

**FABULOUS
FIRST
SEASON:**

Stokesley's Kelly Bird enjoyed a good weekend at Croft Circuit winning the Junior Minicross B Final and then going on to take fourth place in the A final

Pictures
by SIMON
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BIRD FLYING HIGH

Kelly looks to build on rallycross success

TEENAGER Kelly Bird finished her first season of rallycross on a high note - now she's looking forward to bigger and better things next year.

The 15-year-old from Stokesley went into the final round of the Junior Rallycross Open Championship at Croft last month in a new car, having totalled her previous one in a big crash at Blyton. And she enjoyed her best finish yet, finishing fourth in the A final after winning the B final.

"The new car is lighter and looks better," she said. "It's also a lot easier to handle - I like it a lot more."

"The Superprix meeting was best weekend of racing I have ever had."

Kelly, who made her racing debut at Croft last March, went on to finish sixth in the junior championship and was the highest-placed female driver.

Now she's looking to build on her success next year.

"I have really enjoyed my first season doing rallycross," she said. "I have had some fantastic races and gained a lot of experience, I feel I have improved a lot since my first meeting at Croft in March."

"This year was about getting to know the car, learning the circuits and learning how to drive with other cars on the track."

"I have managed to do all that and make a lot of friends along the way."

"I just missed out on a podium, at the Superprix meeting but I'm

hoping to get it next season.

"I am planning to compete in the Open Championship in 2009 in my new, improved car."

Kelly and her car will also be at the Autosport International Show at the NEC in January.

Next year's Rallycross Open series will again start and finish at Croft.

The 16-round championship begins there on March 22-23 and concludes with the 2009 Superprix meeting on October 31 and November 1.

The series takes in Nutts Corner, in Northern Ireland, and Mallory Park for the first time next year.

The Kumho Tyres MSA British Championship will also climax at Croft - on Sunday, October 11.



**Neal's on
wheels**

with Martin Neal

In brief

EAST Cleveland crew Gavin Collyer and Mike Scrimgeour braved torrential rain and treacherous conditions to bring their Mitsubishi Evo home 13th in class and 25th overall on the Malton Forest Stages Rally.

Richard and Edwin Cook (Vauxhall Astra) wrapped up their third SG Petch ANECCC Stage Rally Championship in the North Yorkshire forests after taking second place points. A Group N SG Petch Mitsubishi Evo drive now awaits them on the Jack Frost Stages at Croft in January.

HOWARD Davies is the latest name to be added to the bill for Stockton and District MC's Guy Wilks and Friends evening. Gwyndaf Evans' long-term navigator is a former British championship who is currently competing in