

RALLY ACTION

FEW CLANGERS FOR GARY!



COSTERFIELD APRIL 25 — AFTER A ROUGH AND INCREDIBLY DUSTY night of rallying, Gary Harrowfield and Geoff Boyd were declared provisional winners of the Brass Monkey Trial, round 2 of the Victorian Rally Ch'ship.

Second place went to Bob Bird and Warwick Smith, 4 points behind on 118. John Dixon/Ian Richards occupied third place dropping 134 points for the event. Helmut Goetz/Frank Kilfoyle scrambled into 4th place 8 pts ahead of Graham Horsfield and Geoff O'Donnell on 160 pts with the solitary Championship point going to John Coleman and Bernard Peasley down 174 pts.

After a short transport from the Daylesford start to Bullarto, crews tackled the opening two competitive sections through the Wombat Forest. It was evident that dust was to be a major problem for all but the leading crew. Many crews complained of having to stop due to zero visibility on the first control.

Sinclair and Brazier, pressing on in this dust cloud in their R.S. 2000 had the dubious honor of the most serious incident of the night when they inverted their vehicle on a downhill right-hand sweeper after leaving control 2.

A transport section after control 4 took competitors to Leonards Hill Station, followed by competitive sections through Eganstown, along Werona Road to Eberys and the Sandon Forest.

The event was developing into a battle between Horsfield/O'Donnell, (260 Z), Dixon/Richards (120 Y) with Harrowfield/Boyd (R.12 Gordini) and Bird/Smith (1600 Lancer) waiting for the leaders to falter.

**STORY:
JOHN
COLEMAN**

Control 12 proved to be the stumbling block. A Via placed at a triangulated intersection in the Muckleford Forest was not visited by six of the first ten crews.

More rapid map work was required to get crews through Pilchers Bridge Forest to the service point at Axedale. The leader at this stage was Harrowfield with Bird and Dixon in hot pursuit. Three competitive sections remained to the halfway at Heathcote.

A tally of the scores showed Harrowfield/Boyd 56 leading from Dixon/Richards 60 pts Bird/Smith 61 pts, Goetz/Kilfoyle 68 pts, Coleman/Peasley 77 pts,

DESPITE A BRUSH with the scenery on the second stage, Gary Harrowfield came through to win the second round of Vic titles. Ken Cusack Photo.

Heaphy/Rebbechi 84 pts and Portman/Runnalls 85 pts.

The second Division started with a transport section to Costerfield with accurate map reading required to keep crews in the running.

Control 25 saw disaster strike the Phillips/Mitchell Colt and the Coleman/Peasley Galant.

Matt Phillips' Colt fastback decided to go three wheeling. Coleman/Peasley, having their first drive in the John Blair Motors Galant overshot a turnright and then spent 32 minutes retracing their tracks through their own dust.

It was also the end for Dixon/Richards who hit a tree across the road very early on.

Navigators were given no rest as Director Stuart Lister switched

them from Heathcote to Costerfield to Nagambie and back to the Costerfield map again.

Harrowfield and Boyd clung to their slender lead, losing only one minute to the hard charging Lancer of Bird and Smith on the second division, proving that both these navigators are evenly matched in this area.

The event finished near Costerfield, with early morning fog making visibility even poorer. The Brass Monkey Trial a worthy round of the V.R.C. made tougher than anticipated by the adverse conditions.

Let us hope there will be some worthwhile rains to settle the dust before the Marchal Rally on the 15th of May.



A NON FINISHER was Vic Grayson, navigated by Tony Bond. They hit the scenery looming on the left of the picture! Ken Cusack Photos.



SECOND PLACE WENT to Bob Bird and Warwick Smith in their Lancer.

AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES

and

YOUR RALLYING

The National Control Council has issued the following timetable of restrictions.

1. From 1/1/76 — 31/12/76 Open Event