

STCC SIMMS TRIAL REPORT

By COC Tom McKinney

The final trial of the Northern Ireland Sporting Trials Championship was held at Simms's farm near Poyntzpass on 07/04/18.

After a week of very wet weather five hills were set up on Friday. Clerk of the Course Tom McKinney considered that 2 sections used in previous years were too dangerous to use (previously, with similar wet conditions 2 competitors had ended up in the small river at the base of the 2 hills in question). Therefore 5 sections had been set up on the south facing part of the site.

Saturday turned out to be a fine dry day and at the drivers briefing tyre pressures were set at 4 psi for Class A and 3 psi for Class B & C. Pat Pennyfeather and Morgan Evans were very welcome guests from the South of Ireland Sporting Trials fraternity and were quickly press ganged into the passenger seat of cars driven by Trevor Aston and Peter Frost.

At the beginning of the trial it was hard to believe that most competitions were able to trickle the sections and Trevor Aston had dropped no points at the end of the first round, but conditions were soon to change and blasting was required on most sections thereafter. So, at the end of round 1 Trevor Aston was leading from Mervyn McKinney, David Webster and Geoffrey McKay. An uncharacteristic mistake on hill 1 left John McKinney languishing in 9th position on 7 points.

On round 2 Class B competitor Graeme Jennings equalled fast recovering John McKinney's loss of 3 to more into 2nd position in class, behind David Webster on 6. Mervyn McKinney had a horrid 2nd round having gone the wrong way on hill 4 ending with a score of 15. Trevor Aston on 5 continued to lead Class A.

Round 3, and an 8 on hill 5 saw Trevor's Class A lead disappear. Impressive rounds from Harry Barr and John McKinney left both leading their respective classes. Michael McBratney on 18 had demoted David Webster 19 to 3rd in Class B.

Round 4 and on a loss of only 3 points for Mervyn McKinney saw father and son tied on 26 points, the nod going to Mervyn with 11 cleans to John's 9. Class B was equally close with Michael McBratney and Harry Barr finishing on 27, this time Michael with 8 cleans to Harry's 7.

Alistair Morrison, and son Jacob were the only entrants in Class C and finished with a creditable score of 82, 5 points in front of a misfiring (the engine that is) Peter Frost.

A big thanks to the landowner Alan Simms for allowing us to play on his land despite the wet and slippery conditions.

RESULTS:

Class A	1 st M.McKinney/B.Dillon	26	Kintek
	2 nd J.McKinney/R.McKinney	26	Concord
	3 rd T.Aston/P.Pennyfeather	31	Crossle'
Class B	1 st M.McBratney/B.McClay	27	Sherpa
	2 nd H.Barr/D.Cross	27	Crossle'
	3 rd D.Webster/E.Peyton	39	Concord
Class C	1 st A.Morrison/J.Morrison	82	SRB