

# ON THE STAGE



## **Matt Griffin**

**Age:** 18 **Lives:** Wilpshire, Blackburn  
**BTRDA Rally First competitor**

**You had a choice between contesting the Malcolm Wilson Rally and the North West Stages in February. What made you choose the latter?**

"It was a money issue basically and after doing the Wyedean I had to choose. The North West Stages is my local event and I'd always wanted to take part after spectating on it for a few years."

**It was your first time competing on asphalt and driving at night...**

"That's right. I'd done neither before. It's hard driving at night because you have to be cautious and it's not easy to judge where the next apex is."

**You mentioned money earlier. Is that a big problem for you?**

"I probably spend around £10,000 a year on my rallying. That comes from my own savings and what my family have given me. I do some instructing work at [Rallyschool.co.uk](http://Rallyschool.co.uk). They also run my Volkswagen Lupo and take my wages from their bill!"

**You don't see many Volkswagen Lupos rallying...**

"I think there are only two in the country and I've got one of them. It has a 1400cc engine and adjustable suspension. We call it 'the flying lemon' because of its colour. We thought about calling it just 'the lemon' when we got it but you can't call a car a lemon."

**What do you do besides rallying?**

"I'm doing a degree in motorsport logistics at Myerscough College. We cover everything from car set-up to the management involved in getting a car from Lancashire, where the college is based, down to a rally in Wales for example. I want to work in motorsport so it's ideal for me. I also work as a lifeguard at a leisure centre in Blackburn and am training to be a scout leader."

**Where does the interest in motorsport come from?**

"My parents have always taken me. I was six weeks old when I went to a MotoGP race at Donington Park and six months old when I went on my first Rally GB."

**What would you like to do in the future?**

"I want to be involved in motorsport and finish as many rallies as possible. Petter Solberg is my hero and I like his sideways style. I want to drive like him."

