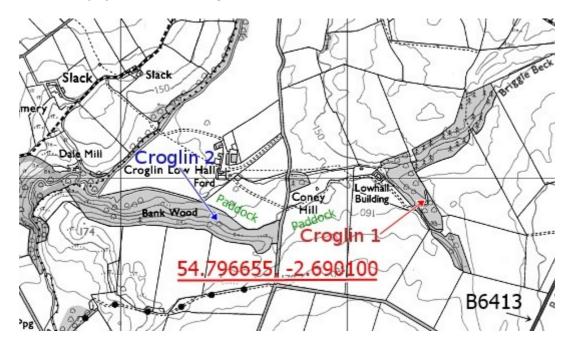
The Edenhall Trophy 27/01/19 Croglin 1



It was cold. Nevertheless, seventeen hardy crews set out to do their thing at Croglin 1. Andrew, Brian T and Mike Storrar had previously pushed in the poles and included a couple of sections in the field to the East, complete with custom made slippery slope. As the old track up to the field is blocked by a fallen tree the only way is up . . . and over. The fallen tree shows up really well on Google satellite maps by the way. Simon K, Matthew and Bryan wielded the pencils, along with Martin's friends, Malcolm and Carrie, who had generously come along to help out.



The score sheet can be found at the bottom of the report if you want to miss out this waffle but it was Bill Rhodes who pocketed the lowest lunchtime total followed by Jeff Armitstead. However, they both collected eights in the next round which settled matters somewhat, Jeff made sure it was settled by collecting a hatfull in the afternoon. I think maybe Bill missed a gate on Simon's hill but I'm sure Simon won't mention it again. But apparently Bill sounded better, well at least Bill's car sounded better after a short holiday in Little Corby and, in the end he finished second, equal on points but ahead on clears from Mike Salton. Mike had a grand day out (without the cheese) but a few points seemed to slide away on Bryan's hill.

Bob was fourth and Martin fifth having each been handed eights on Hill 6 either side of lunch. No doubt with the master tweakers up there there were more alterations than at Bunny's Bridal Boutique in April.

Brian T was sixth, passengered by Miss Dynamite, no not Barbara (on this occasion) but Carolyn Dean – qualified stunt actor. Ironic really, Brian is the last driver to *need* a stunt

passenger. Barry Hogg finished seventh just ahead of the Jeff Armitstead. Chris Hodgson was ninth and comfortably ahead of Mike Storrar. Ben Hodgson and Richard Waterhouse were eleventh and twelfth. It was nice to see Richard out again in his Xhosa speaking car after a slight hiatus (no he hasn't had an operation). Richard Howell, who was doubling up with Richard W, was next up ahead of new member and first time trialer John Firth. A very creditable effort and a pot to boot. John Adamson must have had a bit of an off day.



Richard Sharp had a good day and didn't look like handing it to anyone else. Finished on 13. Worthy winner.

Andy and Neil did not have a good day but after long experience they are more than aware that these things happen and they are the first to offer help and assistance if anything untoward befalls a fellow competitor. The pictures below illustrate the spirit of camaraderie within the Club. Neil has been good enough to tell us all about it – see below. Special mentions

Bill – As they say in Clitheroe, Il y a encore de la vie dans le vieux chien. John Firth – for a good effort first time out.

The trials of Andrew and Neil

After a rather nice Saturday night at our clubs presentation dinner during which we were doing our usual entertaining the punters, it was down to business on Sunday and the trial at Croglin 1.

Everything seemed to start off OK but halfway through the first round we threw the alternator belt, not a big problem but an irritation as it is tantamount to gynaecology to replace it. The designers want bloody well shot. Unfortunately the design came from the shop of moteurs Macadee so no one but us to blame. The old car was going quite well and getting up the hills (contrary to the previous evenings song) very well indeed.



Speak too soon I think, as the bloody belt came off again this time taking the alternator pulley with it, luckily all the bits were quickly found and a very temporary repair made by using a wheel nut out of our little toolbox to hold the same in place as the securing nut was very absent. The rest of the morning proceeded without incident and we drove quite satisfactory up until lunch. I had ham and chutney sandwiches which was ominous as the afternoons round was about to turn into chutney very quickly. We started the round on hill #1 and I managed to clear it quite easily considering the slightly mad turn at the 2 gate. Andrew took his turn and got up to the bad turn and as he manoeuvred the car round, it went onto three cylinders then stopped altogether with a loud crack. That sort of thing is

never good, we foolishly rolled the car down the hill to the gulley where it refused to run properly and emitted an ominous clattering noise so we turned it off. Ever the adventurer Andrew insisted on removing the rocker cover to have a deeks at what was wrong, first thing is one of the valves is stuck open until it was given a bump whereupon it reseated. It still wouldn't run and now was backfiring and clattering. The diagnosis? From Andrew it was "I think its f***ed" well that from an expert, you have to take notice.



The only problem now was how do we get this dead car out the gulley and across the field to the pit area? Towing it was the only option but at the end of the trial.

So like good club members we set to and did a bit of marshalling until the end of the day.

We have to thank Geoff Armistead for getting us going but just for fun his car decided to give up the ghost while we were being dragged out. This is going to hell in a hand cart. Eventually we managed to get enough bodies on the

job and man handled the car to the top of the hill where another brave soul gave us a tow back to the pits.

Well we got home and pulled the cylinder head off the next day and discovered a broken valve guide, something I've never heard of before so we wait while mister eBay delivers a new one along with a couple of gaskets.

Thats the third trial in a row we have failed to finish, is it bad maintenance or just bad luck? Darlington we had the wiring burn out on the cooling fan, and Colstons we hit a tree. If it wasn't for bad luck we wouldn't have no luck at all, to paraphrase some blues singer. NmcH

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