

# Wightmans Site 1 Trial Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec CoC Andrew McKinney

By Clive Gracey

Wightmans Site 1-better known as Wightmans Grass is a tricky venue, if dry it needs to be tight if wet as it was on Saturday plenty of room needs to be left between the posts and a light oh so light throttle foot is required. Andrew had got it right; all the 5 sections were different from previous events and his 3lbs for tyre pressures was spot on. Plenty of thought had gone into this event, lots of adverse cambers, new climbs and as the ground was wet and very slippery skill and lots of it was required.

9 cars made the journey to Dunmore with only Gerard Currid missing. Tom Mckinney was handling Scrutineering as both Michael Henderson and Trevor Aston were missing, no soft touch he and it was noticed that yet again Brian Edgar had been having more work done in the engine department this time 'Kintec 'had upgraded the cooling system-expense no problem-just get it right.

Hill 1. The start looked OK but passing up through the 9, 8 and 7 was tricky, throttle control for the final ascent especially passing the 4 marker was required, this hill only cleaned in the 1<sup>st</sup> lap by Masters Gracey and Webster.

Hill 2. A long section starting at one side of a little valley and ending up with a steep and oh so slippery climb, again any heavy right foot action ended all forward motion. Passing the 9 marker the layout made it possible, if you were not paying attention, to go 4 wheels out. Sometimes this matters sometimes not; it's a matter of judgement however the rule is important and must be adhered to.

Hill 3. An area not used for quite a while, plenty of adverse camber climbs with a high gear finish.

Hill 4. Used many times but still Andrew had made subtle changes and if care was not taken on take off a 10 was easily collected.

Hill 5. Completely new and very difficult only cleaned once by Brian Edgar and David Webster. Getting to the start required caution as there was a bog to get round, Gracey Jnr drove straight into this morass! And this going to his 1<sup>st</sup> hill of the day-much pushing and revving got the car out but all was covered in mud, more work for father on Monday.

So after the usual CoC chat and with tyres set at 3 lbs off all went.

At the end of lap 1 Master Gracey had the lead on 6 lost to Tom McKinney's 9, Brian Edgar's 10 and David Webster's 14 in Class B Harry Barr was on 15 passengered by Andrew Petrie whose father was a Triallist many years ago.

Lap 2 and Brian now the acknowledged 'tricklemaster' got round for 2 lost and a total of 12, Tom was on 4 for a total of 13 to Simon Gracey's 10 and a total of 16. Further down the field Harry Barr was on 30 and Mervyn McKinney 40, two 8's on Hill 2 and a 10 on Hill 4 had sealed his fate. Tricklemeister Webster had fallen foul of the adverse cambers on Hill 5 scoring a total of 21 lost on this hill alone- looking at his final score and subtracting 21 would have put him ahead of his friend the Thursday Club Chairman-that would never do eh Trevor!.

Lap 3 Brian was now well on his way to the win, a super lap for only 5 lost saw him on 17 to Tom McKinney's 23. David Webster lapped on 10 whilst down the field and really having a poor season suddenly John Mc Kinney woke up and posted a lap on 7 lost and to finish lapped round 4 on 6, is this the start of a comeback?

Lap 4. Both Brian and Simon got round on 4's Brian for a total of 21 to Simon's 32 with Tom McKinney in between on 28 –"I did not see him all day Trevor he just 'Slipped' in to his 2<sup>nd</sup> place as we have come to expect." In Class B Harry did the business but note Michael McBratney in his Sherpa was only 12 behind the Crossle mounted Harry, Michael has got his Sherpa going well and is fast learning the ropes so watch out Harry.

That was that Brian did the business 'Kintec' improvements begin to pay off and of course we must not forget that he is a 2 times BTRDA Gold Star winner and a winner of the Clubs in house Championship.

Harry won Class B from which no doubt he will be ejected after this season leaving Michael McBratney a good run at the Class B Championship-time will tell.

Event over all retired to the Millbrook Lodge Hotel for a pint and the results which were-

Class A 1st Brian Edgar 21

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom McKinney 28

3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Gracey 32

4<sup>th</sup> David Webster 46

Class B 1<sup>st</sup> Harry Barr 53

2<sup>nd</sup> Michael McBratney 62

3<sup>rd</sup> Geoff McKay 123

