

Matt is close to dream!

By Adrian Capstick

RACE ace Matt Griffin took a step closer to realising his rally driving dream by completing his first national event in Wales last week.

The 17-year-old former Ribblesdale High School pupil took to the muddy tracks of the Wyedean Rally around Chepstow Racecourse with stages

across the English border in the Forest of Dean.

Out of 147 cars entered into the rally, which is the first round of the Formula 1000 Forest Rally Championship, only 102 finished, and Matt came in 100th place.

It marks a notable move in his fledgling motorsport career, having first taken to karting over five years ago and shown promise from an early age behind

the wheel.

Matt is currently studying for a National Diploma in Motorsport at Myerscough College, while working as a part-time life-guard and swimming instructor for Blackburn Council.

The car he raced at Chepstow was a race-prepared Nissan Micra borrowed from www.rallyschool.co.uk, and his co-driver was

instructor James Fisher from the Shropshire-based training company, where he attended several sessions in 2007.

And having learned new techniques and gained his MSA National B Stage Rally Competition Licence, Matt looks forward to competing in more events this year if he can get the funds together, starting with the North Humberside rally at the



RACE ace Matt Griffin (left) and at the wheel of his race-prepared Nissan Micra. (s)



end of next month: "This was my first-ever rally and my main aim was to finish and gain as much experience as possible.

"I was getting more and more confident as the rally progressed, and it was a shame it had to finish.

"I have to thank John Goff from Rally School for his coaching and confidence in me over the last few years when I swapped from karting to rallying.

"I've been going there a couple of years now, and he's been happy to lend me the car, and I'm going to try and do the whole Formula 1000 Forest Rally Championship if I can raise the money.

"There are seven races in the season and it costs about £1,500 a race."

For more information on Matt, visit his website www.mattgriffin-racing.com