

Fees Farm Trial 1 at Tullynasoo Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jan CoC M.Henderson.

By Clive Gracey.

On the previous Saturday this venue was covered under 4 to 5 inches of snow and Michael Henderson assisted by the writer with grandson Samuel in attendance had difficulty moving around with posts etc in the Gracey Crossle on 4 lbs of air. Snow disguises hazards, making the area look smooth and sound when in fact the ground has many hazards-rabbit holes and awkward steps besides wet areas and in the case of Hill 1 very wet areas.

Leaving these problems aside parking up a steep concrete lane would have been difficult unless we had a thaw. However 4 Hills were set out and as the Clubs plan was to use a further 4 Hills at the rear of this mountainous site on the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb we had to trust Mother Nature to come to our aid and get rid of the snow.

By Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> the snow had gone, 12 cars arrived at the parking area used for the first time and although small comfortably did the job. A surprise was in store as Alan Mackey brought along his Concord which during the last couple of years he has completely rebuilt to a very high standard.

The Hills now clear of snow looked easy, Hill 1 started with a simple climb around a rock followed by a sort of straight into a wet rush covered soft area to the main climb which was steep –no trickle here-a heavy right foot was needed.

Hill 2 not used in the past ran up and around a steep grass covered area, dropped down to the start level and climbed up the middle of the steep mound again.

Hill 3 an area used in the past with a finish that got harder as the day wore on.

Hill 4 was the simplest cleaned by most all day however when laid out in the snow the best Gracey Snr could manage was a 10!

So scrutineering done CoC Michael gave warning re 4 wheels out, instructions on tyre pressures which were 4lbs Class A, 3 Class B and 2 Class C and most importantly directions to Greenans Pub for the results after which we drove off to the hills.

By the end of lap 1 it was clear that this event was going to be won on a low score, Andrew McKinney, Brian Edgar and David Webster had yet to lose points behind them were a number on 3 lost with in Class B Michael McBratney looking good on 5 and at this stage tying with Harry Barr.

Lap 2 and now Andrew McKinney was on his own with a zero score, Brian Edgar had failed on Hill 1 catching a 3, David Webster was now on 4 and the rest followed. In Class B Michael McBratney had slipped back to 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Geoff McKay now in the lead followed by Harry Barr, this was soon to change.

Lap 3 Andrew still held the lead on zero, Brian was now on 7 and David Webster had slipped down with a poor lap and was now on 15

Tom McKinney had now pulled himself up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place with John in 4<sup>th</sup> and in Class B Michael McBratney had pulled back to joint 2<sup>nd</sup> with Harry Barr but Geoff McKay had the lead and in Class C Alan Mackey was going very well with no teething problems whatever. A great 1<sup>st</sup> drive in a very well rebuild car.

The final round saw changes, Andrew McKinney held his nerve lost a 3 on hill 2 but finished with that score for the win, Brian Edgar got home in second place on 9 lost to Tom McKinney's 14, John McKinney finished on 22 and David Webster tied with Mervyn McKinney on 29 but beat him on cleans, last man in Class A was an

off from Simon Gracey who did not get into the event all day and was like the writer glad to see it finished, In Class B Michael McBratney held his nerve and slid home with a 1 point lead on Harry Barr and well done him, Geoff McKay had a bad last lap on 11 lost and his lead went. Alan Mackey in Class C had a super last lap losing only 9 to Geoff's 11."Geoff the pressures on with both your pals Michael and Alan showing such talent". It was noticed by the writer that when Tom McKinney's daughter and husband arrived to cast an eye over proceedings that the Ballymore camp were on best behaviour. Oh yes Trevor at the paddock Tom threatened me with 3 points off my licence for a poor front tyre, what will he be like when he finally retires and has time on his hands?

Results Class A 1st Andrew McKinney 3

2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Edgar 9

3<sup>rd</sup> Tom McKinney 14

4<sup>th</sup> John McKinney 22

Class B 1st Michael McBratney 35

2<sup>nd</sup> Harry Barr 36

Class C 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Mackey 78

