

## Thompson continues his winning ways

Round 8 of the ANICC Northern Ireland Hillclimb Championship took place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August at Garron Point Hillclimb, organised by Mid Antrim Motor Club. With 69 starters, the event is gaining popularity every year with the numbers increasing. The yellow weather warning that threatened never came and the event missed the heavy rain and thunder storms that was forecast. The recently stoned road made the course more difficult for some, but the event ran very well with few incidents.

Graham Thompsons first timed run in the 36 second bracket was to be a step ahead of the competition with the best of the rest on a 38 second run. Gerard O'Connell was in 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in his radical, Richard McGimpsey was in 3<sup>rd</sup> 0.15 behind, Chris Houston had returned with his OMS after some mechanical troubles earlier in the year and was in 4<sup>th</sup>, Andy Hawthorne was on a charge in 5<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> timed run was to be quicker for the majority and Graham extended his lead with a 36.53 second run. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> timed run took place the temperature had dropped quite a bit and the times slowed but Alan Cassells went faster in the last run to enter into the top 5 with a 38 second run and took 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the Modified section Roger Gage in his Maguire Mini was fastest again and an incredible 8<sup>th</sup> overall, Ivan McCullough in his monster GTR was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Oliver Cormican in his Evo in 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Road going section, Andrew Robb in his BMW M3 was fastest, with Paul Montgomery hot on his heels in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Michael McAllister was in 3<sup>rd</sup> in his escort.

The classes winners were Garry McClurg, Andrew Robb, Paul Magill, Paul Montgomery, Phil Dorman, Stephen Harvey, Steven Robb, David Hawthorne, Roger Gage, David Francis, Gerard O'Connell, Alan Roddy, Daniel Campbell, Ivan McCullough, Ryan McGimpsey, Graham Thompson, Trevor McIlroy, Alan Jardine.

The next and last event in the Hillclimb calendar is Eagles Rock Hillclimb near Benone on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. This is a bonus point scoring round for the championship which could change the standings, entries are open on Rallyscore.net so please get you entries in early if you plan to go!

### Garron Point Top 10

- 1<sup>st</sup> Graham Thompson GTR
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gerard O'Connell Radical
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard McGimpsey RMG
- 4<sup>th</sup> Chris Houston OMS
- 5<sup>th</sup> Alan Cassells Radical
- 6<sup>th</sup> Andy Hawthorne Lotus
- 7<sup>th</sup> Ryan McGimpsey Jedi
- 8<sup>th</sup> Roger Gage Maguire Mini
- 9<sup>th</sup> Brendan Flynn Megapin
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ivan McCullough GTR