



Walsh's Hotel
Maghera



RALLY REPORT NO.4 - METEOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE – SATURDAY 2.25pm

UNOFFICIAL LEADERBOARD AFTER SS3:

- (1) Raymond Johnston/Rodney Hicks (Evo) 20m46.8s
- (2) Mark Massey/Andrew McVeigh (Evo) 20m50.0s
- (3) Donagh Kelly/Kevin Flanagan (Evo) 20m54.0s
- (4) Derek McGarrity/James McKee (Impreza) 20m55.3s
- (5) Brian Muldoon/Charlie Beattie (Evo) 20m55.4s
- (6) Declan McNaughton/Sean Hayde (Escort Mk2) 20m57.7s
- (7) Trevor Moore/Ray Fitzpatrick (Escort Mk2) 21m07.4s
- (8) Kenny McKinstry/Noel Orr (Impreza WRC) 21m12.0s
- (9) Denis Biggerstaff/Damian McCann (Impreza WRC) 21m26.5s
- (10=) Neil McCance/Jonny Hart (Evo) 21m27.6s
- (10=) Trevor Ferguson/David McElroy (Impreza) 21m27.6s

Raymond Johnston and Rodney Hicks set a stunning time through the third test to burst into the rally lead. Johnston was some six seconds faster than Mark Massey, who now holds second ahead of Donagh Kelly. That's three lead changes in as many stages!

While the sun was shining here in service, crews still reported very slippery conditions in Davagh. In fact, the new rally leader thought it was slippier, despite the road drying up a little. Second place Massey reported a good run, although his Lancer was "a little bit slidey", and perhaps that explains why he lost some time to Johnston.

Derek McGarrity is still struggling with his windscreen that keeps misting up. There doesn't seem to be much more that he can do about it, and at this stage the Glengormley man seems to just want to get to the finish.

Kenny McKinstry is still trying to sort out the problems with his Subaru but he's hopeful that service after stage three will see his car restored to full health. Meanwhile, Denis Biggerstaff hit a rock on the stage, resulting in an instant puncture. It didn't stop the Dromara man from smiling at service – he's still enjoying himself!

Declan McNaughton was the early Superdrive 2WD leader but he didn't feature in our last bulletin. He was in fact second overall but lost time during SS2 when he slowed at Camillus Bradley's accident. McNaughton spotted an SOS board but it seems there was some sort of misunderstanding (the board was being held the wrong way!) and Bradley waved the crew on.

McNaughton appealed his stage time and received a notional time, putting him into second overall. A spin during stage three has dropped him down the order once again but he's still in the hunt, and is just ahead of Trevor Moore.

Neil McCance got a puncture on stage three and was forced to change the wheel during the road section. As a result, he was almost late into service, but managed to escape without any penalties.

A special mention should also be given to teen sensation, Mark Donnelly, who is fighting for class one in his Ford Fiesta. The 17-year-old won an event at St. Angelo on Bank Holiday Monday with a Mitsubishi Lancer, and is definitely one to watch in the future. More news later...

Grainne O'Kane and Jonathan MacDonald