

factfile

Name: Matt Griffin
Height: 6ft 6in
Shoe size: 11
Home town: Wiltshire, Blackburn
Birthday: 7th July 1990
Occupation: Student studying for a Foundation Degree in Motorsport Management and Logistics at Myerscough College. Also part time Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor
Rally car: VW Lupo 1400 (hired from www.rallyschool.co.uk)
Road car: Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCI Zetec
Marital status: Single
Hobbies: Swimming and Scouting
Sponsors: None - any offers?

Name: Joe Cruttenden
Height: 6'0
Shoe size: 10
Home town: Rochdale, Manchester
Birthday: 13/03/1990
Occupation: Student
Rally car: VW Lupo
Road car: Wish I had one
Marital status: Single
Hobbies: Anything with an engine, Football, Music
Sponsors: My earnings, and Rallyschool.co.uk sponsor the car
Anything else you would like to say: Won 1st ever event. Had 9 other class awards. 40 rallies in under 4 years.

question time

with
**Matt Griffin
& Joe
Cruttenden**



The Matt & Joe Show...

When did you first get behind a wheel?

Matt: When I was 12, at the Ford Rally Academy.

Joe: In 2003, raced a 998cc Mini in Autograss.

Who taught you to drive?

Matt: My Mother Pat who is a Driving Instructor

Joe: My dad taught me in my old autograss mini, when he let me loose on my own I blew the diff!

What was your first road car?

Matt: Vauxhall Corsa

Joe: A Fiat Panda, I was supposed to get it road legal. But it never happened.

Who were your Motorsport heroes as a boy?

Matt: Richard Burns, Colin McRae and Petter Solberg

Joe: Colin McRae, Howard Davies and Gwyndaf Evans.

Who would you rate as the top three British/Irish drivers today?

Matt: Kris Meeke, Matthew Wilson and Mark Higgins

Joe: Keith Cronin, Marty McCormack, Euan Thorburn.

What was your first competitive event?

Matt: First ever event was the first round of an indoor karting championship in 2001. In rallying it was the Wydean Forrest Rally in 2008 driving a Nissan Micra 1000

Joe: The Oak Leaf Stages at Wilbarston in 2006. It was in a Grp A Evo 8 with Paul Haberlin, which we duly won!

What drive are you most proud of to date?

Matt: Third place on the Quinton rally this year, where we had only a few mistakes on the whole rally and the car performed brilliantly. This was especially the case on the last stage where we were 4th going into the last stage, 7 seconds behind 3rd and we

finished the stage in 3rd place, 5 seconds ahead of 4th.

Joe: Either the Quinton this year where Matt drove a blinding last stage to claim third in class. Or my first event, where Paul had every confidence in me and I managed to repay him by keeping us right at the splits. My first international rally - the 2008 Jim Clark with Martin Laverty in his C2 - also sticks in my mind.

What was your biggest accident to date?

Matt: Not had one in rallying.

Joe: Probably on last year's Coracle Stages. We cut a right hand corner too much and the car launched into the ditch on the outside. We were travelling at about 70mph when we hit the ditch and bounced a few times. We were lucky not to roll the car. We went on to finish fourth.

What are your plans for 2010?

Matt: 2009 to complete the BTRDA Rally First Championship (1400 class). 2010 to compete the BTRDA Rally First Championship (1400 class) and possibly the Mazda 2 one make championship (if it happens).

Joe: Hopefully Matt and I will win two scholarships this year and that will give us the money to have a full season again. Hopefully either in Rally First, or BRC Challenge. As Matt pays, he makes the decisions! I am also hoping to get a seat for a full season in BRC next year if Matt chooses not to do the BRC.

What is your favourite event?

Matt: So far, the North West Stages based at Blackpool as it's not just a sprint event of 8 stages. It contains more than 20 stages on varying surfaces which is more of a challenge.

Joe: Jim Clark International Rally. Closed road tarmac rallying in the UK which can't be beaten. Awesome stages and high speeds.

What is your favourite rally car?

Matt: Audi Quatro S1

Joe: I love Mk2 Escorts but I have to say it is the 555 Impreza Group A, like those used by McRae, which are my favourite.

What do you think about youth development in rallying?

Matt: I think if rallying in the UK and Ireland is to succeed and flourish, junior development should be encouraged by all the controlling bodies of the sport. The new single venue Junior 1000 championship for 14 to 17 year olds organised by John Goff of the Rallyschool.co.uk and the Formula 1000 Rally Club is a start, but it needs more backing possibly by some of the WRC teams.

Joe: I think the European Continent has got it spot on, but the MSA seems to be lacking something. The MSA seem to think that the lads that already have the money and sponsors to go far need the extra money, whereas in reality there are a lot of young drivers who are really quick but can't afford to do the events that will get them noticed.

If you could change anything about current rallying rules/admin what would it be?

Matt: To make the enter form/registration form for all rallies run in the UK and Ireland generic. For as many motorsport clubs there are in the country, there are as many styles of enter form/registration form all asking for the same thing but in different formats.

Joe: I think the licences should be changed. Seems very hard for newcomers to understand which licence is needed for what. Also, the blue book needs to be made easier to read as it is very off putting to newcomers.