



EYVIND BRYNILDSEN

NEWS 2009

This year Ralliart New Zealand has joined with young Norwegian driver Eyvind Brynildsen to contest 2009 Production World Rally Car Championship. The intention was for Eyvind to use his own car for Rally Norway and Rally GB and Ralliart New Zealand to supply Eyvind with 2 cars for the rounds being held in Portugal, Italy and Argentina, but due an unforeseen circumstance, an additional car had to be leased for Rally Argentina.

With Rally Norway being a home event and having perfect conditions Eyvind's hopes were for a good result. "There are many good drivers in the rally and in Super 2000 cars. It was Patrik (Flodin) I fought with the last time we did this rally in 2007 and now it will be another Patrik (Sandell) I expect to fight this time. I know I can score points. It easier to do this event at home, than it is to go and try and score points in Argentina.

With a win under his belt in the latest Norwegian Championship Eyvind's aim for this year is to look for a title. "Rally drivers all want to win, but I'm young and I need points and I need the experience of the rallies. Okay, I will try to score points in each rally, but we will see what happens when we get to the end of the year and add all of those points together.

So as to his your major competition will be Eyvind explains – "Many of them. Patrik is a World Champion, then there's Toshi Arai, (Martin) Prokop and on this event, (Andreas) Mikkelsen, maybe seven or eight drivers can win each rally. It's hard. This rally it could be Patrik. The Skoda is a good car; it has good speed, Juho Hanninen proved this on the Monte Carlo Rally.

And the secret to getting it right on the snow – "We all have a different point of view on snow. Snow can be tricky, it's like gravel but there's less traction. If you miss the line, you can be off the road. I don't know, maybe go flat out and see what happens.

Next up was Rally Portugal, a difficult rally on narrow and dust-covered roads with high speeds.

After a tight battle for second, Martin Prokop won the fight on the last stage, finishing 1min 07secs behind Araújo but just 6secs ahead of rival Eyvind Brynildsen who was leading Prokop until the last stage when his differential broke, and had to settle for third.

In the P-WRC standings, Brynildsen and Prokop lie third and fourth respectively but now equal each other on points, six adrift of Sandell.

Brynildsen had a difficult rally with mechanical woes. It started 2km into SS4 when he was left with just second and fourth gears caused by a gear linkage problem and the gearbox broke again on SS7, leaving him with only two usable gears. The team changed the gearbox overnight. Day two started well but a gearbox niggle once again reared its ugly head on SS8. Then he lost his brakes just 5km into SS11, hit a tree as a result which damaged a wheel and bent a suspension arm which again, he repaired on the road section. Repairs took a while, however, and he incurred a 50sec penalty for starting SS12 late but the fact that he was able to get through the two day's worth of problem-ridden stages is testament to the young Norwegian's skills as a mechanic.

However, the final nail in Brynildsen's coffin was a broken rear differential on the start line of the final super special stage so he lost 8secs to a chasing Prokop. Having gone into the stage just 1.5secs apart, it was impossible for the Norwegian to hold second position, and reluctantly relinquished it to the Czech driver. "I can't believe it. We broke the rear diff on the start line of the super special so we just had to go around slowly and we lost about 8secs to Prokop. I just can't believe it. I'm fed up with getting seconds and thirds now – I just want to win. I know I can! We just need some luck."



Rally Portugal































Rally Argentina was the next event to be contested and with the added pressure of having to lease another car, the team only had a few days to prepare the car, but as Eyvind explains – "Of course, it's not the best way, but we came through the rally and scored four very valuable points. I drove one stage flat out on Friday, but the rest I was on two cylinders or front-wheel drive.

Eyvind has been on the podium twice this year – but not yet with a win and the question is now. can he get one here? "It can be anywhere. It's really tough for us, when the guys with the S2000 are in the business. We have to speed up. Patrik [Sandell] will be very quick here and the other guys. I'm not sure. It's my first time here, it was my first time in Argentina and it will be in Australia. I've been to Sweden twice and Norway and Portugal was my second time. Each time I go somewhere again I can see my pace notes are better. I need to think with two brains: one for the Championship and one for the rally. I think we need to think for the championship, I've still got Australia and GB – you can't think too much about the guys like Nasser [Al-Attiyah] who are going so quickly.



Rally Italy

Current standings after round 6

										Total
1.	 N. AL-ATTIYAH	Pass	6	5	10	10	8			39
2.	 A. ARAUJO	5	8	10	Pass	6	6	Pass		35
3.	 P. SANDELL	10	10	R	Pass	8	0	Pass		28
4.	 E. BRYNILDSEN	8	Pass	6	4	4	Pass			22
5.	 M. PROKOP	6	Pass	8	Excl	Pass	4			18
6.	 T. ARAI	R	5	Pass	6	Pass	5			16
7.	 L. ATHANASSOULAS	-	-	-	-	-	10			10
8.	 A. NEIKSANS	4	4	R	Pass	-	2	Pass		10
9.	 M. LIGATO	-	-	-	8	-	-			8
10.	 P. FLODIN	2	Pass	R	Pass	5	1			8
11.	 F. SAUVAN	1	2	Pass	R	3	0	Pass		6
12.	 S. PAVLIDES				5	Pass	0	Pass		5
13.	 G. LINARI	0	0	3	Pass	2	0		Pass	5
14.	 G. MAYER	Pass	1	R	3	1	R	Pass		5
15.	 M. TAPPER	Pass	Pass	4	-	R	0			4
16.	 J. TARABUS	3	-	R	-	Pass	-	Pass		3
17.	 C. TIMOTHEU	-	3	-	-		-			3
18.	 B. SOUSA						3			3
19.	 G. GILL	Pass	R	2	Pass	-	-			2
20.	 M. SEMERAD	0	R	1	Pass	R	R	Pass		1
21.	 B. KOLLEVOLD	0(G)	-	-	-	-	-			0
22.	 E. VALDEZ LOPEZ	Pass	0	R	DNS	R	R	Pass		0