

Stewarts Farm Trial Sat 28 the Sept 2013 by Clive Gracey

The first Championship Event on the Club's Calendar after the successful shake down event at Jim McMahan's during the previous weekend. Ten drivers, ten cars with a few absentees' notably Tom McKinney off in his TR3A on a tour of Donegal, Harry Barr unable to drive due to shoulder problems but never the less determined to return as soon as possible and John Keatley was playing with vintage machinery (an Invicta).Alastair Booth will be joining the fray hopefully at the next event.

We have had a super summer warm and dry with little rain and ground conditions reflect this, no moisture, hard sun baked hills with only a slight dew to cause concern so sections were tight and tyres were set at 5lbs, in fact with hindsight we could have had them up to 8lbs.

Michael McBratney was doing his 1st CoC duties leaving his Sherpa at home and a good job he did 5 Hills had been set up on Friday with help provided by Geoff McKay and it was good to see that they had found ways of changing to new ground this well used site.

This was going to be a low scoring event and so it proved, after the draw and CoC's briefing off to the hills we went, I say we because I was passengering for Geoff Mc Kay in his SRB as my tow car is currently off the road-who said Subaru Outback's were indestructible?

Hill 1 lap 1 saw cleans by Simon Gracey, Andrew McKinney, Trevor Aston and Mervyn McKinney others were not so lucky with a few 5's and even a 12, however as the day wore on scores dropped and a clean was on the cards for most drivers.Hill 2 likewise improved however the lesson that it is vital to walk the Hill before attempting to drive up was learnt the hard way by McKinney Snr who took the wrong approach at the 12 marker and got himself an 11. Hill 3 collected the lowest scores all day,however when CoC McBratney tightened it after 2 laps a 1 lost cost Andrew McKinney a tie for 1stand more than likely the Win based on engine size and allowed Simon Gracey to win and a nice start to the 2013/14 season. Hill 4 required careful driving being tight and a little slippery so a nice trickle was the order of the day. Hill 5 Cleaned till after 2 laps Michael made an alteration which resulted in nobody getting up to the 1.

And so the day drew to a close, David Webster now promoted to Class A after his tough battle with Harry Barr and his win of our Class B Championship had a difficult day with SU carb problems,and Geoff McKay won Class B passengered by Gracey Snr (they were the only car in that Class!). Club Sec Peter Frost carried the Class C win from Gerard Currid who gets better all the time-Facsimiles do climb well. Where was Trevor Aston the Class A 2013 Champion, well he came 5th Tom if you must know.Oh and there's work to do on Andrew's car judging by the clouds of blue smoke pouring out of the exhaust by events end-you may park up the TR and get the spanners out.

Results 1st Class A Simon Gracey 3, 2nd Andrew McKinney 4, 3rd John McKinney 10.

Class B went to Geoff McKay

Class C - 1st Peter Frost, 2nd Gerard Currid.

