

Novice rallying pair raises cash en route to podium.

Welshpool based Zimbabwean Geoff Mayes and his co-driver Richard Owen, a Machynlleth resident, experienced an entertaining stage rallying debut as the novice pair overcame 2 spins and a roll to finish the JRS Motorsport Telford Winter Stages in a highly creditable 26th overall.

Mayes, who manages Geoff Mayes Media, a photographic and Motorsport P.R. agency, and Richard, a rally technician, were experiencing life from the other side for the first time in an effort to raise money for the Wales Air Ambulance. The day did not get off to a great start when the pair spun on only the second corner of the entire rally. Despite this indiscretion Geoff and Richard were second fastest in their class! Things then went rapidly down hill when Geoff really blotted his copybook by rolling the little Geoff Jones Motorsport run Nissan Micra half a mile from the end of Stage 2. With the car stranded on its side, blocking the road, and with no spectators around it took the pair, and a helpful marshal, the best part of 3 minutes to rock the car back onto its wheels. Thankfully service was next, but a despondent looking service crew rapidly attended to the cosmetically scarred Micra.

Apart from another spin in Stage 3, ironically after being distracted by a large inflatable Penguin on the side of the track, Geoff calmed down and set top 3 times for the duration of the rally, a performance good enough to ensure the pair finished 2nd in class on their first ever event.

And by completing the full stage distance Geoff and Richard successfully raised nearly £2000 for the Wales Air Ambulance, a feat only made possible thanks to a large number of people, including Telford Auto club, whom generously donated all the takings from the spectator parking.

To finish our first ever rally is incredible! I have to say a massive thank you to Geoff Jones Motorsport, and Geoff, I'm sorry about bending the car! Also a massive thanks to K-Motion, Barclays, Tesco 99, Dunlop, Richard Egger Insurance, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Hanlon Fencing, Telford Auto club, Mad Mick and his family and absolutely everyone else who has assisted in any way with this event.

What began as a dream has finally become a reality and to raise this amount of money for the charity is just fantastic!

Whilst the bug may have bitten, both Geoff and Richard revert back to their day jobs for now. However an outing on the Coracle Stages in July is currently being planned... with driver and co-driver switching seats for this one!

You can still donate to the cause by visiting www.justgiving.com/rallyingforcharity