

Gracey's Wood Trial 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013. CoC Trevor Aston  
By Clive Gracey

Gracey's Wood is a steep wooded area on which at one time a small pheasant shoot must have been held, pens are still in place as are feeders, maybe it is still in use. As with all wooded sites the deep leaf deposits make firstly the draw (start hill) and secondly lap 1 a bit of a lottery—once the leaf mould clears life becomes easier.

Ulster is just recovering from the severest snow storm since probably 1963 the only difference being that then the whole country was covered now it was confined to the east coast so that Tandragee and therefore this wood was snow free. Ten cars turned up among the missing John Keatley off skiing and Gerard Currid rallying, the weather was fine, dry and not as cold as of late. CoC Trevor Aston had set 5 Hills to be done 4 times with a break after lap 2. Michael Henderson handled the scrutineering, The CoC gave his talk and off all set down the lane from the farmyard to the wood.

The start Hill on this site as with others can be critical and on studying the results Hill 4 was very unforgiving only John McKinney managing a good 5 with first up Master Gracey on 9 as was Tom McKinney, this after an 11 on Hill 1 was not giving our Thursday Club Chairman a good start—worse was to follow.

Hill 2 very slowly became doable and by lap 3 was cleaned by both McKinney father Mervyn and McKinney son John.

Hill 3 likewise took time before being cleaned but by lap 3 most cars had made the top although a mini roll by car number 2 on lap 2 had somewhat spoiled the fun—'too greedy' said Trevor.

And so the event progressed David Webster had made a great start 1 point behind leaders McKinney (John) and Gracey Jnr however 9's on hills 3 and 4 slowed his progress but not the win in Class B. Geoff McKay was close on his heels ending just 3 behind and second place in Class.

Class A drivers John McKinney and Simon Gracey had a super event level after lap 1 Gracey ahead by 1 point after lap 2 and John again ahead by a point by lap 3. Simon fell back with a 5 on Hill 5 which he had cleared previously and although he was the only competitor to clean Hill 4 Master McKinney held it together to win by 3 with 64 to Simon's 67.

Brian Edgar was off form having trouble all day with Hill 4 only getting past the 9 on his last lap, Harry Barr suffered transmission failure on the Crossle and was towed out by tractor, and Michael McBratney finished despite a left hand brake failure. Mervyn McKinney broke a stub axle but being a McKinney carried a spare and effected a repair. So off to the Pub at the top of Tandragee for results, wounds were cleaned drink was taken and by 2100 hours all was well in the world of trialling.

Results Class A	1 <sup>st</sup>	John McKinney	64
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Simon Gracey	67
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom Mckinney	73

Class B	1 <sup>st</sup>	David Webster	107
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2<sup>nd</sup> Geoff Mc Kay 110  
3<sup>rd</sup> Michael McBratney 160