Double delight as Nicklin shows her promise

Rally driving star Kasia Nicklin took double honours at the weekend in the 'Mark Ellis' Woodbridge Rally organised by Chelmsford Motor Club.

The 17-year-old King Edwards VI School pupil continued her promising start to the new campaign, to drive a faultless series of seven tarmac stages to finish first in class as the youngest driver in a 73 strong adult field.

However, the talented youngster was made to work for her most recent success after suffering engine difficulty with her Nissan Micra after just one stage.

"When we pulled into service after stage one, steam was spiralling upwards from under the bonnet, followed by a pool of coolant from a failed seal on the water pump." she said. "We set out on Stage two with the heater on full power inside the car and instructions to monitor the engine temperature.

"My co-driver and I had everything crossed because if the temperature reading went into the red, we knew we would have to stop on the stage to prevent engine damage."

Despite the troubles, Nicklin and co-driver Emma Morrison completed the remaining stages, scoring valuable points to extend her overall advantage in the Association of Eastern Motor Clubs (AEMC) Championship.

The duo were also nominated to represent the AEMC in the Motor Sports Association (MSA) Inter-Association Stage Rally Team event.

Each motor club selects a team comprising of three drivers with their individual finishing class positions totalled to determine the winning team.

The Eastern Motor club took the victory as Nicklin and the other two drivers in her team, Pete Rayner and Stuart Cadman won the team event by a resounding margin.

"To win my class was an amazing feeling," she added.

"Despite having problems early on in the rally it just shows that even when you think everything is over, you must always stay positive and never give up hope."

PICTURE: CONTRIBUTED

DOUBLE DELIGHT: Kasia Nicklin (left) with co-driver Emma Morrison (right) who took double honours in the 'Mark Ellis' Woodbridge Rally

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