

# Escort man Willett keeps his nerve to claim Patriot victory

## Patriot Stages

By Peter Scherer

**Organiser:** Forresters CC and South Wales AC  
**When:** September 28 **Where:** Caerwent  
**Championships:** Steve Harkness Competition Tyres Welsh Tarmac, CMSG BP Motors and Bodybuilders, Maesteg and DMC FMP Rally Challenge, ASWMC Subaru WRG Spares Sealed Surface, Kick Energy Junior and Senior 1000, AWMCM Kingsway Insurance Heart of England Stages: six **Starters:** 100

Dave Willett and John Davies took control from the very start of the day and were never seriously challenged. The Mk2 Escort crew pulled out a 21-second gap on the first stage and took victory by 53s, having led by more than a minute after SS4.

Although Richard Merriman/Cath Curzon's Darian T90 headed the pursuit initially, they slipped back to joint third on stage two with Damian Cole/Susan Wright's Escort, before joining the early retirements.

Martyn and Dawn England took over the chase in their Mitsubishi Lancer E9 and started to pull away from Cole. But on stage five the multiple REIS MSA Asphalt champion pulled out all the stops to close the gap to three seconds, before stealing

second place on the final stage of the afternoon.

Jim Munden/John Leigh's Escort started well and although he lost his day-long advantage over Tony Rees/Ian Meakin's Darran T90 GTR, he was still in fifth place until the last stage when Rob Tout/Mark Crisp's Mitsubishi Lancer E6 pipped him by ten seconds.

Although Peter Lloyd/Den Golding retired their Subaru Impreza WRC early on when the driver felt ill, fellow veterans Bob Fowden/Paul Williams (Impreza) spent most of the day in seventh.

Carl O'Grady/Emma Todd were early casualties in their Nissan Sunny F2, retiring from eighth after two stages, while Mark Jasper/Don Wyatt almost made it to the finish before their Escort Mk2 expired too.

Brian and Ian Davis' Escort, Wynne Watkins/Sherynn Roberts' Impreza and Dave Allmark/Kevin Haven's Escort completed the top ten.

David Morgan/Richard Slater's Darran took the class one spoils by nearly two minutes from Paul Davis/Keith Richings' Vauxhall

Corsa. Class two was Stuart Bliss/Mark Watkins' domain, as the Honda Civic crew had 1m 12s in hand over Tony Rendell/Glyn Thomas' Ford Escort Mk1.

Following Merriman's early exit, Munden topped class three, well up on Brian and Ian Davis' Escort. Leighton Smith/Mark Powell's Peugeot 205 GTi was the biggest winner, almost five minutes clear of Jamie Hales/Lewis Mason's 205 in class four.

Other class wins went to Willett, England, Andrew Davies/Jason Rees' Escort and Tout, while Lewis Williams/Unum Pila's Peugeot 107 led the Juniors.

### Results

1 Dave Willett/John Davies (Ford Escort Mk2) 1h 19m 42s; 2 Damian Cole/Susan Wright (Escort Mk2) +53s; 3 Martyn England/Dawn England (Mitsubishi E9); 4 Tony Rees/Ian Meakin (Darran T90 GTR); 5 Ron Tout/Mark Crisp (E6); 6 Jim Munden/John Leigh (Escort Mk2); 7 Bob Fowden/Paul Williams (Subaru Impreza); 8 Bob Davis/Ian Davis (Escort Mk2); 9 Wynne Watkins/Sherynn Roberts (Impreza); 10 Dave Allmark/Kevin Haven (Escort Mk2).  
Classes, 1: David Morgan/Richard Suter (Darran); 2: Stuart Bliss/Mark Watkins (Civic); 3: Munden/Leigh; 4: Leighton Smith/Mark Powell (Peugeot 205 GTi); 5: Willett/Davies; 6: England/England; 7: Andrew Davies/Jason Rees (Escort Mk2); 8: Tout/Crisp; 10: James Williams/Unum Pila (Peugeot 107).

# Willett is class of the field at RAF Caerwent

## Marshall and Hicks Print Media Tour of Caerwent

By Simon Gronow

**Organiser:** Forresters Car Club **When:** March 23  
**Where:** MoD Caerwent, near Chepstow **Championships:** Steve Harkness Competition Tyres Welsh National Tarmacadam; CMSG BP Motors and Bodybuilders Stage Rally; Gwynne Speed Rally Challenge **Stages:** six **Starters:** 81

Dave Willett and John Davies proved to be the class of the field as they won the Tour of Caerwent in their Ford Escort Mk2.

On a day spent testing components the pair overcame a strong challenge from Steve and Michael O'Leary in their Darran, while a late charge meant Gary Le Codeau and Tony Bassett took the final podium position in their Toyota Corolla WRC.

The fastest time on stage one was set by Willett, and he was followed by Martyn and Dawn England, who used the traction of their Mitsubishi Lancer E10 to good effect in the slippery conditions. Darran crew Richard Merriman/Kath Curzon were third fastest.

Willett extended his lead on SS2, going three seconds quicker than O'Leary, who leapfrogged third fastest Merriman into second place. Le Codeau/Bassett had started the event on the settings used recently on Epynt, which were totally unsuitable for the venue and they languished in ninth place.

Both Willett and Le Codeau altered their car set-up and the Corolla driver obviously found the better solution. Le Codeau equaled the leader for fastest time on stage three before setting fastest time on the next test.

Things didn't go to well for Willett on stage five as he dropped nine seconds to Le Codeau, but another change for the final test resulted in second fastest for Willett. Le Codeau and O'Leary tied, ensuring the Escort driver took another Caerwent win.

Steve O'Leary was comfortable in second ahead of Le Codeau, who was left to rue his slow start to the day. Merriman/Curzon overhauled the Englands for third on the final stage, taking top Welsh championship points.

After enjoying a great event, Dave Parnell/Paul Arberry took a good sixth in their Ford Escort Mk1, finishing one place ahead of Rob and James Tout who had a good run to win Group N in their Mitsubishi Lancer.

There was another class win for the rapid Ford Escort Mk1 of Ian Kenvin/Ian Meakin, as Wynne Watkins/Sherynn Roberts went well to finish second in Group N in their Subaru. Carl O'Grady/Emma Todd rounded off the top ten in their Nissan Sunny.

Sean Crowley/Emma Jones were slowed on the first stage when the gearbox came loose on their Peugeot 205 but they fought back to win their class and finish 12th.

### Results

1 Dave Willett/John Davies (Ford Escort Mk2) 1h 16m 55s; 2 Steve O'Leary/Michael O'Leary (Darran T90) +26s; 3 Gary Le Codeau/Tony Bassett (Toyota Corolla WRC); 4 Richard Merriman/Kath Curzon (Darran T90); 5 Martyn England/Dawn England (Mitsubishi Lancer E9); 6 Dave Parnell/Paul Arberry (Ford Escort Mk1); 7 Rob Tout/James Tout (Mitsubishi Lancer E9); 8 Ian Kenvin/Ian Meakin (Ford Escort Mk1); 9 Wynne Watkins/Sherynn Roberts (Subaru Impreza); 10 Carl O'Grady/Emma Todd (Nissan Sunny E9).  
Classes, 1: David Morgan/Richard Suter (Darran); 2: Stuart Bliss/Mark Watkins (Civic); 3: Munden/Leigh; 4: Leighton Smith/Mark Powell (Peugeot 205 GTi); 5: Willett/Davies; 6: England/England; 7: Andrew Davies/Jason Rees (Escort Mk2); 8: Tout/Crisp; 10: James Williams/Unum Pila (Peugeot 107).

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# RALLY

## Where there's a Willett, there's a win

### Apex Motor Parts Welsh Marches Mini Epynt Stages

By Sue Underwood

**Organiser:** Herefordshire Motor Club **Where:** Epynt, Wales  
**When:** June 1 **Championships:** King of Epynt **Stages:** 10 **Starters:** 79

Dave Willett and John Davies took a dominant win on the popular Herefordshire Motor Club event, winning by 56s.

Willett was adjusting to new suspension on his Escort Mk2, and, beside a precautionary alternator change and a brief encounter with a ditch, he was untroubled.

Rob Tout/Dan Holley jostled their Mitsubishi Lancer E9 in the top four all day. They were rewarded with second spot after Phil Turner/Siobhan Pugh had problems on the final stage in their Escort Mk2, dropping them to seventh. Rounding off the top three was Ian Caddy/Alan Thomas (Escort Mk2) who had a troublefree day.

The Darran battle was thwarted when Andy Frazer/Kenny Owen's V6 T9 developed a misfire on stage one coupled with overheating issues. Ray Horton/Paul Williams were not eligible for overall position due to event regulations, but the T9 crew were second on the score sheets and credited with first in class. Jeremy Straker/Simon May stepped up to the T9 challenge, finishing fourth following a solid event and winning Class Three.

Kenny and Alan Brown won Class Four in the BMW Compact. Nova crew Sam Davies/Cliff Jones put in a storming challenge and despite driving the final stage with molegrips operating the throttle after the cable snapped, they finished a creditable fifth overall, taking a convincing 1600cc victory.

Chris Powell/Jim Lewis took an early lead in the 1400 class, and extended it throughout the day on the Sunbeam crew's first visit to Epynt.

### Results

1 Dave Willett/John Davies (Ford Escort Mk2) 37m 54; 2 Rob Tout/Dan Holley (Mitsubishi Lancer E9) +56s; 3 Ian Caddy/Alan Thomas (Escort Mk2); 4 Jeremy Straker/Simon May (Darran T9); 5 Sam Davies/Cliff Jones (Vauxhall Nova); 6 Brian Davis/Ian Davis (Escort Mk2); 7 Phil Turner/Siobhan Pugh (Escort Mk2); 8 Stuart Bliss/Craig Simkiss (Honda Civic); 9 Kenny Brown/Alan Brown (BMW Compact); 10 Andrew Turner/Dennis Turner (Citroën C2 R2 Max).  
Classes, 7: Ray Horton/Paul Williams (Darran T90); 6: Eifion Thomas/Peter Evans (Escort Mk2); 5: Justin Jones/Nia Hughes (Escort Mk2); 4: Brown/Brown; 3: Straker/May; 3A: Ieuan Evans/Arfon Griffiths (Escort); 2: Sam Davies/Cliff Jones (Nova); 1: Chris Powell/Jim Lewis (Talbot Sunbeam).