



Malley looks to extend lead at Rally NZ

In his first year in two wheel drive Patrick Malley in his NZ Truth Fiesta ST150 is looking for another top result from Repco Rally NZ to give him a strong lead in the Group N two-wheel drive and Fiesta Sporting Trophy Championships to carry into the last round in Nelson.

After an excellent showing in Hawke's Bay Patrick is sitting second in 'Kiwi 2' however a disastrous round two at Otago means series leader Aaron Cook will need to fail to finish one of the remaining two legs. Cook had a major mechanical failure at Hawkes Bay however he was 'let off the hook' when the second leg was cancelled, meaning Malley missed the chance to reclaim 32 of the 47 points required.

A good result at Hamilton, though, should leave Patrick only needing to finish Nelson to pick up the Group N 2WD championship and Fiesta Sporting Trophy win. Australian Brendan Reeves returns to New Zealand after an excellent a showing in Whangarei so it will not be so easy for Patrick to have everything his own way at Hamilton.

All of the Fiesta drivers will be out to impress M-Sport boss Malcolm Wilson and the Ford World Rally Team. At the end of the season the champion and a wildcard will be going to the UK to compete in the International Fiesta Shootout and Malcolm Wilson is one of the leading judges of this event, as well as creating the Fiesta Sporting Trophy concept.

Helping Malley in his preparations for the Fiesta Sporting Trophy International shootout will be his time at the Motorsport New Zealand Elite Academy. With the Fiesta Shootout being judged on Media, fitness and mental capabilities as well as driving, the lessons learnt by Malley at the academy will be invaluable.

The Fiesta's will have a chance to bridge the performance advantage the four-wheel drive turbo cars have over the little two-wheel drive naturally aspirated the Fiesta's. The reason for this is that the all four-wheel drive cars in a world championship event must run the hard compound Pirelli control tyre, and although the Fiesta's also run a control tyre, it is a medium compound which will give more grip than the harder Pirelli

M Rally Team have also announced that following Patrick's results so far this year they have contracted for him to drive their Mitsubishi Evo 9 in the Pirelli Star Driver Challenge to be held in Malaysia from the 10th-12th October. This is the car Patrick drove in the National Championships to good effect last year and after a freshen up is ready for the challenges of the Malaysian Rally. On Malley's side will be the team's previous experience from running cars in both the Malaysian and South Asian Rally Championships for the last four years. The experience the team has with the treacherous and constantly changing conditions that are experienced in Malaysia will help Malley in his quest to become Pirelli's Asia Pacific Star Driver.

