

# Rallying

## brothers

**T**WO car rallying brothers have had a blistering debut season in the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship and are already casting their eyes to next year.

The Lockharts from Oban; driver Stephen, aged 19,

with his rally car. I then started to go to events with Gerry and became part of his service crew. When my 18th birthday arrived Gerry invited me to co-drive with him in Fife last year.

'This was for me the opportunity I had been waiting for. I then applied for my co-driver's licence and became

**Next year we want to improve further because we finished eighth overall in the Scottish championship and we also want to compete in the Mull Rally which we missed this year.**

and co-driver Kevin, aged 22, teamed up together for a dream rallying season.

The boys had booked a holiday abroad last January but had been so bitten by the rallying bug decided to cancel and plough their money and energies into rallying.

The championship which is held in a variety of circuits in Scotland and England started in April.

Stephen passed his rally driver's test in February.

The brothers bought a Vauxhall Nova rally car for their class for cars up to 1400cc.

Kevin said: 'It is an A-registration 1.4 eight-valve Vauxhall Nova. It's more than 20 years old but cost £5,000. There are two-bucket seats, six-point harnesses to hold us in, a steel cage, modified gear stick and there is no speedometer but a rev display. The gear stick takes a lot of abuse.

'The engine is modified; there are no real comforts in it!' Stephen said it had been his 'dream' to become a rally driver.

'Rallying has also been a passion of mine from a young age,' he said. 'I was introduced to local rally driver Gerry Kilmurray and started to go to his garage helping him

a member of Dunfermline Car Club. After that I was asked to co-drive for other drivers but the dream to drive was always there.'

The brothers' car was meticulously prepared for its first rally by Gerry who also happened to win the championship in 2000.

'It was Stephen's first ever year of driving although I had done some co-driving before,' said Kevin. 'I'm in what they call the 'suicide seat! I have to start studying my pace notes two weeks before. Every corner is a number you work from a scale of left to right, using numbers. My instructions give Stephen a rough idea of the angle of the corner so it not going to give him a surprise when he's driving.'

The brothers' first rally of the season was at Crail, Fife, with their mother Julie seemingly more nervous than her sons!

They had to retire early from the race because of a broken driveshaft but quickly set the pace for the season winning five races to clinch victory in their class, a tremendous achievement for the debutants.

The season was not without its hiccups as the boys