

# Bennett's winning habit

Dave Bennett, the inaugural Rally First champion, is making a habit of dominating the class. After winning the division on the Somerset Stages last month, he continued his strong run of form by heading the event from start to finish.

Aside from a bizarre encounter with a hippy on a road section when he was asked about his carbon footprint, little troubled the York youngster.

Chris Jones, the opening round winner, was second after three stages but he miscalculated how much fuel he would need to complete the morning loop and retired, which elevated Jason

Hopkins into second place in his Volkswagen Lupo.

Armed with a CD by acclaimed Russian composer Shostakovich for company on the road sections, Roy Gravestock overhauled Matt Griffin on the final stage to complete the top-three in his Vauxhall Corsa.

The veteran relished the slippery conditions but had Griffin's front-right puncture to thank for his final position.

Alistair Sutherland cut short his honeymoon to start his first rally of the season but couldn't prevent the flying Mick Smith from winning the one-litre class. Dafydd Williams was third after scraping a few fence posts.



Smith headed the one-litre class in his Nissan Micra