



Strong second for Malley at Rally NZ.

Aucklander Patrick Malley has moved one step closer to taking out the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy, taking second place from the penultimate round at Rally New Zealand.

The result gives Malley a whopping 21 point lead over second placed Ben Jagger, but things could have been very different. Jagger set a cracking pace but came unstuck on the final stage, tipping his Fiesta onto it's side losing 17 minutes. "It was disappointing for Ben that he didn't take the win he deserved. Both Brendan (Reeves) and I had our small problems, but Ben definitely showed us clean pair of heels." commented Malley.

Malley also enjoyed once again competing against Australian Brendan Reeves, and is sure that had slight handling problems not hampered his progress he could have been battling with the young Aussie for the top spot.

With a significant points buffer over Jagger effectively only requiring Malley to finish the final round to wrap up the Fiesta Sporting Trophy, the pressure has been slightly lifted from his shoulders, allowing him to concentrate on both his Pirelli Star Driver campaign in Malaysia in October and the trip to England to contest the Fiesta Sporting Trophy international shootout that is the grand prize for winning the New Zealand based series. The winner of the international shootout will receive a 12 month employment contract with the BP Abu Dhabi Ford World Rally Team.

Malley's rival in the Kiwi 2 series, Aaron Cook, retired and consequently scored no points. Happy to have taken a large chunk out of Cook's points lead for the second event in a row, Malley has gone from an outside chance 47 points behind before the round to a genuine chance only 18 points behind.

Next up for Malley is the final round of both the Fiesta Sporting Trophy and the New Zealand Rally Championship to be held in Nelson on September 22nd, where Malley will be looking to wrap up both the Fiesta Sporting Trophy and Kiwi 2 championships. It is a rally Malley has always enjoyed and feels that the fast forestry roads will suit his driving style.

Press Release by Blair Bartels

