

Kasia enjoys her home comforts in a superb start to the season

RALLYING

TOGETHER with their partner club – West Suffolk MC – Chelmsford MC brought special stage rallying to RAF Honington last Sunday with their Cadman Stages Rally, a qualifying round of the AEMC/Ward Construction and the Kick Start Junior 1000 Championships, *writes Arthur Debenham.*

For Bury teenager Kasia Nicklin, the season could hardly have got off to a better start as, along with Norfolk-based co-driver Peter Skillen, she brought her Nissan Micra home to second position in the junior category.

Nicklin has obtained support from the famous Bill Gwynne Rally School, and is surely benefiting from this in many ways.

From the start of the eight stages which comprised the rally, Kasia was in the top three, but dropped back slightly during the midway section.

However, she regained third position as they went in to the final stage but, by the finish, had improved to second – a wonderful result in her home event.

The last stage of the rally also

brought joy for another local lady, as Clare Rix went into it holding down fourth in class in her Ford Ka.

Along with co-driver Rob Cook, they were just one second down on the third position holder.

An excellent day, in which the car had at last retained its full use of the transmission, was even better, as they secured third in class, pulling some 10 seconds clear of the opposition.

For Rob, it was not only relief they had at last completed a rally, but some way compensated from the fact he had to withdraw from the previous day's Somerset Stages, as his driver was taken ill.

Also out of luck on the Somerset, was Tuddenham's Glyn Jarman. With Steve Greenhill in the hot seat, their Subaru Impreza was retired early in the rally with fuel pressure trouble.

Last weekend, 71 crews made it to North Yorkshire for the latest round of the Historic Rally Car Register Championship.

This included Badwell Ash-based Robin Shackleton, who was again driving an MGB Roadster, with

the car's owner, Ken Dobbs, in the navigator's seat.

The Ilkley Rally, organised by Ilkley MC, saw them bring the car home in 28th, a position which could have been better, had the oil pipe to the oil pressure gauge not split.

Noticing a lack of pressure, the team made a temporary repair and, along with six pints of oil, completed the rally.

MOTOR RACING

Cadwell Park is truly a wonderful race venue, giving competitors a real challenge in dry conditions. When it turns wet, that challenge can double.

So it was last weekend, as the HSCC were faced with hail storms as they staged a two day event.

For Stephen Glasswell, it was not the situation in which to drive a new car, that had not seen any testing.

The Great Barton driver was contesting the Historic FF 2000 race in his Reynard and, as he lined up for the first of two races, so the circuit was hit by a hail storm.

The conditions became so bad that, after five laps, during which Stephen

had improved his position in the field, the race was red-flagged for safety reasons.

Race two was delayed as, following two warm-up laps, the red flags came out again, this time due to an incident in the paddock.

It was eventually completed, with Glasswell doing likewise, but it was not the situation in which to learn about a new car.

Hessett's Brian Mitcham had just one race, the JMW front engined Formula Junior Series contender.

It was a troubled weekend for the Mallock U2 driver. Hit by both ignition and brake problems during qualifying, his race ended when brake issues again appeared as he was holding down fourth position.

There were better things in store for Tony Davis in his Sebring Austin Healy Sprite, as he took in two races for Historic Road Sports.

In race one, his car was well suited to the wet conditions and, following a midfield grid position, he went away to secure eighth overall and victory in his class.

Race two again saw a wet track to begin with, but as it dried out so the Sprite was unable to stay with the more powerful cars, but still rewarded Tony with 11th overall, second in class.

Peter Chappel continued to gain experience in his Austin Healy Sprite, and safely completed both of his races.

DIARY DATES

Autosolo. Tibenham Airfield, Norfolk, Sunday.

Sporting CC of Norfolk, round one of a six round series.

Car Trial. Home Farm, Great Brickhill, Sunday.

Falcon MC; MSA and BRTDA Championships.

Short Circuit. Northampton Stadium, Sunday, 1.30pm.

Stock Rods; 2.0 Hot Rods; BriSCA F2; Bangers.

Motor Racing. Snetterton, BRSCC, Saturday and Sunday.

Sports Car; Mazda MX5; Porsche; Fiesta; Ford XR Challenge.

Brands Hatch, 750 MC, Saturday and Sunday. Races include RGB and FVee Championships, with local competitors.