

The Geoff Taylor Sporting Trial - 20th February 2022

The days leading up to the trial were marked by storms moving across the country with the South and Midlands particularly hard hit. For once the north was not so badly affected, much to the relief of the triallers who travelled down from NPTCC country.

We arrived onsite by 9am to find storm Dudley had hit hard - wet ground and some large trees down on the Apley estate. The wind was still blowing but at least it wasn't raining, though the forecast threatened 40+ mph wind again after lunch - would it happen?

Off to the hills...

Round one. Gave a good mix of grass trickling if you were early on the hill and blasting later on. First round honours went to Richard and Joe Sharp on 13 points leading the IRS red class. Bob Packham and Mark Tallon on 19 leading the red live axle class, closely followed by Arthur Carroll and Warren Pinto, also on 19 points, then Dave and Jennie Oliver leading the post historic class on 35.

Round two. Clerk of the course Malcolm Livingstone made the call to reduce tyre pressures from 6psi down to 3psi so the wet and slippery conditions didn't spoil the enjoyment of those running in the mid field order. The first round leaders Richard and Joe Sharp dropped 10 more points so Josh Veal and Jim Lewis took the lead at lunch time dropping just 6 points that round. Bob Packham and Mark Tallon held onto 3rd place dropping 8 points, while Dave and Jennie Oliver maintained their lead in the post historic class.

Round three. After a wet lunch break we headed back to the hills in heavy rain and strong winds blowing as the forecast storm Eunice hit us!

At the end of the round the Red IRS lead was regained by Richard and Joe Sharp taking first overall with 33 points.

Josh Veale and Jim Lewis were 2nd overall with 35 points.

Red live axle class was won by Bob Packham and Mark Tallon with 42 points, with Arthur Carroll and Warren Pinto in 2nd place with 53 points.

Dave and Jennie Oliver continued their faultless drive to comfortably win the post historic class on 66 points.

Other points of note.

It was good to see Alan Baker and Hilary Carrott and also Ian and Jeanette Fullwood back in action, even though both Hilary and Jeanette bailed out!

It was a shame to see 4 crews retiring during the day.

A great days trialling with "proper" weather for February, one of the muddiest trials in years, Oh, and the prize for the cleanest car at the end of the day goes to John Firths and his pressure washer!

The drive home! Storm Eunice, (or was it Franklin by then?) made for monsoon conditions on the M5 travelling south.

Report by Andy Wilks