

# LATE NEWS



Driver Bruce Woodful and navigator Bob Forsyth after their win in the 2000-mile 1966 BP Rally.

## CORTINA GT WINS TOUGH BP RALLY

A Ford Cortina GT, driven by Bruce Woodful and navigated by Bob Forsyth, has been provisionally announced as the Outright Winner of this year's BP Rally. Loss of points was only 76.

Second was a Holden, driven by T. Roberts and navigated by P. Haas, with 78 points lost and a VW 1600 TS driven by R. S. Christie and navigated by D. Dunlop was third with a loss of 92 points.

Of the thirty-seven entrants who set out for Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide start points for the official Trial Stage from Albury, twenty-five successfully completed the route of some 2000 miles through Victoria, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

Divided into two stages — an assembly (500 miles) and a trial (1500) — the Rally's initial assembly stage to Albury was beset by wet weather from time of departure from Melbourne. Navigating and driving through heavy rain, many entrants experienced extreme difficulties in the muddy surrounds of Nathalia, some 139 miles north.

Top driver Harry Firth became bogged a little over 50 yards from the Control Point. It took almost an hour to winch out his Cortina GT.

Near Tocumwal the route was virtually a sea of mud for almost ten miles!

With the announcement of provisional points in Albury the following morning it was a sorry story of mud, slush and penalties for the majority of the field.

The next division, to Canberra ACT, was just as difficult. Up through the high mountain areas of the Snowy Mountains and down from Adaminaby it was hard going all the way. Here, the familiar names of Australian motor sport suffered little loss — Thieler (Falcon) 1 pt., Russell (Peugeot) 4 pts., Roberts (Holden) 5 pts. — but it was not the same story for the rest of the field, some collecting over 600 points loss!

The run to Wagga Wagga was in perfect weather — a fine day for motoring. Here again the leaders shone with quite a number clean-sheeting the section. But the night navigation legs to Jerilderie and Wangaratta resulted in considerable loss of points for almost the entire field. It was obvious that the rigors of the trial were beginning to register on both navigators and drivers. Out of Wangaratta Thieler was in the lead with 37 points lost and next was Roberts with 42 followed by McLeod with 56.

At Bairnsdale the scores read: Thieler — 47, Roberts — 61, Woodful — 62, Christie — 73 and Lunn — 75. The last stage over the far from easy terrain north of Maffra and Moe robbed Thieler of the lead when his car left the road and hit a tree.

Winners by Classes were:—

Class A — (Up to 1100 cc)

1. Lott & Davis, Ford Anglia, 330 pts. lost
2. Beckman & Davidson, Renault R8, 626 pts. lost
3. Chivas & Denny, Morris Cooper, 645 pts. lost

Class B — (1101 to 1500 cc)

1. Woodful & Forsyth, Cortina GT, 76 pts. lost
2. Firth & Denham, Cortina GT, 111 pts. lost
3. McLeod & Lock, VW, 129 pts. lost

Class C — (1501 to 2000 cc)

1. Christie & Dunlop, VW 1600 TS, 92 pts. lost
2. Russell & Hartigan, Peugeot 404, 137 pts. lost
3. Murray & Johnson, Prince Skyline GT, 393 pts. lost

Class D — (Above 2000 cc)

1. Roberts & Haas, Holden, 78 pts. lost
2. Ellis & Guymer, Falcon, 117 pts. lost
3. Lunn & Thomas, Holden, 120 pts. lost.

Manufacturers' Team Prize was won by Volkswagen.