



2008 – The future is bright. Geoff Jones Motorsport

When people talk about top Welsh rally teams Geoff Jones Motorsport is nearly always at the top of the list, and after recently completing deals for 2008 the new year is looking bigger and better than ever for this popular team.

Run by former Nissan and Proton works driver Geoff Jones, and with a close relationship to Prodrive, the small Machynlleth based rally preparation company will run cars in no less than 5 major rally championships in 2008.

The season got under way on the recent Red Kite Stages in Mid Wales where GJM ran three cars with a 100% finish rate. Indeed, it was his 100% reliability record in 2007 that saw John Lloyd agree to stay with GJM for 2008. The likeable Londoner will form part of a two car team alongside Andrew Barnes, competing in the BTRDA rally series in a pair of ex works Ford Focus World Rally Cars.

Whilst recent 4 wheel drive convert Neville Jones will contest a large portion of the BTRDA his primary focus will be on the Welsh National Championship, on board a Subaru Impreza N10. At the end of 2007 Neville admitted that ***if it wasn't for Geoff & his attention to detail, not just with the car, but in assisting me with my driving, I possibly would have given up on rallying. But now I'm really enjoying myself again.*** And with a top 15 finish on his first event of the year, Neville has obviously been listening to Geoff.

Another driver to have benefited from Geoff and his tuition is Paul Griffiths. GJM runs Paul in a Group 4 Mk II Escort in the Historic Championship and on only his second ever event in the car Paul was sitting well inside the top five on last years Roger Albert Clark until time spent in a ditch dropped him back to ninth at the finish.

GJM will also maintain a strong presence in the premier division of rallying, the British Rally Championship. As well as continuing to run both Rob Swann and Karl Simmons in Subarus' GJM has also been asked to run young gun Andrew Hockeridge in a Citroen C2R2. Whilst Karl Simmons remains in an Impreza N12, Rob Swann will be upgrading to a brand new N14, and with Geoff already having done a large amount of testing of this car as part of his work with Prodrive, he should be a step ahead with knowledge on setup and performance, giving Rob that crucial edge.

On top of this Geoff will continue with his driver tuition. Whilst former pupil Conrad Rautenbach makes his mark on the World Rally Championship, Geoff will continue to help develop young talent within the UK, and indeed has agreed a deal to run 2007 class B8 BTRDA champion Matt Edwards in his Subaru Impreza N11 hire car on the forthcoming Wyedean Rally.

One thing that is guaranteed is that this likeable Welshman and his band of mechanics will form a stable part of British Rallying in 2008... and you never know, perhaps Mr Jones might even contest the occasional event himself!