



WITH DEPUTY  
MOTORS EDITOR  
**JON DORAN**

# READY TO PUT 2010 BEHIND HIM



# ashed off



ing for Audi's R15-Plus seemed to be heading for victory until they were scuppered by a safety car and Peugeot's team tactics.

**SEBASTIEN BOURDAIS**, whose car was three laps behind the leader, got between McNish's team mate **TOM KRISTENSEN** and leader **STEPHANE SARRAZIN**. He then appeared to play the team role by blocking the great Dane.

McNish, above with Kristensen, had set up the position with a stunning triple stint lasting 2 hours 31 minutes in hot and humid conditions. Kristensen looked set to build on the 32-second lead until a safety car came out and halved their advantage in one swoop.

Then Bourdais' blocking tactics helped Sarrazin over the line. McNish said: "It

was a very exciting race. After having such wet test sessions the engineers gambled a little bit with the set-up and they guessed the correct direction. The car handled well, allowing Tom to mix it with the Peugeots at the start.

"We changed the strategy to single stints in the middle of the race. This was a better way to run it. Towards the end Tom was pushing really hard and we were in the lead. Unfortunately we had a little bit of blocking from the other Peugeot which was out of contention.

"That was a little bit frustrating. The pace car had taken away a 30-second lead we had. I was pleased with the team, the car and mine and Tom's performance. It was just disappointing the race ended under a cloud."

## Gutted

In the GT2 class, Fifer **ANDREW KIRKALDY** led for much of the 1,000km race but had to settle for fifth in the CRS Ferrari after problems with the starter motor.

Kirkaldy said: "We're pretty gutted to finish fifth after all that hard work."

"It was great to be racing at the sharp end; the opening stint was a lot of fun as the Ferrari was definitely better on the brakes than the BMW. It's just a shame that after so much good racing we haven't got the result we wanted."

## fastPARS



## WAGNER WITH REAL X FACTOR

KART star **DAVID WAGNER** got off to a flier in the Formula Renault BARC Winter Championship at Snetterton.

The Hillspeed newcomer, above, showed there was at least one Wagner with the X Factor as he grabbed second place in the opening two races, below.

The 17-year-old former karter had qualified in sixth place, but showed his race craft and now lies second in the early stages of the championship ahead of a trip to Prembrey in South Wales this weekend.

Hillspeed boss **RICHARD OLLERENSHAW** said: "It's been a good start to the Winter Championship all in all, we're pleased with the progress David and **HOWARD FULLER** made throughout the weekend.

"David's performance in both races was exceptional considering it's his first weekend in cars."

**ALISTER McRAE** clinched third place in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship with a stunning victory in China.

The Lanark legend defied punctures and rocky roads to be the first official APRC driver home – even though he ended up fifth overall.

Proton ace McRae, 39, was delighted to get the result. He said: "Winning the last round of the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship for Proton is the perfect way to end the year – it's what we were here to do. We came close to this result in Malaysia and Australia earlier in the season, I thought those events had Proton's name on, but it wasn't to be.

Everybody in the team has put so much effort into this car and this programme; this is a great way to pay them back.

"Having been to this event last year, I had a rough idea of what was coming – but I don't remember it being quite so rough! The roads were unbelievable in places, but we got through them."

