

Rally crash mars strong run for Ginetta



After skipping the last round of the 2007 BTRDA Rally Championship the revolutionary Ginetta G20 GTR returned for last weekend's Quinton Stages. Piloted by Marcel Freling, and his co-driver Karen Robinson, the pair came to the event as current A5 class leaders.



Marcel and Karen were all set to contest round 6, the Dukeries Rally, but heavy overnight rain had flooded the service area and seeped into the car. They took the decision to take the round as a dropped score.

"When we arrived at the car in the morning of the rally it was in nearly 2 feet of water" said Freling. "We didn't know if the engine had ingested water. Also the condensation on the inside of the screen would have made visibility pretty poor so we decided to call it quits and fight another day."



The Ginetta arrived at the Quinton Stages with new suspension on the ever-developing car to help with the handling and improving consistency over the longer stages.



The 2007 Quinton Stages began at 8:30 am last Saturday 7th July 2007 and took in some of the famous Wales Rally GB stages such as Crychan and Halfway before a ceremonial finish back at Castle Hotel at 4pm.



The day began well when sunshine graced the competitors, making a welcome change from the incessant rainfall experienced countrywide in the preceding days. With new suspension fitted to the car Marcel found that the high speed stability was greatly improved and was even able to take the car to its maximum speed on Stage 4, Caeo, taking a massive 32 seconds out of anyone else in his class!

Entering Stage 5, the second run through a famous Wales Rally GB stage known as 'Halfway' the Ginetta was holding a comfortable 2 and a half minute lead over their nearest class rival but almost a mile in, the car's strength was tested.



"We just lost the back end under braking for a corner" explained Freling. "The rear end came around, we slid off into a ditch and then rolled over onto our roof."



"We did manage to get the little car back onto her wheels but the front left hub was damaged in the impact, otherwise we could have carried on!"

Considering the speed of the impact, the unique rear wheel drive Ginetta emerged from its first ever rallying crash remarkably undamaged.

Apart from the front hub and a cracked windscreen the damage was limited to panel damage, proving once and for all that not only is the Ginetta a fun car to drive but it is also incredibly safe as well!

Clare Rix now takes the Tesco 99 Octane 1400 Class A5 lead in her Ford Ka from Marcus Freling. LNT Automotive will now strip the Ginetta down to ensure that the structure has not been compromised before re-prepping the car ahead of the next event, the Woodpecker Stages on September 1st.

High-resolution photos available by Geoff Mayes Media (www.geoffmayesmedia.com)

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