

Tweeds 2 Trial Sat 15th Nov 2014 CoC Michael McBratney

By Clive Gracey

We had a very wet week leading up to Saturdays event and to add insult to injury it poured down on Saturday morning right up to our start time of 12 noon. The ground on this site would be damp midsummer, after recent rains it was rather like trying to drive over a wet sponge, 12's were scored plus many 11's, total scores headed for 100 plus-a real 'mudplug'.

Ten cars made the journey down to Larne; all the usual suspects were in attendance excepting Geoff McKay who had important business at home. Geoff had given Michael help during the week in setting up the event and even allowing for the very wet ground conditions required changes to sections were simple-move starts back and allow a good run up to the hills.

CoC Michael McBratney having sorted the draw lectured on 4 wheels out and organised the après trial venue sent us to the hills.

Hill 1 Starting the wrong side of a fast flowing ditch then climbed up a steep and twisting slope. Only the Tom McKinney's both father and son did anyway well on the 1st lap-was it their start hill? Who knows?

Hill 2 Again only climbed on lap 1 by Andrew McKinney and then only to the 6 the rest of the field all scored 11's-well Brian Edgar and David Webster got 10's.

Hill 3 Possibly the best of the 5 sections resulting in scores ranging from zero (Mervyn McKinney) to 11's (Andrew McKinney).

Hill 4 The toughest by a mile on the 1st lap a score of 11 was good! And a number of 12's were made Simon Gracey managing his 12 on lap 1.

Hill 5 cleans were the order of the day on round 1 thereafter it became difficult to get past the 7 even in 4th gear with the V Tec button pressed.

So the event began and by the end of lap 1 Andrew McKinney had put his mark down for a win losing only 15 to next best man his father Tom on 32 and Uncle Mervyn on 33, Gracey Jnr was on 35, tricklemeister Webster 37 and Brian Edgar today driving his Crossle as the Hamilton was with 'Kintec' having its engine rebuilt was on 40. In Class B Harry Barr had the lead on 42 with Peter only 1 behind on 43. Gerard Currid slipped and fell twisting his ankle and retired at this stage.

Lap 2 saw Uncle Mervyn close the gap on Andrew with a super round for only 11 lost; Andrew lost 24 and Simon 33 which only went to show how good 11 was. Tom McKinney got round on 29 and I mention that so as not to be accused of favouritism with regard to my son! Harry Barr completed lap 2 on 31 and the lead in Class.

Lap 3 Mervyn McKinney now had the lead after a super lap on 22 to Andrew McKinney's 29. He was on 66 in total to Andrews 68. Simon Gracey also shone getting round on the lowest score for that lap of 20 to David Webster's 21 and Brian Edgars 23 .

Lap 4 And an 11 on Hill 4 cost Mervyn the win, somehow Andrew got past it and up to the 4 for a round of 18 with a total of 86 to Mervyn's 93. Only father Tom McKinney equalled Andrews climb also getting a 4, everyone else got either a 10 or more probably 11's. What do you think of that Trevor- well father Gracey was pleased to note on receiving the results that Simon had 'slipped' past Tom into 3rd place on 118 to Tom's 119.

Tea in the paddock followed by pints in the Pub, results and home, ended a wet trial where 'Mudplugging was definitely the correct description of events.

Results Class A 1st Andrew McKinney 86

2nd Mervyn McKinney 93

3rd Simon Gracey 118

4th Tom McKinney 119

Results Class B 1st Harry Barr 136

2nd Peter Frost 147.