

Tweeds Farm Site 1 Trial Sat 1st Nov 2014. CoC, C. W. Gracey

By Clive Gracey.

This is the site where a number of years ago a BTRDA Final was held then it was wet and blowing a gale, on Saturday it was fine ,no wind and only a light drizzly which timed it's arrival toward the end of the event. The event is special in that the Clubs prizegiving takes place later in the evening, also and more importantly in times past it was known as The English Visitors Trial, however in recent times visitors were scarce with only Duggie Parkinson and Simon Kingsley making the journey over. This year Duggie had worked wonders persuading 4 drivers to make the journey over so as normal we had Simon Kingsley now accompanied by Martin Grimwood, Richard Sharp and Barry Hogg.

5 sections had been laid out by Gracey Snr very ably assisted by Gerard Currid who had motored down from Portstewart with his Facksimile in tow. This work was done in dry sunny conditions on the previous Wednesday, rain was required, but would it come?

Hill 1 near the paddock ended with a very steep climb and the 1 marker was in fact over the top so no running up and putting a wheel past for a clean, the hill had to be climbed.

Hill 2 a long tough climb, Richard Sharp showed everybody how to drive on this one losing only 3 points all day.

Hill 3 a tricky one this with a tough start a difficult middle and a final run up to the 1 only cleared by 2 drivers in the first 2 laps.

Hill 4 an easy looking start which actually handed out an 11 to one of our members! 'way' and trickle skills needed.

Hill 5 a new Hill which looked easy but was not, the eventual winner nearly had his day ruined here collecting a 7 where nobody else did and later recovering from a mistake at the 8 marker which only Houdini could have done.

And so after Scrutineering done as normal by Michael Henderson this time assisted on the 'Butterfield' diff testing by Tom McKinney and a CoC's chat by the Chairman who although helped by many notes still managed to forget various instructions off to the hill we went.

17 cars had made the start among the missing Trevor Aston whose cars-yes he now has 2 both of which were not ready, John Keatley away on a half term break with his family and Alan Mackay also off on holiday.

By the end of lap 1 it was apparent that Richard Sharp was a very skilled pilot he was on 8 lost, the only other man on single figures was Andrew McKinney on 7, next best up was tricklemeister D Webster on 11 who was driving very consistently especially when one looks at the end results. He was also marshalling in a very tough but correct manner STCC members will in future need to watch if being followed by Messers Webster and Payton as no quarter will be given even to 'family'. And so by the start of lap 2 Andrew McKinney had the lead from Richard Sharp followed by Webster on 11 and Gracey jnr on 12. Brian Edgar was on 19. In Class B Harry Barr had the lead.

Lap 2 saw changes; Messers Sharp, Gracey and McKinney (A) were now on 17 with Brian Edgar after a super round losing only 2 now with 21 to David Webster's 22 and the rest followed.

Lap 3 Simon Gracey, Andrew McKinney and Simon Kingsley showed the way on zeros for the lap, Brian Edgar was on 2 for 23 lost to Gracey's 17 which he shared with Andrew and Richard was on 19.

Lap 4 Brian Edgar won the event on this lap when after a shower ground conditions became ever more tricky (I have forgotten to mention that tyre pressures were set at 5lbs) he did a zero score lap ending on 23 lost to Richard Sharps 24 and Simon Graceys 28, a 6 on hill 3 cost Simon the win but he was more than happy with 3rd place for the event and a 2nd in his home championship. Andrew was 1 point behind followed by Simon Kingsley in 5th with David Webster in 6th. In Class B Harry Barr won on 77 and Gerard won Class C.

So home some went to change and return to The Templeton Hotel in Templepatrick, others went direct to this excellent establishment and to the bar where Dougie P David W and many McKinney's put the world of trialling to rights.

The Chairman and guests Campbell Tweed and wives arrived close on 7.30 to enjoy a nice meal, a drink or two and an evening's chat and banter. Prizes were awarded, speeches made and Tom McKinney ably assisted by Trevor Aston held the annual tombola session, as midnight approached sensible people slipped off home and left the night to Master Webster and his followers.

Results Class A

1st Brian Edgar 23
2nd Richard Sharp 24
3rd Simon Gracey 28
4th Andrew McKinney 29
5th Simon Kingsley 37

Results Class B

1st Harry Barr 77
2nd Michael McBratney 86
3rd Peter Frost 121
4th Geoff McKay 141

Results Class C

6th David Webster 43

1st Gerard Currid 163