

The Presidents Trophy Trial

Report by James Tickle

On 27th March Southsea Motor Club organised the President's Trophy Trial near Petersfield in Hampshire. It started as an overcast day with a chill wind (was that Thomas returning from skiing?) but the sun was soon shining to provide a glorious day for trialling. The event was a round of the BTRDA (Sporting trials and Allrounders), MSUK, ASWMC and 750 MC championships. There were 27 entries and 3 non-starters.

On account of the recent dry weather, Paul Faulkner decided that 10 psi was required in order to ensure a result....it certainly produced some higher scores than many are used to! Eight hills had been laid out with two rounds in the morning and one after lunch. A combination of garlic and leaf litter made some sections very challenging, particularly early on. No one scored less than 9 on hill 1 in the first round until the final batch of competitors came through – Richard Sharp, Peter Fensom, George Watson and John Cole being the beneficiaries of their running order on that hill. Hills 7 and 8 also attracted a large number of 10's in the first round. At the end of it George Watson was leading on 18 with Thomas Bricknell and Richard Sharp snapping at his heels on 19. Arthur Carroll was next and the leading live axle competitor.

Round 2 got a little easier, but the sections could still bite back if the slightest mistake was made. George discovered this to his cost on hill 3 and a 10 was the result. The star of the round was Peter Fensom who dropped only 11 to leap from fifth to first. Arthur also had an excellent second round to move up to third at Richard's expense. Thomas remained ready to pounce in second just a point behind Peter.

In the final round the scores continued to fall. There was plenty of unofficial scoring going on and the leading competitors knew that the winner was likely to be either Thomas or Peter. Thomas finished first and headed over to see Peter attempt his final hill (and apply some psychological pressure?). In the end Thomas had done enough to sneak the win by two points.

Elsewhere a costly 9 for Arthur Carroll on hill 1 was enough to return Richard Sharp to the podium and elevate George to fourth. However Arthur was still the leading live axle competitor from Matt Sharp.

The closest finish came in the 750 A class where James Tickle and Dave Overy both finished on 103 points, with James winning out with 8 clear hills against Dave's 7.

The finishers and class winners were as follows:

1 st	Thomas Bricknell	40pts	Overall Winner
2 nd	Peter Fensom	42pts	1 st Red Independent
3 rd	Richard Sharp	47pts	
4 th	George Watson	48pts	
5 th	Arthur Carroll	49pts	1 st Red Live / Live Axle
6 th	Andy Wilks	50pts	
7 th	John Cole	61pts	1 st Blue Independent
8 th	Stuart Beare	63pts	
9 th	Matt Sharp	65pts	1 st Blue Live
10 th	Dave Oliver	76pts	1 st Post Historic
11 th	Mike Readings	78pts	

12 th	Sam Beare	80pts	
13 th	Darren Underwood	82pts	
14 th	Alan Baker	94pts	
15 th	James Tickle	103pts	1 st 750 Class A
16 th	Dave Overy	103pts	
17 th	Alastair Moffatt	125pts	
18 th	Bob Bruce	137pts	
19 th	Stuart Stamp	140pts	1 st Rookie
20 th	Brian Lawrence	153pts	1 st 750 Class B
21 st	Ashley Deacon	156pts	1 st 750 Novice
22 nd	Marcus Deacon	187pts	

Unfortunately, Steve Barnes had to retire with a suspected failing diff and the left fiddle brake failed on Paul Goodyear's Kincraft.

Aside from the competition there was plenty of laughter and banter between the competitors as well as tales from times past. Southsea Motor Club should be congratulated on putting on a challenging event that was well organised and had plenty of marshals to ensure the day ran smoothly.