

# Kerr storms to a great finish

By George Topp

**LANARKSHIRE** teenage rally driver Alick Kerr has finished a creditable 7th place in the Experts Class of the first round of the English 205 Challenge.

The 17-year-old from Bothwell made the long trip south for his first visit to the Oak Leaf Stages Rally held at Wilbarston Airfield, Derbyshire.

This was probably the largest ever gathering of similar specification Peugeot 205 rally cars with 59 entered on the event.

Kerr's leakerdirect-backed Peugeot 205 GTi was co-driven by another county teenager, Ian Angell. Ian, who is also from Bothwell, was back in the navigator's seat with Kerr for the first time this year.

The competition was very close with only 7 seconds separating the top 10 cars on the first stage.

Although crews who had visited the venue previously were at an advantage once the newcomers had got round the first few stages their pace had improved to within a few seconds of the fastest 205.

"You cannot afford to make any mistakes as the competition is very close," explained Kerr, "We spun on the third stage and, although we lost very little time, we still dropped about 10 places on the stage."

The sunny start to the day turned to rain and hail which led to quite treacherous conditions. Some of the crews who had completed the championship last year switched to a worn gravel tyre which had an advantage over the slick tyre on the water-soaked surface.

Kerr added: "We had to persevere on the slick tyres and were aquaplaning into every corner on the last two stages. There was an advantage of about 15 seconds or so on the gravel tyre but, unfortunately, we had to stick to the tyres we brought to the event."

The next round of the Ecosse 205 Challenge will be the Granite City Rally on April 29. Kerr will be co-driven on that round by seasoned navigator Tom Hynd from Inverbervie, just a few miles from the bulk of the forest stages and so will be hoping to take advantage of local knowledge.



**SEVENTH HEAVEN:** Bothwell teenage driving sensation Alick Kerr put on a brave show in the first round of the English 205 challenge to finish in a creditable seventh place.