**Northern Phoenix Trials Car Club (NPTCC)**

**Robin Jager Sporting Trial – Ings, Cumbria**

**Introduction**

The Northern Phoenix Trials Car Club’s **Robin Jager Sporting Trial** at **Ings, Cumbria** served up a real mixed bag of conditions – and a fair helping of drama! With the stunning backdrop of **Lake Windermere** glistening in the morning sunshine, drivers were lulled into a false sense of security. Running at a testing **5psi tyre pressure**, the opening rounds were relatively forgiving. But after the lunch break, the heavens opened, turning grassy banks into skating rinks and making every section a true test of throttle control, balance, and sheer bravery.

**Overall Winner**

A huge **congratulations to Martin Grimwood (with Duncan Walker on the bounce)** for a brilliant and composed drive to take the overall win. In a day when the weather went from picture-postcard to biblical downpour, Martin kept calm, kept clean, and danced his car up the greasy banks with style. His victory also secured him **Independent Blue class honours** – clearly, blue was the colour of the day.

**Class Winners**

* **A Class:** Richard Sharp / Joe Sharp – proving once again that keeping it in the family can bring success (and hopefully no heated debates in the car on the way home).
* **C Class:** Mark Milne / Emma Wall – battling through the worst of the afternoon’s downpour, they clinched the win after a nail-biting tie-break earlier in the day.
* **Independent Red:** Simon Kingsley / Matthew Kingsley – a father-and-son pairing who looked as smooth as the rain-soaked grass wasn’t.
* **Independent Blue:** Martin Grimwood / Duncan Walker – the double crown of overall and class winner.
* **Live Red:** Bob Packham / Mark Tallon – showing great consistency as conditions deteriorated.
* **Live Blue:** Stephen Barnes / Chris Corrigan – proving that mud really is their natural habitat.
* **Rookie:** Alan Carr / Sharren Carr – an excellent debut, keeping their nerve when many veterans were pirouetting like ice dancers.

**Event Highlights**

* The morning’s easy-going sections gave everyone confidence… but confidence soon turned to caution as rain turned the Ings hillside into something resembling a water park slide.
* Spectators were treated to some spectacular saves – and the odd gentle nudge into the scenery. (Let’s just call them “creative manoeuvres.”)
* By the end of the day, waterproofs were more valuable than horsepower, and many boots will be drying by the fire for at least a week.

**Closing Thoughts**

Despite the weather’s best efforts, the Ings trial was a resounding success – a proper Sporting Trial in every sense: challenging, unpredictable, and packed with camaraderie. Congratulations again to **Martin Grimwood** for a stunning win, and to all the class winners for keeping their cool when conditions got as slippery as a politician’s promise.

Thanks also to Tom Reese and the organising team at the NPTCC, for their dedication in setting it up, and for braving the weather on the day.

Roll on the next one – and may it come with a little less rain!