

John Southern 7th October 2018 Hay Fell

The sign on the gate said, “motorsport can be dangerous.” How true. Ironic that the gate was instrumental in the incident that left Richard Sharp hors de combat before the trial began. Put a bit of a damper on things.

For those unfamiliar with the Hay Fell the site is close to Kendal on the delightfully named Paddy Lane which runs between the A684 and A685 to the East of the town. The ground is undulating rough pasture, scrubby in parts, offering plenty of scope for a variety of sections. Access is good enough. Like so many of our sites it provides scenic views. Here we are treated with views over the town, the hills beyond and any inclement weather coming in from the West.

Round One – The grass was still very wet after a cold night and heavy dew. Mike Salton, ably assisted by Tom Walker, put down a marker with a clear round followed Bob and Mark Tallon, who had just missed clearing the tricky Hill 3. Bryan and Mark Simpson dropped three points, all on Hill 1, a hill which bugged them for most of the trial. Barry and Joanne were on five, again Hills 1 and 3 to blame and Neil McHardy (with Stephen Postlethwaite on this occasion) was also on five . . . yep Hills 1 and 3 with a slight indiscretion on Hill 5. The odd numbered hills were responsible for most of penalties picked up at this trial. Bill Rhodes, passengered by Lou Hayton and Brian Thornton, with Tom Anson, were the only other crews on single figures with eight points dropped. Mike Storrar had a really good first round but the mojo was mislaid after that. Mike was running with Richard Howell so they could passenger each other and Richard’s first round was fairly ropey but his second round was very respectable.



Round Two – Chris and Ben Hodgson were also running in tandem. On the last couple of occasions they’ve been competing Ben has beaten his dad. It wasn’t to be this time. He had a fairly dodgy start but followed that with a really good second round, scoring a rare three on Hill 3. It all went avocado shaped after that but Ben still collected the C Class award by some margin.



Jeff Armitstead had set out a good range of hills. Hill 2, (which I was marshalling) was uncomplicated with a step at the top, basically you got a one - but crews arriving from Ben Adamson’s hill, Hill 1, came with tails of woe and misfortune. And on Hill 3 any score was possible from a clear to a ten. After Jeff tweaked it at the start of the second round Bill, Brian and Neil Mac all copped a ten and Barry collected a nine. The wind had picked up during the morning and, although it was still overcast, the ground was drying out. So, the minimum pressure went up to 5psi in the afternoon and it was Mike Salton who set out with a slender lead.



Round Three – The odd numbered hills took their toll in the afternoon but Bryan cleared all but Hill 1 which was a four for nearly everyone else - and that settled it. Mike and Bob both dropped sixes on Hill 5, I think it was Karen in charge (it must have been really windy up there) and Barry managed to pick up an eight on Hill 3. It was here that Phil Yarwood decided to call it a day and was good enough to marshal Hill 6 for the rest of the afternoon. Round Four – Chris Hodgson finished in sixth, just behind Bill Rhodes, having improved through the day and finishing with just four

dropped on the last round, a score bettered only by Barry Hogg. Neil Mac was sitting quite nicely in fifth at the end of the third round when he was mugged by the odd-numbered hills dropping him back a couple of places. Brian T finished eighth despite a valiant effort in the last round.

Results – Bryan won the trial with a grand total of fourteen . . . and grand it was. Mike Salton and Bob Packham were tied on points but Mike had two more clears and took second place while Bob won Blue Class. Barry Hogg was fourth and Bill Rhodes fifth. Chris Hodgson won the BTRDA R@@&!£ Class and Neil McHardy our B Class. Neil Martin and his passenger, Hadley Robertson, finished between Mike Storrar and Richard Howell and that seemed about right. Geoff Wolfenden and his crew Gordon Biltcliffe have only done a couple of trials so far yet they pottered about purposefully and seemed to enjoy it. Early days. In fact Geoff came up on Saturday to help Jeff set up - so good for him.

Special mentions go to all those who helped sort out Richard and Joe.



Rob Baxter