Kasia's superb finish highlights big improvement

RALLYING

BURY'S teenage rising rally star Kasia Nicklin enjoyed what she described as "a fantastic day" at Woodbridge airfield on Saturday, as Chelmsford MC organised the Woodbridge Stages Rally, which included a round of the Kick Start Pirelli Junior Championship.

The last two rounds had not been kind to Nicklin and, as a result, she and co-driver Gareth Short were seeded 17th of the 21-strong junior category.

The rally featured six special stages over a mix of surfaces including Tarmac, concrete and gravel.

At the completion of those stages, Nicklin had steered her Nissan Micra to a superb fourth place finish.

With three further rounds to go, she is holding down 13th position in the championship but, with other crews still having to drop their two lowest scores, the end result could see a big improvement on this.

For West Suffolk MC's Sharon Chilver, it was a 35th overall result, as she co-drove the Ford RS200 of Glyn Heighton.

MOTOR RACING

The CSCC meeting, held at Silversone, saw some lively action from the three local teams contesting the Tin Tops race, which attracted an entry of 24.

Joining regulars Rob Dyball/Mark Livens (Honda Civic Type R) were Frank Pettitt/Carey Lewis (Rover 216) and the Honda CRX of Andy Hancock/Gavin Spencer. Qualifying saw the Dyball/Livens car secure fifth in the line-up, while further back — and contesting class honours rather than overall — Pettitt/Lewis were 13th, with Hancock/Spencer 17th.

During the race, Mark Livens was

MOTORSPORT

destined to drop back as the Civic developed a misfire and, following his handover to Dyball, the car problem continued and ninth was the eventual outcome.

With both cars prepared by Suffolk Motorsport, the class battle between the Rover and CRX was very much a private affair. Lewis held the advantage until the pit stop, but a stalled engine saw a late departure for Pettitt, who rejoined just as Hancock passed. They had a good scrap for class honours, with victory going to Hancock/Spencer, with Pettitt/Lewis second.

If often rains in Wales and last Saturday was no exception as the RGB contestants in the AB Performance Championship were our only local entrants.

Once again, the wet conditions suited John Cutmore, the Troston driver taking his Spire to victory and fastest lap.

Behind him, Paul Rogers brought his Contour home fourth, just one place ahead of Matt Green in the second Spire. The second Contour of Gary Goodyear took seventh.

Sunday's race was dry and, with only three entries in the Bike Sports race, those three were placed at the front of the grid for the second RGB event.

They proved slow off the line, and Cutmore made contact with one in the first corner. He continued, but Green came through to take the lead.

Now in recovery mode, Cutmore moved ahead of Green, Rogers following soon after. Rogers challenged Cutmore for the lead. It was very close and the cars brushed wheels, this eventually seeing Cutmore spin into retirement with a flat tyre.

With Rogers leading, Green was reestablish in second — this giving him the Driver of the Day award — and Goodyear completed the podium with a well-taken third.

AUTOGRASS

The St Neots club staged a two-day autograss meeting last weekend, with two local drivers securing exactly the same results on both days.

For Steve Fisher, his twin bike-engined Peugeot 206 took him to a constant second throughout, taking this position in his two heats and A final in class 7. This has provisionally placed him as the class champion in the East Anglian Championship.

Not to be outdone, fellow Bury resident Matt Ellis took a second and first position in both Saturday and Sunday's heats, and followed this with a second position in both A finals, as he contested the Stock Hatch class in his Citroen AX. He is also the provisional East Anglian Champion in his class.

SHORT CIRCUIT

The recent European Championship for the Oval Legends took Barry Randall and Dan Holden to the Birmingham Wheels raceway.

Although Randall had the better fortunes during the heats, as he recorded an eighth and second place finish, it was Holden's turn for the better result in the final. His heats had seen a sixth during the first outing, but retirement in the second.

During the championship decider, Randall was holding down fifth when an attack on the rear of his car dislodged the bumper and he was black flagged. Holden, meanwhile, was holding down third position, one that eventually saw him on the podium.

Randall is the current leader in the Pro Division, and both drivers will be in action this Saturday at Foxhall.

MOTOR SPORT SHOW

As promised several weeks ago, I can now reveal the amount of money raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, at the Bury Motorsport Show, held in July.

The final sum to be donated is £1,358, considerably less than the organisers hoped for. The EAAA themselves collected just £256 from visitors, and a further £169 was donated by Martin Booth, the landlord of the Walnut Tree public house, in Worlington.

This had been raised by charity quiz nights and Martin chose to donate it to our show funds.

As admission to the show is free, the organisers depend on exhibitors fees and donations as the main fund-raisers. I have asked a number of people just how much they thought the EAAA would have collected, and most reply £1,000-£800, so the actual amount is very disappointing.

DIARY DATES

Short Circuit. Mildenhall Raceway. Saturday, 6.30pm. BriSCA F2 English Open Championship.

Foxhall Stadium, Saturday, 6.45pm. Legends; Stock Rods; Bangers.

Sprint. Depden, Essex, Herts County AC, Sunday.

Motor Racing. Brands Hatch, BARC, Saturday and Sunday. British Touring Car Championship.

Snetterton, MGCC, Saturday and Sunday. Morgan; Equipe GTS; MGs; Throughbred Sports Cars; Pre '60 Touring Cars; Pre '66 Sports Cars.