

# Matt seals brace of English rally titles

■ It's a treble triumph for Griffin in year to remember

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Sports reporter



**ROAD TO VICTORY** Matt Griffin in action in his Rallyschool Mazda2 at the Tempest Rally and (right) celebrating his title wins with his enthusiastic co-driver Joe Cruttenden



WILPSHIRE rally driver Matt Griffin sealed two titles in the MSA English Rally Championship at the weekend.

The 21-year-old, who had already won his class in the BTRDA Rally series this year, finished second in his class and 31st overall in Saturday's Tempest Rally in Aldershot alongside Rochdale-based co-driver Joe Cruttenden.

And that gave Griffin his second and third titles of 2011, as he sealed first place in the Swisher MSA English Junior Drivers Championship as well as the Swisher MSA English E2 Drivers class in his Rallyschool Mazda2.

In addition, Cruttenden won the Junior Co-Drivers Championship and the E2 Co-Drivers class.

Griffin had gone into the final event of the season in second place in the standings but knowing that leader Ash Slight, from North Yorkshire, would not be competing in the rally.

"We decided to drive for the championships rather than risk trying to win the rally," said Griffin, who changed car at the start of the year.

"We had already won the BTRDA Millers Oil BTRDA 1400L class for driver and co-driver earlier in the year, so to win these championships was a great bonus.

"After such an uncertain beginning to the year, it has been a fantastic end to the year,

winning a major championship and two classes."

Griffin hopes his title triumphs this season will help to attract extra sponsorship for 2012, when he intends to drive a Fiesta ST in the BTRDA Gold Star N3 class.

Scheduled to take part in a number of rallies for the first time, he is expected to view next year as a development year before pushing for title triumphs at senior level in 2013.

Withnell co-driver Paula Swinscoe was also involved at the weekend, teaming up with Nuneaton's Matt Beebe to finish fourth overall in an MG ZR 160.