



MITSUBISHI MOTORS



www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk

THE 2008
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
UK RALLY TEAM
IS SUPPORTED BY:



Press Information

MITSUBISHI OFF TO A FLYING START



- Tesco 99 Octane MSA British Rally Championship – Round One
- Pirelli Rally – 18th & 19th April 2008
- Guy Wilks dominates BRC season opener
- Phillip Morrow takes fourth place on works team debut
- Mitsubishi team claim fastest times on all stages

21st April 2008

The Mitsubishi Motors UK Rally Team got the defence of its 2008 British Rally Championship campaign off to a flying start this weekend, when Guy Wilks and co-driver Phil Pugh scored a resounding victory in round one, the Pirelli International Rally. Team-mates Phillip Morrow and Daniel Barritt also put in a great performance, finishing fourth overall in what was Morrow's debut as a Mitsubishi works driver.

Starting and finishing in Carlisle, the Pirelli Rally featured four stages on Friday evening followed by a further ten on Saturday, all of the rally's 105 competitive miles taking place over the demanding gravel roads in Kielder Forest.

With Wilks being the reigning British Champion he started the season as clear favourite, but against drivers such as three-times British Champion and his arch rival Mark Higgins, plus regular PWRC competitors Juho Hanninen and Patrik Flodin - and former British Champion David Higgins, the task of winning would not be easy.

However, Wilks was straight on the case and emerged from the first stage with a lead of 4.3 seconds ahead of Mark Higgins, who was followed by his brother David and then Hanninen. Morrow was fourth, having survived a big moment when he momentarily dropped his Mitsubishi into a ditch and although not losing much time, the incident knocked his confidence, especially as it was his first ever stage in the works Mitsubishi.

As Morrow collected his thoughts during the next three stages, Wilks forged ahead, although in the slippery conditions he too briefly dropped two wheels into one of Kielder's infamous ditches on SS4.

As crews entered parc fermé for the overnight halt, the score-board revealed a perfect start for Wilks and, after winning every stage so far, he had pulled-out a lead of 24 seconds ahead of second-placed Hanninen. Mark and David Higgins followed, with Flodin fifth and Morrow sixth, who admitted he had checked his pace for the remainder of Friday's stages.

After a good-night's sleep, Morrow showed his potential on Saturday's first test and went four seconds faster than anyone else. Wilks was second fastest on this occasion after finding that, as first car on the road, he was clearing loose gravel off the surface.

With SS6 cancelled, the two Mitsubishis were again the fastest cars on the following stage and, when teams entered the first service halt of the day, Wilks had stretched his lead to 46 seconds ahead of Hanninen, who reported a heart-stopping top-gear spin in SS7. Morrow was now up to third and hunting down Mark Higgins, who was nearly a minute ahead.

continued...

Championship positions

Drivers		Points
1	Guy Wilks (GB)	20
2	Juho Hanninen (FIN)	18
3	David Higgins (GB)	16
4	Phillip Morrow (GB)	15
5	Patrik Flodin (S)	14
6	Stuart Jones (GB)	13
7	Eyvind Brynildsen (NO)	12
8	Jonathan Greer (GB)	11
9	Wyn Humphreys (GB)	10
10	James Wozencroft (GB)	9

Teams		
1	Mitsubishi Motors UK	36
2	Team TQ.com	30
3	Atlas TEG Sport	29
4	Revolution Wheels	13

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Guy Wilks is 27 and lives in Darlington, Co. Durham.

Phil Pugh 36 is and lives in Tywyn, Gwynedd.

Phillip Morrow is 24 and lives in Lisburn.

Daniel Barritt is 27 and lives in Burnley.

Photo Captions

Top: Guy Wilks and co-driver Phil Pugh recorded a dominant victory for the Mitsubishi Motors UK Rally Team in round one of the 2008 Tesco 99 Octane British Rally Championship, the Pirelli International Rally, which took place on 18th & 19th April (*copyright free image*).

Bottom: in their very first event for the Mitsubishi Motors UK Rally Team, Phillip Morrow and co-driver Daniel Barritt scored a hard-earned fourth place in round one of the 2008 Tesco 99 Octane British Rally Championship, the Pirelli International Rally, which took place on 18th & 19th April (*copyright free image*).

For media enquiries and copyright free images please contact the Mitsubishi Motors UK Rally Team
Press Officer Simon Slade:

Tel: 01935 424873 | Mob: 07966 153555 | E.mail: simon@rpmpromo.com

For all other enquiries please contact:

Mitsubishi Ralliart: Paul Brigden

Tel: 01285 647680 | E.mail: p.brigden@mitsubishi-cars.co.uk

Mitsubishi Motors UK Press Office:

Tel: 01285 647200 | E.mail: a.wertheim@mitsubishi-cars.co.uk

www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk