

Shanes' Hill Trial 11th Oct 2014 CoC Geoff McKay

By Clive Gracey

At last we have had some rain and ground conditions have become more trial friendly. Shane's Hill is an enormous site covering some 1200 acres, mostly Rough Mountain grazing with lots of wet spots with little hills and ditches through which we can trial.

Geoff had before the rains came been hard pressed to find sections with the necessary 'stop ability' however the rain came and his search was over. 5 Hills were set out, the weather on the day was more spring like than winter with sunshine all through the event the views from which are superb.

Hill 1 started with a run through a deep ditch followed by a climb around the top with an easy decent followed by a very steep ending only cleared on all 4 rounds by 2 drivers, Gracey Jnr and tricklemeister Webster.

Hill 2 Trickier than 1 and was to award 11's in the final round to the unwary.

Hill 3 The hill which gave Master Gracey his win, a start which got tougher as the day wore on with a very slippery middle section and a very tough finish, a mixture of blast and trickle, the best Hill on the day.

Hill 4 a run around rocks and a slippery ditch, caused trouble for all except Andrew McKinney who even cleaned it on his last lap a feat only he managed.

Hill 5 another water filled ditch with slippery approach and tough climbs, Brian Edgar showed how to do this one except on his last lap when instead of making it 4 cleans in a row caught a 6.

Scrutineering over followed by the CoC's warning re 4 wheels out and a very generous invite back to his house for refreshments after the event was over(no local pubs nearby which must be a first for Ireland) off we all set up a good lane to the start hills.

At the end of round 1 Brian Edgar today in his Hamilton was showing us all how to trickle, and he can trickle with the best especially when driving this new machine, he was on 2 lost, next best were on 9's and further down the field high 40's had been lost.

Round 2 still had Brian in top slot with a total of 6 lost to Gracey's 12 and Tom McKinney's 18. In Class B Harry Barr was on 23 after an 11 on the start of hill 3 and in Class C and driving for the first time Alan Mackey was on 93, Alan was driving the CoC's car and ended the day on the Trophy list by winning the Class so well done him.

Round 3 and Brian made a slip failing at the 7 marker on the dreaded Hill 3 Gracey Jnr cleaned 3 again and the gap closed with Brian now on 17 to Simons 22, Tom was on 25 and the rest followed.

Round 4 Hill 3 now required power and plenty of it, despite Peter Flacks bouncing the Hamilton collected a 9 leaving Brian on 17 for the lap and 34 for the day. Simon Gracey again cleaned hill 3 for his final climb, his new McKinney 16 valve really is the business. Tom McKinney and John McKinney also got cleans on this very difficult hill.

So that was that Simon Gracey won through with 29 lost in second place came Tom McKinney on 33 and a disappointed Brian Edgar was 3rd on 34 the 9 on Hill 3 when he needed the grunt cost him the win.

In Class B Harry Barr came home on 65 after again Hill 3 cost him 41 points. In Class C Alan Mackey held the lead over Gerard Currid.

Simon's father passengered for him, Tom McKinney beat his son Andrew and Mervyn McKinney beat his son John, hard to keep these old boys down.

Results Class A Simon Gracey 29

Tom McKinney 33

Brian Edgar 34

Class B Harry Barr 65

M McBratney 116

Class C Alan Mackey 173

Gerard Currid 182