

Podium Result For Renault Sport At Rally QLD

The Swisse Renault Sport Rally Team have finished on the podium at this weekend's International Rally of Queensland.

Round 4 of the Australian Rally Championship has rewarded the strength of the Renault Clio R3 with Tom Wilde/Bill Hayes securing a second place result on this first 'endurance' style event for the season.

Despite patches of rain creating slippery conditions for competitors on Sunday the nimble nature of the Clio R3 saw Wilde come home strong finishing some 2m56s ahead of Mark Pedder's Honda in third.

Scott Pedder/Dale Moscatt were once again locked in an intense battle for the rally lead with Eli Evans and looked set to take things down to the wire with two stages remaining.

However disaster struck on the penultimate stage of the event when Pedder slipped off the road at a hairpin and become stuck losing over ten minutes in the process.

Fortunately the determination of both Pedder and Moscatt saw the duo free the Clio R3 and proceed to stage end. As a consolation the pair were fastest over the final stage of the event by a massive 31 seconds.

Wilde kicked things off in style for the Renault Sport team with his first win on the Pedders Power Stage in front of a packed crowd at the Nambour Showgrounds.

The Power Stage win saw Wilde pick up a valuable five bonus championship points with teammate Pedder picking up one bonus point for finishing third fastest on Friday night.

The power of the Clio R3 was once again proven with Pedder winning eight of a possible 19 stages to stamp his authority on the event before his misfortune on SS20 - he eventually finished fifth despite his huge time loss.

Spectators flocked to the stages all weekend in what was another successful International Rally of Queensland which once again doubled as a round of the prestigious FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship.

Round 5 of the East Coast Bullbars Australian Rally Championship takes crews to the marquee event of the season, Coates Hire Rally Australia - a round of the FIA World Rally Championship.

Renault Sport Rally Team driver Tom Wilde said:

"I was so pumped to start the event off winning the Power Stage and to finish on the podium caps of an awesome weekend. I've been waiting all year to win one of these Power Stages, and to do it with Pedders sponsorship on the car is even better. Five bonus championship points is exactly what I needed too. It's a shame for Scott [Pedder] having his off on the penultimate stage as he was doing an awesome job all weekend and we were looking strong for a double Renault podium this weekend. My sights are firmly set on Rally Australia now and continuing this strong form for the Renault Sport Rally Team."

Renault Sport Rally Team driver Scott Pedder said:

"It's been a big day and the Renault did a great job to win eight of the 19 stages this weekend. Unfortunately a small little driver error on the second last stage put us unstuck. We just nosed it off the road at a hairpin and took ten minutes to get it back on and unfortunately dropped from battling for the lead, to fifth. We've proven again this weekend that the Renault Clio R3 is definitely a match for the Honda and with a bit of luck we can win Rally Australia and Rally Victoria and get back in championship contention. We'll definitely be pushing hard to knock [Eli] Evans off his post at Rally Australia in September."

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