now!

Results arrived today and very nicely done they are to. Like the rest of the event first class.

Emails received:

Truly a great event, I think lady luck was shining on us slightly, This was my first bit of silverware and the wife's not sure where to put the Gnome yet although the kids have called him Santa!!! Thanks once again, excellent event, fantastic stages/selectives, count us in for next year....

Cheers, Ben & Mike Dawson

Andrew, Many thanks for looking after us so well on the Beginners Rally. Shame we didn't have any opposition!! When the rain made some of the forests particularly slippery, we could afford to just back off - mind you we were still baulked by two slower runners we caught,(Mini and Skoda), and 3 cars going off into the trees on one stage - we only just managed to stop to avoid an even bigger accident with car 73, I believe it was. Once again, many thanks. Best regards, Terry Thorp

Hi Andrew, Thanks for a great rally, it was superb and will definitely be back next year. Judging by the British Rally blog everyone rated it the best yet I hope the organisers enjoyed it as much. Best regards. Adrian

hey andy, please pass this on or add to the flood of messages! absolutely enjoyed the rally even with the eventful start we had, organisation was as always top notch and the event ran slickly. Selectifs were so smooth its unreal, even when roger pinder, andy ballantyne and I drove them on monday you could hardly tell we been through. And as for the regularities WOW! no twelve car section will ever get close to those blasts especially the second days ones. A big thanks to my Nav, Rob Garton for getting me round, its certainly a steep learning curve for both of us! If I could sum the rally up in one word, I probably couldnt, but for some reason I keep replying to the question "how was the rally" with "AWESOME" so I guess that'll do! The marshalls were fantastic and the one in dunmere on the downhill PC needs a bravery medal! A big thanks to Mr Gillard (and Pam!), and the whole "team". The difficulties I heard you had, it certainly didnt show up to the competitors. The club should be proud of what was achieved on the weekend of 7/8/9 March. I for one have only one question: when can I get the entry form for next years? -Richard Brooks car 67 finished 46th o/a



AudiSouthWest.com

South West Endurance Rally, 7/9 March 2008



16 March, 2008

Dear Marshal, Sponsor, Helper, Advertiser and Spectator,

We were lucky with the "summer like" weather for the start but had the weather gremlins to deal with on Saturday! A larger entry than last year (73 starters) enjoyed the 2 days of competition on offer this time round with SHMC man Phil Harris and Graham Dance on the maps being pipped to the post – for the second year running - in the closing hours of the rally by Jamie Turner /Ian Collings – a great battle though!

We had a new asphalt venue and returned to the Fernworthy forest complex – all venues were in terrific condition. 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 Roger whose masterplan came together on the day once again, in testing times occasionally!

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

**Once again thank you all!
The Organising Team at South Hams Motor Club**

Pictures from the rally.....



Clockwise rom top left: Winners,Turner/Collings in action and at prizegiving (with Andy Russell MD AudiSouthWest), Cariss/Cariss, Best SHMC Crew: McCarthy/Power receiving the Jewson Trophy, Lees/Lassam, Marshals in great spirits!

to Dale Glover for some superb driving and for putting up with my very rusty navigating. It certainly won't be another 20 years before I do it again ... when is the next one?

What an excellent event. Extremely well-organised and presented very professionally. We started at car 75, seemed to be running at 13 on Friday night when the bar closed but were down to 26th at the restart on Saturday morning due to a missed codeboard (we weren't alone - 34 of the 65 runners at that point missed it!) Clawed our way back up to finish 11th overall on my first endurance rally - more credit to Worth than to me, I have to say! I almost wish we'd left car 11 in the ditch last night rather than towing them out - then we'd have been in the top ten! Only joking(ish). Excellent forests, excellent Portreath and Penhale - what more could we hope for? A third day, maybe?

A note from the winning driver – Jamie Turner....

Well I haven't woken up yet so here is my bleary comments, firstly to Roger for your massive efforts on this event, you are a true enthusiast who's organisation and planning have undoubtedly created what probably will be the best enduro this year, a big thanks to you. To the two Andy's, your friendly faces and high spirits are a big contributing element of this hugely enjoyable event, to all the marshalls who stood out in some horrible weather to make this possible for us to enjoy, a massive thanks to each and everyone of you. On to the competitors, commiserations to Mike and Cath, Dale, Martin et al, big shame not to see you all finish. To Phil, you have truly stepped up to the mark, some of your times earn massive respect, nearly made us fall off the road trying to beat you, you certainly made us drive the "seats" off our cars, eh Phil, good job. And Graham, your professional attitude to rallying and the serious efforts you put into the sport have made a good driver realise his potential, you certainly did for me! Most thanks go to young Ian, the brilliant piece of navigating you provided was unexpected but excellent none the less, to occupy the seat that housed the great Graham's and Fowles, and to then beat them your parents should be very proud and I put this win down to you, thanks mate!! Also to all the other competitors who make this enduro rallying stand out head and shoulders above the rest with the sheer amount of sociable people that are involved, hats off to you all. Cheers to the two pixies on the side of the road, certainly made me laugh. See you on the midsummer!! - Jamie Turner

definitely the best event on the calendar in my opinion. I think the number of entries confirm this. Thank you to the entire organising crew for such a massively enjoyable event.

Well what a great event that was. Good mix of test and all well marshalled. Good sporting banter between the crews if not the scrutineer. I could make lots of excuses about not having second gear etc but the top crews had me well beat before our troubles. Thanks to TR4andy for moving over so soon forgot to thank you at the finish. Good to get out with Peter again and he only went a little green on the regularities. Top result for Jamie and Ian C. Bet your glad you did not give up the navigating last year. See you all on the mid summer.

Absolute corker of an event!!! Last year was good but this year's event was faultless and awesome and as with every Endurance event was a massive adventure and battle of survival as much as anything else. Every single test was of superb quality, even the crazy Dunmere 2 and its slippery slope of death! The 205 tried its best to disintegrate around us, starting with cooling issues on day 1, and then on to the complete failure of most electrical components including alternator and starter motor. It took two batteries to get us within 6 miles of home when sadly the second battery finally drained itself of all life leaving us stranded in the village of Dousland. Fortunately the local pub had live music and a great atmosphere so we retired to the pub before we had the brain wave of sourcing a third battery and driving flat out to the finish to make it to the final control with minutes to spare!

A truly great event and one to rival 'The Lombard'. Well done to all the South Hams Team, Audi SW, and such a fabulous set of marshalls. I would echo Baggerman, I will never forget Dunmere, the most challenging selectif I have ever driven. Jamie, just brilliant, and The Rover Centre producing unbreakable cars. Commiserations to Phil, you will do it, but need to come back to a NOV4A. Finally many apologies to all marshalls and crew's I gassed. I have emptied Cornwall of semi-synthetic, in total 17 litres, mostly on the front of Dave Smith's Rover....

Yep', a huge big 'well done' to the team at SHMC for a fantastic event that was organised and delivered brilliantly. You guys continue to set, and indeed raise, the standard which other events should be seeking to reach. Despite not finishing (spit fuel tank Dunmere 1) and depositing £30 worth of unleaded just outside Bodmin our disappointment was more than made up by the end of event 'gathering' in the Novotel bar. Still feeling fragile at this late point in the afternoon. Not too sure what we have got to do to get a finish in the Pug - armour plate it I suspect - or perhaps stick a Rover badge on the front. We watched Dunmere 2, the front runners were certainly going for it. Spoke with Dale at the selective start and said 'give it the beans in there'..... clearly he did! - Jeremy Crook

What can I add that hasn't been said? I've helped "officiate" on the last two and decided now was the time to pull my finger out to do it, clutch went going to the start, walked through the start line and the rest was absolutely fantastically quality from the route planning (Roger, 2 Andy's and co), the set up was spot-on (the vans were everywhere), the route was mind blowing, but the biggest thing for me was the marshalls! They were everywhere and all smiling even when we came slithering up to them and it was blowing a hoolie. I too had a big moment in Dunmere, thought I was going to join Dale and co of the list of Dunmere "victims". Blimey it was slippery in there! Shame we lost "Polish Farm 1", I might have caught a few more in there! A big commiseration to those that retired, especially those that found the "bellevue rock" I muddled it on my sump guard on full chat and was waiting for the oil light to come on! A finish considering our start and its our first event is a job done by my expectations, a big thanks to my nav, and the competitors that offered help at the racecourse, and of course to the organising team! As for the "Dartmoor Pixies from the Treacle Mine" I hope we'll see so many next year! It certainly made me look twice! As we say down here it was a PROPER JOB see you all next year, and I might be able to talk my nav into doing a few more later this year! Rich Brooks - Car 67

Damn good event again. Shame we didn't finish. Sadly the Mini suffered from overheating pretty much the whole event - courtesy of two holes in the radiator, gathered on one of the early forest tests; despite our best efforts - and several egg whites! Missing both regularities on Friday due to a broken rear shock absorber just after the start of the first one meant that we'd not have been classified as a finisher - but as Dave was being sponsored for charity per selectif, we decided to carry on Saturday. The uphill tests (and even the 'A' roads) proved too much effort for the poor overheating engine, so in the end we decided that discretion was the better part of valour; rather than blow up a perfectly good engine. On the positive side, Dave will now have raised a few few pounds for a needy cause; so was well worth the effort. Our thanks to the organisers for a cracking event; to the marshalls for their unstinting support; and apologies to anyone we delayed when you caught us. - Dave Walker/Chris Thorley. Mini 1000.

Wow! That WAS an endurance rally. Many congratulations to all involved from Roger though to every single marshal, all stayed happy and smiling throughout and the whole event had a very friendly but competitive atmosphere that just makes you want to come back for more. Roger tells me they could take 180 entries ... if word of how good this event is gets round he may soon need all of them! Paul kept us going in the right direction at the right time all weekend, made the tea and even put up with my stupid jokes. Very pleased