

(Very) Provisional Leaderboard after SS (of 17)

1 MacKinnon/MacGillivray	12 Mins 15 Secs
2 MacKinnon/Stayte	12m 33s
3 Hall/Hall	12m 33s
4 Cope/Fagg	12m 49s
5 Harper/Campbell	13m 01s
6 Pattison/Whittaker	13m 03s
7 MacGillivray/Fraser	13m 05s
8 Pye/Falconer	13m 10s
9 Bardy/Smith	13m 12s
10 Bonniwell/Ewing	13m 20s
11 O'Donnell/O'Donell	13m 26s
12 Duffy/Duffy	13m 56s
13 Biggerstaff/Wyllie	13m 59s
14 Kirtley/Jones	13m 59s

(Note: These positions may change as more Time Cards come in)

It's dark, wet and cold out there. It must be Mull. After five years of remarkably docile weather I suppose it had to happen, but here we are on the 40th Tunnock's Tour of Mull Rally and it's business as usual. The route is different this year which has had an impact on the MullMurmurs Bulletin Service. We can't get to where we usually like to be and distribution will be even more tricky than normal. However, we'll do our best, so please bear with us. For those of you new to the MullMurmurs operation, this highly factual and informative gossip and scandal sheet will endeavour to keep you up to date during the rally so look out for it as Bulletin Bill runs ahead of the rally distributing this free newsheet.

Anyway, this year's event started with a bang, reverbrating around the walls of Tobermory Bay with the first of two 'city centre special stages' in the city of Tobermory.

At the end of that opening blast, young Paul MacKinnon said: "That was the slippiest thing I've seen in my life. I nearly swapped ends at the hairpin when the handbrake seized on." Slippiness was a point echoed by Dougi Hall: "Tyres cold, wet and slippy, but it was alright." Neil MacKinnon added: "I thought it was so slippy that at first I didn't think the diffs were working, and then I thought it was the tyres." John Cope summed it up: "It is what it is, a bit of fun."

Calum Duffy was a bit more succinct: "Cheeses (or words to that effect) there was no grip at all, it was wheelspin all the way up the hill." Daniel Harper chipped in: "It was just a bit of fun, what else on cold tyres, wet weather and wet tarmac." Tony Bardy was expecting the test to be a bit quicker: "It was slower than I thought it would be, but there was a lot of people there." James MacGillivray enjoyed it too. "Slippy but good fun," he reckoned.

Tristan Pye was a bit more realistic in the new shape Impreza: "There was everything to lose and nothing to gain in those conditions but it was good fun". Dave Miller thought it was: "Smashing, just smashing." Doug Weir was taking it seriously but co-driver Duncan Brown was tooting the horn all the way, so much for reading the Pace Notes then!

Dave Hopwood had a last minute panic: "The battery was flat at the start. We had to get a jump start at MacKay's Garage and did the first stage without spotlights, but we were OK for the second run." Paul Kirtley thought: "Going through Tobermory was a real hoot." Tugs Sherrington said: "It was so slippy it was like driving a MkII, it was sideways everywhere," and he's driving a Lancer.

And the best quote of the night (so far!) came from the O'Donnell twins in car 15: "It wasn't easy passing the MacDonald Arms without going in for a pint!"

STOP PRESS: Looks like John Cressey is out on SS3 with a broken gearbox in the MINI and heartbreakingly, young John MacCrone has gone off in SS3 in the Honda Civic, and it looks as though he is out too. Also in trouble, but not quite as bad as those two is Calum Duffy. The Escort picked up a puncture and he was passed by Dougi Hall in the stage.

That's yer lot for now,

Yer Auld Pal, Jaggy Bunnet – Friday, 10.00 pm, At the foot of Glen Aros