

Gold & Silver Star Finals - Frocester January 21st 2023

Well, what a chilly morning 40 competitors found on their arrival at Frocester, perhaps a clue is the name !!

Our CofC David made the significant journey from Northern Island to set up the sections and what a grand job he made with a little help from Ian and Sandy on the Friday. The 9 sections worked really well IF you could cope with driving on frozen grass and yet it was extremely difficult to judge how well one was doing, as most people would manage one section then mess up the next and so on, so when quizzing each other nobody knew who was top dog, although a guess might mention Golden Balls !!

I had the misfortune of following "himself" along with possibly the man of the day Mr Bob Packham, how Bob and Mark got the live axle Kincraft up those damned hills was a site to behold, it was magic to watch and such a treat to see their quite sedate progress up the section, which I had no chance of following. Richard and Joe won the first round with a miserly 26 but a poor 2nd round lost the advantage, but a good 3rd rewarded them with 2nd place overall, well deserved but only 5 points ahead of Bob and Mark!

Then came Harry and Claire in 4th, who I don't think had met before the day, with a very sedate drive which seemed to get them up most everything and the only car clear on hill one on the second round. The rest of the pack Ian Wright, Josh Veale, John Fack and Ian Veale made up the next 5 places with a few ties to JUST score less than 100. As is so common in our sport is the strange way in which one only sees a certain bunch of cars and their crew so it's difficult to mention how they did without using the results but I did see Ian Veale using a high scoring number on hill 4 as if NCP owned it.

However before Ian picks up the phone I will admit to a worst attempt on hill 2 with a 11 for my attempt only to be followed by John Fack copying me and brother Jerome thrashing us both with a 10.

Another glance at the results tells me that Matt Sharp was second live axle on the day in 16th furthering my admiration of Bobs 3rd place. Arthur Carrol who has come on in leaps and bounds this year which has resulted in some great results and a son Jessie with Katie decided to drag Duncan Stephens out and install him into the co driver's seat, obviously there was a language difficulty and understanding the advice Duncan issued, never happened and George Barnes and Lewis Webber were delighted to beat them. They were beaten however by John (I never bloody listen Cole) and Ann!

Alan and Gill Morton along with John Firth and Ann Boyes struggled with either poorly cars or at least strange ones not quite what they have been used too. Sam Beare and Jemima Perham did at least finish in their(sorry Dads Sherpa)recently re-engined car with a later Civic engine proving a little feisty in the conditions.

So, any guesses who won???? On a mere 67. Answers on a post card.

So to the evening, bloody marvellous, brilliantly organised by Elaine Veale and her helpers, magnificently compared by Peter Fensom, amusingly played out by Ian Veale and all tied together by our oh so handsome chairman.

Altogether a great evening shared by a lot of good friends.

Report by Ian Wright