

Scott Pedder: "Bringing Forward Rebuild To Go Even Faster"

Eli Evans may be taking the glory, but Scott Pedder has proven to be the star performer so far this season, keeping his rapid Renault Clio within striking distance of the reigning Champion.

Not happy to play second fiddle to Eli, Scott Pedder has confirmed that in the lead up to next month's Scouts Rally SA his Renault will return to Race Torque's Perth workshops in the hunt for even more speed.

"We know we've got a very fast car, and it's been hugely reliable considering the punishing conditions we face in the ECB ARC," said Scott. "But we want it to be even faster, so we've brought forward a planned engine rebuild."

"Originally we'd planned to rebuild the Clio's engine following Rally SA, now we've brought it forward to before Rally SA. It means we can prepare for the next Round knowing we have a fresh, strong engine, and that we can plan on going even faster!"

The Renault Clio driven by Pedder and team-mate Tom Wilde, has featured at the highest levels of international rallying since its debut in 2007. Adept on both tarmac and gravel, the years between its launch and now have ensured Pedder and Wilde have a highly proven rally car at their disposal as they try to overhaul the rampant Eli Evans.

"When I knew I was jumping back into the drivers seat I really wanted to make sure I had a car that was ready to go, and had the ability to take the fight straight up to the Honda's. With the Renault Clio I knew I had a car that could do that, to be honest I was more worried about being able to keep up myself," laughed Scott.

"So to see our performance over the first two Rounds has been hugely encouraging. To sit only a handful of points behind Eli is better than I expected, considering the form he's shown all last year and then again this year. But I also know that I don't want to run second!"

"The extended gap between the last Round in WA and the next in South Australia has meant that we've been able to totally refresh the car, as well as work on some areas we identified for improvement. All I can say is that when we get into the forest in Adelaide I'm going for the win, it'll be flat out from the very first stage," Pedder added.

Apart from the challenge of overcoming Eli Evans, who is on course to break the long standing consecutive victory record of the late, great Possum Bourne, Pedder is also returning to the scene of the event that almost ended his rally career.

"Rally SA 2010 was the event where I had my massive accident. The last two years I've stopped at the spot and looked at the tree that I hit," explained Scott.

“It’s a super fast event, and the trees are both huge and so close to the road, but I know once I’ve got that helmet on and I’m strapped into the car nice and tight the trees and my accident will be a long way from my mind. Anyone who thinks I’ll be taking it easy better think again!”