

The Edenhall Trophy Trial Croglin 1
30/01/2022

The excitement started early for Andy and Neil when a branch landed a few feet from their car (courtesy of Storm Malik) when they parked up to peg out on Saturday.

Fortunately *they* didn't 'peg out' as the Club can't really spare the Clerks.

Sunday morning was cold (I was told this - because I was in bed at the time. Please don't the idea that this is a first-hand report.) Anyway, it warmed up a little in the afternoon and the rain held off 'til the finish. The site was very dry and quite grippy despite a heavy frost and finding challenging sections was always going to be a . . . challenge.

So sixteen crews set out on 8psi to feed Andrew's computer and as can be seen from a cursory perusal of the score sheet most were fairly miserly. Phil Yarwood, Mike Salton, Andrew Woodhead, Jeff Armitstead, Richard Sharp and Bill Rhodes each collected just a single point in first round all on Hill 1.

Phil's day didn't go to plan much after that, having to retire after losing an argument with a tree in the afternoon. Mike Salton collected unexpected points on Hill 1 again and on Hill 6 but finished behind fifth placed Andrew, who had no disasters but leaked points on the odd hill – well all the odd hills actually. Jeff had a good day clearing all bar two more hills, finishing on a total of three and claiming third place, B Class, the live axle spoils and the Docker Trophy. Bill continued with his fine run of form to post a final and unbeatable total of two. It must have been a course for Cartwrights as Richard collected the same total. The scorer couldn't separate them and as no clogs or a barrel were to hand a rare dead heat was declared.

Bob Packham had a good day finishing fourth on five but he'd given Jeff too much of a start first thing. If there was a prize for 'Best of the Rest' then surely Matthew Sharp would be in with a shout. Has he been beamed down by aliens? Does he have a painting in the attic or a Guru in Nepal? Seventh place on seventeen points put him ten ahead of Barry Hogg (Hill 6!), twenty two ahead of Martin Grimwood and thirty-four ahead of Brian Thornton.

Just outside the top ten was John Firth followed by Colin Armitstead, who won C Class driving the CAP for the first time. That car had been reluctant to run properly so putting it on gas was a good decision. Joe Armitstead next on a very creditable eighty-nine in the ex-Brian Thornton SRB/Lawn. Matthew Kingsley must be thanking his lucky stars that this lad has turned up. John Cressey was running ahead of Joe until overtaken by misfortune in the form of a broken stub axle and taking a final round of twelves. Geoff Wolfenden always seems to have a good day or at least an enjoyable day whatever the score. Perhaps the lesson for the day is to always manage your expectations.

Special mentions – The McHardy boys for knocking in some good sections in difficult conditions.

