



# KBS

## TOUR OF THE SPERRINS RALLY 2009



**Walsh's Hotel**  
Maghera



RALLY REPORT NO.4 - METEOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE – SATURDAY 4.15pm

### UNOFFICIAL LEADERBOARD AFTER SS4:

- (1) Mark Massey/Andrew McVeigh (Evo) 28m 01.3s
- (2) Donagh Kelly/Kevin Flanagan (Evo) 28m 01.4s
- (3) Derek McGarrity/James McKee (Impreza WRC) 28m 02.5s
- (4) Declan McNaughton/Sean Hayde (Escort Mk2) 28m 05.7s
- (5) Raymond Johnston/Rodney Hicks (Evo) 28m 10.2s
- (6) Brian Muldoon/Charlie Beattie (Evo) 28m 12.2s
- (7) Trevor Moore/Ray Fitzpatrick (Escort Mk2) 28m 26.3s
- (8) Kenny McKinstry/Noel Orr (Impreza WRC) 28m 33.2s
- (9) Trevor Ferguson/David McElroy (Impreza) 28m 45.2s
- (10) Neil McCance/Jonny Hart (Evo) 28m 47.4s
- (11) Drew Stewart/Steven Park (Escort Mk2) 28m 47.7s

Stage four and yet another change at the top of the leaderboard. The stage was reversed on this occasion, and with the sun shining, the roads are beginning to dry out.

Raymond Johnston entered the test at the top of the standings but a double puncture has put paid to any hopes of winning the rally, allowing Mark Massey back in front. Johnston was forced to change the afflicted wheels, and rushed to get into service on time.

Fastest on the stage was Derek McGarrity, closely followed by Donagh Kelly (+0.2s) and Declan McNaughton (+0.8s). The rain has subsided and so has McGarrity's misted windscreen problems. Yet, despite admitting that he wasn't on the door handles, he had a big moment midway through the test:

"We were braking and there was a lot of standing water over a crest," McGarrity said. "The car just took off sideways. If it had have been a narrow section of the stage, we would have been off the road."

McGarrity wasn't alone in his dramas as Denis Biggerstaff also reported a few hairy moments. On the first square left, Biggerstaff shot straight on, half spinning and then stalling his Subaru. The same happened again midway through the stage, denting the Dromara man's confidence.

Kenny McKinstry has his gearbox problems cured but the Banbridge driver lost time with a puncture two and a half miles from the finish, admitting that it "wasn't his day". Meanwhile, his daughter Emma isn't comfortable with the car and the slippery stages, telling us that she's "scared of the place".

Mark Massey had a moment during the test, sliding his Mitsubishi Lancer on to the grass and losing around five or six seconds. He escaped unscathed but leads the event by a slender one-tenth of a second. Derek McGarrity is ready to pounce, as is Declan McNaughton, and it should make for a very interesting final stage.

In the class battles, after stage three Frank McConville led class one, Dermot O'Hagan topped class three, Raymond Doyle topped class four, William Armstrong has a narrow class six lead, Drew Stewart topped class seven and Philip Hunter heads the historic category, class 10.

Meanwhile, class eight's 'Hairy and Barney' (James Cassidy and Barney Mitchell) are complaining that the stages are making their nice, clean white car all dirty! More news later...

**Grainne O'Kane and Jonathan MacDonald**