



Tough Break for Jones on Red Kite

Welsh rallycar preparation expert Geoff Jones recovered from early driveshaft woes to stage a sterling fight back up the leaderboard to finish 3rd overall on Sunday's Red Kite Stages in Mid Wales.

After Rob Swann, a client of Geoff Jones Motorsport, had to withdraw his entry at the 11th hour Geoff Jones literally dusted off one of his hire cars and took Rob's place on the event. With Darren Garrod, Rob's usual co-driver, calling the notes the pair attacked the rally intent on just having fun.

Running first on the road the pair had to adjust to each other pretty quickly as Geoff tackled the first stage with gusto. However Lady Luck was to play a cruel joke on the pair as Geoff clipped a rock on the inside of a hairpin half way through the opening run through Crychan Forest. The impact snapped one of the rear driveshafts and the pair had to finish the stage with only front wheel drive. At the end of the stage Geoff inspected the damage and decided to limp through the next two stages before repairing the car at service. Despite having to drive nearly 20 stage miles in front wheel drive the pair did really well to only drop less than 2 minutes to the leading car, a 2005 spec Ford Focus World Rally Car!

With power restored to all 4 wheels of their Kumho shod Subaru Impreza N11 the pair began a meteoric fight back up the field, beaten by only the Ford Focus World Rally Car of Simon Hughes on the remaining stages and despite the weather taking a turn for the worse, were eventually rewarded with a fine 3rd overall at the finish.

To give an idea of how they were handicapped with the broken driveshaft Geoff was an astounding 20 seconds quicker through the final stage than he had been when he tackled the very same stage earlier in the day with the broken shaft!

We had a fun day out in the woods and it's just a pity about the broken driveshaft but then that's rallying, mused a philosophical Geoff Jones.

To cap off a fine days rallying the 2nd Geoff Jones Motorsport car of Neville and Julian Jones (no relation) ran faultlessly all day long and finished 9th in class, giving the whole team a boost as they prepare for a very busy 2007.

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