

VK DERBYSHIRE RALLY

By Ian Mills

Organising Club: Matlock MC **Date:** 4th/5th April **Where:** Derbyshire
Championships: EMAMC, ANEMMC, ANWCC, AWMMC, ANCC & SD34
Route: 120 Miles **Starters:** 54.

Guy Robinson/Sam Collis emerged as winners after an event long battle with Ian Ainsworth/Stewart Merry. At the petrol halt the two crews had been in third and fourth places and were just one second apart. By end of the rally they had moved to the front with Robinson/Collis having eked out a winning margin of eight seconds. Nick Toplis/Mick Fern were the fastest crew on the traditional opening section which ran through the estate of sponsor Steve Perez. They maintained the position to be over 30 seconds ahead at Petrol. However their Proton then suffered a puncture, and, with no further spare, they made a cautious run to third place.

Jason Stone/Dan Stone held second at the midway point, but a couple of wrong slots saw them fall to sixth at the end.

The event was run in conditions that suggested a summer rally, with hard dry tracks and dust, but the freezing temperature betrayed the true time of year.

Results

1 Guy Robinson/Sam Collis (Peugeot 206) 3m49s; 2 Ian Ainsworth/Stewart Merry (Proton Coupe) 3m57s; 3 Nick Toplis/Mick Fern (Proton Coupe) 4m27s; 4 Craig Burgess/Mike Petch (Peugeot 205 GTi) 6m04s; 5 Jonty Bloxham/Nick Bloxham (Peugeot 106 GTi) 7m34s; 6 Jason Stone/Dan Stone (Honda Civic) 8m58s; 7 Simon Randall/Paul Davenport (Proton Wira) 10m49s; 8 Ade Green/Ian Gibbins (Proton Satria GTi) 11m15s; 9 Steve Pashley/Richard Pashley (Vauxhall Corsa) 12m38s; 10 Roger Powley/Richard Morris (Proton Coupe) 13m15s. **Class Winners:** **Historics:** Graham Child/Kevin Ablitt (Ford Escort Mexico); **Experts:** Bloxham/Bloxham; **Novices:** Richard French/Sasha Heriot (Seat Ibiza).