

Brendan scores a mention in Auto Action after his fantastic fourth place in the WRC Academy at Rally de Portugal.

AUSSIES' WEEKEND

FOR THE WRC's two Australian crews, battling in the FIA's new Rally Academy feeder series, Portugal was a big learning experience.

But Brendan Reeves, co-driven by his sister Rhianon, and Molly Taylor and her navigator, Rebecca Smart, both ended up in the points after 385km of tough, dusty and often rough gravel stages.

Reeves started fast but then lost around four minutes with a puncture on the first morning, leaving him in last Academy place.

He was quickly back on the pace before the steering rack on his Fiesta R2 broke on the day's last stage.

On the second leg he ramped up his speed again, finishing the event an impressive fourth.

"It was a very tough event, and nothing like what we have in Australia," said Reeves. "But I was very happy with our finish."

Taylor, twice a British Ladies Champion, concentrated on finding her rhythm on the opening day but spun on stage six and then rolled on the next test. Damage to the Fiesta was mainly cosmetic, and having finished the opening leg in 13th spot, she climbed to a solid eighth by the end of day two, despite being hampered by wheel alignment issues.

Taylor said: "This weekend was a fantastic learning experience, and to take away points after a few dramas is a positive start to the year."

Reeves scored 12 points; Taylor four. Their next Rally Academy outing is Rally Sardinia in May.

Reeves overcame several dramas to finish fourth in the Rally Academy class

