

RALLY DRIVING



Former winners of the Nightmare Rally line up on the Quay in Kingsbridge with South Hams Council chairman, Cllr John Baverstock



Winners of the event Philip Harris and James Aldridge

Contributed

Brian Gilbert

What a dream drive for Phil in the 40th Nightmare Rally

Loddiswell driver takes the honours in event, which was attended by 20 previous winners

by **ANDREW BULPIN**

LODDISWELL's Phil Harris, along with James Aldridge, from Cumbria, triumphed in the 40th annual Nightmare Rally on Sunday morning.

The pair were among 26 finishers out of 36 who had started the event, which involved negotiating a tricky route around the lanes of the South Hams from

10pm on Saturday evening.

Prior to the start, hundreds of people flocked to the Quay at the start of the South Hams Motor Club event to see more than 20 previous 'Nightmare' winners going back to 1979.

Those present included Bruce Millman, Mick Wicks, Scott Edmunds and Nick Kelland, who all live in the South Hams.

Once flagged away by chairman of South Hams Council, Cllr John Baverstock, the 36 cars buckled down to the challenge

of the navigation ahead. The lanes on OS Map 202 are some of the most difficult to navigate around, and it is this fact that attracts crews from across the country to the South West.

Ironically, it wasn't navigational difficulties, but mechanical failure, that put an end to Paul and Jamie Watts' rally; the Kingsbridge pair, who won last year, were leading at the time.

Their misfortune handed the lead and eventual victory to Loddiswell's Harris, with James

Aldridge reading the map.

James is based in Cumbria with the MSport Ford World Rally Team.

'It was a great event and we were nip and tuck with Paul and Jamie until they retired,' said a delighted Harris.

Notably, Harris' Daihatsu Sirion 1300cc was one of the smallest engined cars in the event.

Totnes crew Scott Jonas and Chris Perry enjoyed a good run to finish the 150-mile route in

second overall, just six minutes adrift, driving a Vauxhall Nova.

Third spot was taken by Roger Hunt and Stewart Merry from Dorset in an MGZR – the tricky navigation preventing a better result.

In the classes, Martin Moore, formerly of Aveton Gifford, took the honours in the Expert class and Modbury's Gareth Janes and Steve Yeoman won the novice section in a Citroen Saxo.

Forty years on from the start of the event, which was instigated

by Roger Gillard, and many things have changed.

But navigation is as difficult now as it was back in the 1970s – the 26 crews that qualified as finishers will testify to that.

Are you up to it? Do you want to learn about map reading? Then get in touch.

The club's next event is the TSH Stages based at Portreath in Cornwall on May 14 and 15.

Further details can be found on the club website, which is viewable at www.shmc.co.uk