



begonia rally



2015 Begonia Rally.

On Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th of November, the BLCC came out of the rallying wilderness to conduct the final round of this year 2015 Focus on Furniture Victorian Rally Championship. The event was run as two heat in the Avoca, Ben Major and Mount Lonarch areas. With 3 stages (50 kms competitive) in both heats. On Saturday crews pace noted the stages with a lot of mixed thoughts about SS1 Major Ben and how tricky it was to compete on notes. Sunday was a different story with 25 starters and a showroom start with the 3 top seeded cars in the background of drivers briefing in what stated as the best Rally HQ in the series at the Avoca Turf Club. With recently crowned Tasmanian Champ Craig Brooks drawing car one on the road, followed by BLCC Members Darren Windus and Jamie Sargent starting car 2 and Viv and Tracey car 3.

SS 1 to no surprise Windus/Sargent shot out to a big lead in there WRX from another Windus motorsport car the time of BLCC member Arron Windus and Joe Brick followed by Craig Brooks.

SS2 seen both the Windus entries run within ½ a second of each other followed again by Brooks. Special mention to BLCC pair of Darren Whyte and Davis Parkinson sitting well within the top 10 at this stage and pleasing the crowds with their sideways actions.

After SS 2 there was a remote fuel stop at the Elmhurst township , at this stage both the Windus cars were starting to show signs that the cars weren't 100% , with the Windus/Sargent car requiring oil and the Windus/Brick car needing water due to a suss blown head gasket. Ballarat's Jacob McCashney was starting to show great pace and was looking for a top 3 in the heat.

SS 3 Mount Avoca started to sort the men from the boys a 28km stage across the top of the Pynness ranges. This stage was won by Windus /Sargent, but seen 2nd place Windus/Brick lose 9 mins with a flat tyre and broken shifter with only about 2 inches of shifter to change gears with. Craig Brooks also broke a shifter on this stage. The Commodore of Coleman found it's self-beached on an embankment and had to be dragged back on. Richard North clipped a back and broke a hub on the Excel putting an end to their event.

Heat 1 Results – 1st Windus/Sargent 2nd Brooks/Glenny 3rd McCashney/Allan. 9th Wythe/Parkinson, = 13th Stapleton/Ellis. With 4 cars retiring in heat 1.

Service – After being crowd VRC champions Windus/Sargent retire due to engine issues and put the service crew to work on Arron and Joe's WRX. Brooks fixed the limp gear shift. Majority of the field changed tyres due to the stages being demanding on the black things.

Heat 2

SS4 repeat of SS1, this time it was Windus/Brick well out in front taking 12 seconds out of Brooks/Glenny with McCashney/Allan a further 9 secs behind. With 6 RWD cars in the top 10 during this stage.

SS 5 It was starting to look like the decision to retire the number 1 car and put all efforts into the 2nd car to win the Bendigo Tyres Pace noted series was going to pay off with Windus/Brick winning the stage by 12 secs from Brooks/Glenny and McCashney/Allan . With Wythe/Parkinson 8th and Stapleton/Ellis 9th.

SS 6 the last stage Windus/Brooks had a 27 sec lead over Brooks/Glenny and a huge lead over nearest competitor in the Pace Note Series Reed/Murphy. The Windus car was on a mission taking 35 secs out of the field at the 1st split, and by the 2nd split they were 45 secs ahead, but the tyres were going off and become hairy, Arron backed off but the WRX didn't want to turn in and clipped a back bending the front end and destroying the tyres. They managed to finish the stage but were out of the rally. The stage was won by Reed/Murphy from Brooks/Glenny and Moore/Daniell. 7th was Wythe/Parkinson in the Dunnydore and 9th Stapleton/Ellis.

Outright for the event and he did say he was coming to win it was Craig Brooks and Steve Glenny in their Subaru WRX from Tom Reed and Will Murphy EVO 3 and Paul Eccles and Tom Ruessman WRX 3rd. 1st 2WD was Tony Moore and Andrew Daniell from Stephen Eccles and Carrie Kereru and BLCC's Darren Wythe and David Parkinson. These 3 2WD's also took up 4th to 6th outright. Out of 25 starters only 17 finished with most being mechanical failures.

I would like to thank all the officials that made the event safe and secure for the competitors and public. It's was a long hot dusty day and I thank you for supporting the event.

To the events supporters and Sponsors : Bolton's Office supplies , Bendigo Tyres , Pedders Ballarat , Trackside race and rally tyres , Blue Pynness Winery . Pyrenees and Ararat Shires, Avoca Turf Club, the township of Avoca.

To my Directing Team: George Fatty Davidson (Road Director) Clare Bennett (Event Sec) Ash Mabbitt (Assist COC) Ross Runnalls (Course Checker) Garry Doyle, Sam Dunne and Sean Payne. Thank you for your support over the last 6-8 months.

To the crew in Rally HQ on Sunday: Scott Spedding (Safety Officer) Dinta and Kate Officer as CRO, David McKenzie (Rally safe) Clare Bennett (Run about) Barney Haddon (club steward). What an awesome team that kept the event on time and dealt with issues on the spot.

I have to admit this has been the toughest event I have directed and it took a lot out of me in the last week ,the directing team really pulled together to get it over the line. And we had great support from Ross Runnalls , VRP Chair David Lambie , Scott Spedding and Dinta and Kate Officer , without these guys I think I may have pulled my hair out . I would also like to Thanks Kylie, Abby and poppy for their support over the last few months, there have been some testing times and family life has consisted of Bush tracks, and dusty days. I will now take a rest for the next couple of months and recharge the batteries as per orders from Kylie, Dinta and Kate Officer and the directing team.

Would I do it again? To right I would roll on Begonia 2016.

Arron Harry Secombe

