

SPORTING TRIALS CAR CLUB LTD (STCC)

Wightman's Prizegiving Trial Report by Harry Barr

Hallowe'en was a big occasion for STCC as Saturday 29 October was their annual Prizegiving trial. This was followed by the Annual dinner and distribution of prizes for the 2015/16 Championship. The trial also known as the 'English Visitors Trial' was hosted by William Wightman at his farm near Ballynahinch. Four teams made the long journey from Cumbria and Yorkshire to compete for the prestigious Kincraft Trophy. This was the 3rd round of the new STCC championship and it was good to see a turnout of 12 cars.

Six hills were set up on Thursday by Clerk of the Course (COC) Dougie Parkinson from Cumbria. The hills were situated in a circuit fairly close together so were convenient for drivers and spectators alike. All the hills had progressive challenges and with zeros ranging from 2 to 17 there was clearly something for everyone. Trickling skills were certainly the order of the day and once the tyres let go, blasting generally got you nowhere. Hills 1,2,3,4 and 6 had tricky steep finishes from the 3 gate while the finish at hill 5 had so many choices that it defeated most drivers all day!

Saturday started damp and misty and as the conditions were quite slippery the COC declared tyre pressures of 3psi for Class A independent rear suspension cars and 2psi for the rest. Trevor Aston was sharp out of the blocks and shared the lead with Martin Grimwood from Yorkshire with only 1 penalty point dropped in the first round. The COC tweaked some of the hills and round 2 saw Andrew McKinney complete 6 zeros and take the lead with a total of 2 to Trevor's 4. The mist had now lifted and it was very pleasant conditions when everyone returned to the yard for lunch while the COC made more devious changes to the gates.

On round 3, Harry Barr and passenger Lawrence Knox put themselves into contention by dropping only 1 point and now trailed Andrew by 2. Amongst the visitors, Richard Sharp was leading Barry Hogg by 4 and in Class B David Webster was on 31 penalties and held a 1 point lead over Lindsay Burke.

The final round saw some positional changes as the deteriorating grip levels caught out some of the drivers. Andrew McKinney held his nerve and his lead and was overall winner on 15 points. This was only Andrew's third outing since switching to his newly refurbished ex-Edgar Crossle so after a tentative start to the season, things are now looking very positive. Behind him, Harry Barr slipped up and was pushed into 3rd by current Champion Brian Edgar. In Class B, David Webster held off Lindsay Burke and the lone competitor in Class C was well known rally driver Drew Wylie who was trying out the sport again after a break of 30 odd years! Among the visitors, Barry Hogg had a great round 4 and drew level with Richard Sharp – actually winning the Kincraft Trophy on zeros countback.

Everyone seemed to agree that it was an excellent trial, with good weather, good parking and hills well set up by the COC. So a big thanks to the landowner Wm Wightman and Dougie Parkinson.

Results:	A McKinney	(A)	15
	B Edgar	(A)	22
	H Barr	(A)	23
	T Aston	(A)	26
	B Hogg	(V)	31
	R Sharpe	(V)	31
	J Armistead	(V)	39
	J McKinney	(A)	46
	S Gracey	(A)	47
	M Grimwood	(V)	50
	D Webster	(B)	53
	L Burke	(B)	57
	P Frost	(B)	58
	M McBratney	(B)	60
	D Wylie	(C)	82
	T McKinney	(B)	87

The Prizegiving Dinner was held later in the evening in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle and following the wining and dining, an impressive 50 odd trophies were handed out.

Main recipients were:	Class A	Champion driver	B Edgar
		Runner up	S Gracey
		Best Passenger	P Flack
	Class B	Winning driver	M McBratney
		Runner up	P Frost
		Best Passenger	M Henderson
	Class C	Winning driver	A Mackey
		Runner up	G Currid