

Leckie takes Dalesman

AIREDALE and Pennine MC's return to rallying in the form of the Alfresco Garages Dalesman Rally on October 13, saw victory go to the Renault R.12 Gordini of Keith Leckie and Malcolm Smithson, after a 130 mile route on maps 90, 95 and 96. This was the first offering from A and P for some three years and with RAC breathing down their necks, a virtually "novice only" event was on the cards, thus spoiling a first class route with very slack timing.

First car away from the sponsor's start at Bradford was the Cooper "S" of P. Wigglesworth/D. Nuttall followed by the Avenger of P and V. Rhodes. J. Dixon/M. Walmsley were at three in another "S", at four came E. Craven/B. Brennan (RS) and completing the first five was the Firenza of R. Pearson and J. Adamson. Due to a late entry the eventual winners were down at 17.

A 15 minute run out led crews to the first series of four minutes over Keighley Moor and to the first neutral at Silsden. The slot at 96/054457 caused some non locals problems but most were clean at TC6. Silsden Moor was next up and saw the only unsurfaced road of the night being used, the muddy and bumpy Woofa Bank white.

The first minutes were dropped at TC17 on the very yumpy yellow

to the north east of Appletrewick on sheet 90. After a short loop onto 95 it was back onto 90 for petrol at Austwick where the leading crews were four minutes down and hoping that the timing would become tighter over the classic moorland yellows which formed the second half.

The first of these typical Dales roads was Malham Moor where the not as map right left at Sannet Mall caused moments for many crews, fortunately everybody managing to get round. From there on navigation became simple with a run on the brown road to Ribbles Head, over Dent Station, down to Hawes and southwards back down the map over Fleet Moss and through Hubberholme Valley.

After half a dozen more controls the rally finished two miles from Settle. Breakfast was available just outside Skipton and provisional results were out at 7.40 showing the winners to be Keith Leckie/Malcolm Smithson who had put the superior power of the Alpine engined Gordini to good effect. They were followed a minute down by the Avenger GT of Williams/Pickup, third place going to yet another breed, the Firenza of Robert Pearson and John Adamson.

M.S.

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1. K. Leckie/M. Smithson (Renault 12); 2. N. Williams/D. Pickup (Avenger GT); 3. R. Pearson/J. Adamson (Firenza); 4. D. Sykes/P. Wise (Mini); 5. R. Davies/P. Boland (Mercedes).