

ARC Round 5 : '68 LCCA Alpine Rally

ARC "ALPINE"

A few crews were en route to London for the start of the London to Sydney Rally , and therefore missed competing in the Alpine Rally .

So this provided Frank Kilfoyle with the opportunity to take advantage of the situation . But sadly it did not eventuate , when his Cortina suffered fuel problems up in the mountains around Omeo . He finally finished in fourth place , which gave the Championship to his team mates , the absent Harry Firth and Graham Hoinville .

This Alpine Rally only attracted 22 entries . Starting outside the Light Car Club head quarters in Queens Road Albert Park , the field headed to Bairnsdale , followed by loops to Omeo and back . The finish was at Philip Island , where the rally cars completed televised laps around the race track , as part of a National Race Meeting.

Roger Bonhomme and Neville Price , in Dent's Coper S were battling for the lead with Tony Roberts , but they left the road and rolled the Mini Cooper heavily into a tree. Roger was transported to Hospital in Traralgon , but released shortly later , after observation for concussion . Sadly the car was written off .

Tony Roberts / Mike Osborne finally won the grueling 2 day rally in their modified Viva / Torana , which had been undergoing a development program throughout the year , usually driven by Reg Lunn .

In second place were young guns David Forster and Jeff Beaumont in the HR Holden , in their first ever Australian Championship Rally . This promising young privateer crew had just won their first ever Victorian Championship event , the Cooper Memorial a few weeks earlier in their ex factory HR Holden , where they finished ahead of Roberts and Watson .

Victorian crews filled the first six positions in this 1968 Alpine Rally .

Results : 1968 Alpine Rally

- 1st, Tony Roberts / Mike Osborne, Viva / Torana, 8 points
- 2nd, David Forster / Jeff Beaumont, HR Holden, 16 points
- 3rd, Mal McPherson / Robin Sharpley, R8 Gordini, 21 points
- 4th, Frank Kilfoyle / Peter Meyer, Cortina GT, 22 points
- 5th, Reg Lunn / Peter Haas, HK Holden, 32 points
- 6th, Bob McInnes / Tom Swanson, Cooper S, 41 points