

MullMurmurs – Chapter 5

Provisional Leaderboard after 10 (of 19 stages):

1 Calum Duffy/Del Duffy (Ford Escort MkII)	1 Hr 12 Mins 31 Secs
2 James MacGillivray/Ian Fraser (Subaru Impreza)	1.14.52s
3 John Cope/Tony Cope (Subaru Impreza WRC)	1.15.35s
4 Tony Bardy/Reg Smith (Nissan Sunny GTI-R)	1.15.35s
5 Daniel Harper/Chris Campbell (BMW MINI S)	1.16.06s
6 Eddie O'Donnell/Donald Morrison (Ford Escort MkII)	1.16.39s
7 Billy Bird/Plug Pulley (Mitsubishi Lancer)	1.16.43s
8 Ian Colman/Neil Colman (Nissan Sunny GTI-R)	1.16.47s
9 John Swinscoe/Paul Swinscoe (Mitsubishi Lancer)	1.17.10s
10 Mick Briant/Kim Baker (Mitsubishi Lancer)	1.17.41s

STOP PRESS .. Neil MacKinnon has gone off on SS9 and Dougi Hall has gone off in SS10. James MacGillivray is now up to 2nd head of John Cope. Harper going well in the German sausage tin and O'Donnell who said he was "just relieved to get to the finish last night" is on a charge now too in the SalenSilver.Com Escort. And what about Mick Briant? In the top ten – that's one up for the oldies!

It's more like Majorca than Mull on this year's 35th Philips Tour, bright sunshine and an un-winter like temperature greeted competitors dragging themselves wearily out of bed on Saturday morning – unlike the service crews, many of whom have been beaver away all night.

Looking back on last night, Stuart McQueen disappeared from the fray on the second stage when he knocked a wheel and hub off the Subaru, while near neighbour Alistair Wilson retired on the first stage after clattering the Escort's nose against a stout rock. Going one stage further was Dave Hopwood who battered both front and rear ends of his Escort into submission. David Melvin retired in SS1 when the Nova's clutch failed and Murdo Morrison put the Escort off in the same stage. John Bennie lost 3 minutes with a fractured vacuum pipe in the Peugeot's distributor (older readers will need to explain that to the current ECU generation!) Iain Grubb smashed his spotlights and a chassis leg when the Peugeot landed on its nose after a yump. Richard Egger was off a couple of times in the 2 litre Nova but survived to tell the tale, Giles Brooksbank was having his thrust bearing replaced this morning and Carol MacCrone in the Mini is still going despite losing her lights on the Hill Rd and then losing second gear. Iain 'Fuey' Noble is having a great time in the Avenger, the MacKay's Garage technician (I nearly said mechanic there!) is a part time fireman on the island and claims to have checked his Notes while driving the Scania M240 fire engine! John Cockburn is still going in the TomCat-ised Range Rover, but only has standard 2 pot brakes as he didn't have time to fit the 4 potters and is finding stopping the 364 bhp V8 a bit fraught at times. And words fail me at this point. It was reported to me in all honesty by the service crew of Vauxhall Astra number 69 that their driver, Ian Dawes, had gone off to buy more underpants in Tobermory this morning – the mind boggles! And meanwhile, the Polis are still looking for the streakers!!

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Yer auld pal, Jaggy Bunnet, Loch Scridain, 2.00 pm Saturday.