

John and Gavin break their duck

PATIENCE finally paid off for John Dixon (Beverley) and Gavin Heselaine (Gilberdyke) when they broke their duck in the Harriers Stages motor rally at Funningey, Doncaster.

It was certainly a moment to savour for Dixon, who ended a 17-year drought, while Heselaine tasted victory for the first time in six years.

But this highly emotional occasion almost turned sour for the North Hambletsale

MOTORSPORT
Motor Club duo, because the mechanical gremlins which have plagued them all season so nearly struck again.

Four times they have gone out in their new MG Metro SR4 — bought last March — and each time they have been struck by mechanical faults.

The problems, fortunately, were never the

same and gradually they have cured them, but when the car started to have clutch and gear selection trouble they did wonder.

"We just thought it was going to be yet another of those days," said Heselaine.

It wasn't, of course, and having taken the lead on the second stage Dixon and Heselaine hung onto their advantage like grim death. This was it, nothing was going to deny them.

Close

It got desperately close, though, because having taken a six second lead into the final sixth stage they nervously saw it whittled away to just three seconds.

"Patience certainly has paid off for us," said Heselaine. "We've had to wait a long time — John particularly — for this win, but it was worth waiting for."

"Since we bought the car we have had more than our share of problems, but we have put things right as we've gone along."

Teething

"Fortunately the troubles have never been the same, and I suppose we could have expected some teething problems because the car was not built for rallying."

Meanwhile Beverley duo Alan Kirby and Carl Brown were in sparkling form as

they roared home to a convincing victory in the Armstrong Massey stages rally at Leconfield.

Ironically, they too had a fright when they developed gearbox trouble and lost fourth gear for part of the rally.

Other results were: Class A, John Dixon, Alan Kirby; 2, Elton McPherson; 3, Donald McPherson; 4, Linder Spencer; Robert Goodall; Class B, Ian Tomers; Mark Higgins; 2, Tom Whinaker; Steve Fletcher; 3, Mike Kent; Derek Gonslow; Class C, Paul Fosse; Paul Skinner; 2, Jay Judd; Denise Wallace; 3, Peter Johnson; Terry Lovell; Class D, Paul Gibbons; Paul Nicholls; 2, Geoff Clover; David Hughes; 3, Wayne Pearson; Charles Mills.



JOHN EVERARD (left) and Neil Critchley pictured with their Fiat Uno during the Armstrong-Massey Stages Rally at Leconfield.



IAN WESTON and Dave Berry, of Beverley, tuning up their privately-entered Ford Escort before the Armstrong Stages Rally.