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Philips Tour of Mull  
THE BEST RALLY IN THE WORLD  
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## MullMurmurs – Chapter 2

Well, the countdown had started. The 34<sup>th</sup> Philips Tour of Mull Rally will be getting underway at 8.00 pm from the capital of world rallying, Tobermory

Scrutineering has just finished and as ever the O'Donnell Twins were amongst the last although their rally start is under threat. The greasy bit under the bonnet doesn't want to go out there to-night and get itself thrashed – understandable really eh?

Another father and son team in trouble are Derek (47) and Gaz Carless. When Gaz said he fancied doing Mull this year in his Peugeot, his Dad said, “You can't”, so Gaz asked why, and Derek said: “I'm doing it in your car!”

Somebody else in a borrowed car is Paul Kirtley (10). That sparkling blue Subaru in which he appeared last year has gone to the Bahamas, bought by Malcolm Naylor, so Paul is using Malcolm's old car, a Group N spec Impreza. Steve Davies is running car number 30 and celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> Tour and his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, but there was a shock in store when he turned up in the pub during the week to find Sheila and Val Hastie wearing tee shirts with his picture and the slogan – ‘still nifty at fifty!’ But he's taking it seriously, he's rebuilt the engine, gearbox and axle. Alan Gardiner (45) has reappeared after his engine blow up at Ingliston in April, the MkII's engine has been restored to rude health – ready for a right spanking tonight.

A change to the entry list, Barry Clark (27) couldn't get the Ford Puma ready in time, so he's here with the family Nova ... Rob Davies (18) has swapped his EVO5 for a 7 but hasn't driven it yet ... Angus Mathieson (38) thinks he might be in with a shout in the 1600 class with Steven Clark (see earlier MM) having withdrawn ... Dave Thwaites (40) of ProPrep appeared with an absolutely drop dead gorgeous MkII (more suitable for a display cabinet, not for using on a rally). Built from scratch in 9 weeks after a customer called up to place an urgent order with him – for a MkI Ford Capri with a 5.2 litre engine which he had to build for the editor of EVO magazine for track days (look out for the next issue to see his work) and only then could he get on with his own car having sold last year's piece of gorgeousness at Christmas ... If you see John Bennie (74) give him a cheer and give him some money, he's rallying for 'Children in Need' ... Pat Johnson (35) is having his first run out in his new Subaru Impreza after big brother Andrew pranged it on the Trackrod two weeks ago ... It's Chris Tooze's (52) first outing since the Manx when a wheel broke and the Corsa Maxi spun off damaging front and rear corners. Unfortunately, he still had the same shade of eyeball searing yellow paint for the respray! ... Stuart McQueen's (12) back for more, but he's older and wiser now. The Subaru was new to him last year and he didn't have the diffs sorted out. He does now ... Mike Storrar is back with the Toyota engined Ford Anglia. Note the two kitchen cabinet handles on the bonnet placed there for lifting the panel off the car (hinges weigh more) but what we can't work out is whether he bought them in B&Q or Ikea ... Tom Hynd (75) reckons he's got his Mull crash in early, wife (and co-driver) Sue bumped the road car reversing out of the digs this morning – but then again, that's why she's the co-driver! Oops, sorry Sue, only kidding ... There's a bit of rivalry going on between the Hynds and the Camerons (84) with Duncan's Peugeot sporting a sticker which proclaims the legend 'the car

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behind is a Honda' this of course being a dig at Tom's car which is a Honda Civic, but then Tom has 1600cc compared to Duncan's 1300cc ... Young Ogg MacKenzie (66) had a rear wheel drive Mk3 last year but has now got a sensible MkII but there was a wee panic when the parcels delivery company was slow in getting his new clutch plate to him this week ... It's nice to have money. When Martin Fox (124) had problems with his own Impreza he just went out and bought another! But no, it's not excessive financial exuberance, he reckons it's cheaper to buy and then re-sell than hire it, so it's up for sale again after the rally ... After bending his MkII on Mull last year, and again at Crail, Murdo Morrison (93) has finally got it finished in time for this year's event with son Stewart alongside yet again (and just biding his time patiently till he can push Pop out of the driving seat) ... Alan MacKay (78) has a Ford Escort Cosworth now to replace the Sierra but is worried about the anti-lag system. It doesn't only frighten sheep and passers-by, it frightens him ... Did you see the Dave Steggles Astra (131), it's got a 'Runrig' (Gaelic folk/rock group) sticker on the bonnet. I wonder if he plays their music while he's on 'stage' – it'll be more exciting than his driving, eh? Only kidding, Dave ... Rod Brereton is navigating for Dave Blackburn (118) in the Datsun Violent with its 1600cc engine and not the Renault Clio as in the programme. Simple really, the Clio isn't ready yet – but then Rod has only been building the bloody thing for 7 years! However, he made a promise to have it ready for the 35<sup>th</sup> Philips Tour f Mull Rally next year. Yeah, right! ... Nice one though, Rod ran a charity quiz in the Mishnish on Wednesday night and raised 200 quid for the RNLI, nice one Rod ... Good luck to Andrew Egger (152) it's the 21 (just!) year old's second ever rally and 1<sup>st</sup> Mull ... And what about Paul Gunn (146)? Whoever painted that car is colour blind. It's yellow with different shades of purple and lime green detailing. The driver's jacket is a different shade of yellow and the seat belts are yet another shade of yellow. He should be fined for assaulting eyeballs! ... And as for Male Menopause Rallying (140), they're here. The two old duffers haven't done any recceing. They reckoned they daren't, otherwise they might have taken one look and gone home. Good job the event starts in the dark!

And finally, spare a thought for Gavin Gray (122). When he couldn't get accommodation on the island, he sailed his motor boat over from the mainland and it's berthed in Tobermory Bay at the end of the car park. Monaco? Sunseeker? Not quite, it's not very big, I saw some tadpoles giving it a right good kicking!

Well, that's yer lot for now – look out for more MullMurmurs around the route during the rally and check out progress and results on [www.2300carclub.org](http://www.2300carclub.org) and tune in to Oban FM on 103.3.

And finally, finally, a plea for common sense and sanity. If you're out spectating to-night get there early ahead of the Road Closing Order, stay there till the road is officially open again, and make sure your vehicle is parked well out of harm's way. And if a Marshal makes a request, please take heed, Marshals are there for a reason, not just decoration.

Yer auld pal, Jaggy Bunnet, Tobermory, 4.30 pm