

# Blackburn ace Griffin still in line for rally titles after Woodpecker



**RIGHT TO THE WIRE:** Matt Griffin in action

MATT Griffin's bid to win two rally titles will go down to the wire.

The 19-year-old Blackburn driver finished fourth in class on the Woodpecker Stages, the penultimate round of BTRDA Under 25s and BTRDA Junior Championships.

That was enough for Griffin to retain his lead in both series, which will be decided on next month's Cambrian Rally finale.

"We lost a lot of time with a puncture two stages from the end, which cost us over 20 seconds," explained Griffin.

"We thought we had had a poor finish and that we would be out of contention for the championships, but luck was on our side. Two of our main rivals failed to score after going out of the event on the same stage we

had the puncture."

The result was also enough to keep Griffin, who drives a Volkswagen Lupo 1.4, in contention for second overall in the Rally First 1.4 Drivers championship.

His rival David Bennett clinched the title but finished second in his Vauxhall Corsa.

Based in Ludlow, Shropshire, this year's Woodpecker attracted a healthy 154 crews, with 118 finishers. Stages included the classic Radnor forest and Hays Park.

"It will all be decided on the last round, the Cambrian Rally, based in North Wales, on October 17," added Griffin.

● Matt Griffin would like to thank co-driver Joe Cruttenden, John Goff and the Shropshire Rallyschool support team for preparing the car.