

## Report by Cross Country Co-coordinator

**SLROC.** June, July & August have been as busy as ever, with the different facets of the club continuing with their varied activities.

Green Road Runs have been up to Balquhiddy and also ventured down and across the border for an overnight trek to Kielder Forest.

The Road Trim Vehicles (RTV) trial continues to be the most popular, whilst the Competition Class Vehicles (CCV) is the most hard fought. The entry-level TYRO trials could do with a boost in numbers: as the name suggests these give competitors a chance to gain experience in how their Land or Range Rover handles off road and across rough terrain. Participants are between 14 to 70 plus years of age; everyone enjoys the events, shares their experiences and learns from one another.

One of the highlights of the summer TYRO season is the event held in the majestic grounds of Hopetoun House, with its beautiful architecture. It takes place at the same time as the famous Horse Trials. Definitely a venue with a difference!

The other highlight in the Trials Calendar is the Old Time Leaf Sprung Trial. It is amazing to watch the classic Land Rovers traverse sections that you wouldn't dream of putting a modern, heavy, air-sprung Land Rover anywhere near for fear of not being able to recover it. This year's event was closely fought with a 4-way tie at the end of the day. One of the sections was tweaked and tightened as a tie-breaker and an eventual winner was found.

Only one Timed Trial at Callander Quarry this quarter, but what an event! 4 x 300 metre sections are laid out, each driver completes each section 3 times against the stop-watch. It is action packed and fast paced. But it is also the spirit within the competitors / Club Members that is brilliant - as one of the cars broke down, there were various offers of a drive in the other entrants' cars so everyone was able to complete the competition.

The Scottish Cross Country Championship (joint venture between SHRC, SORC and SLROC) ran two Comp Safaris. Two more diverse events you could not have - the mainly Cat 1 tracks of Forrest Estate with its technical quarry sections, and the tight mud pit and night stages of our new venue at the West Coast Raceway near Kilwinning. Bathgate was waterlogged, so with just a couple of weeks to go the organising team and competitors had to pull together to secure and plan this brand new venue, which after some initial reservations turned out to be spectacular.

As with all other events the Comp Safaris are always looking for more competitors but also more marshals. If you see a plea for marshals for an event, please step up and volunteer - there is no easier way to get close to the action.

**SORC** have been enjoying a recent spurt in numbers, both in new membership and attendance at events. Both clubs are benefiting from the hard work put in by their communications teams, making sure that events are publicised well in advance so that people can plan ahead.

SORC have been focusing on running Trials and Punch Hunt Championship; these have attracted a lot of interest on some excellent venues. 16 contenders are in the running for a variety of trophies to be given out at the AGM in March.

During what was probably one of the hotter weekends this summer, SORC held their Family Camping Weekend, which was a success despite the relatively small number of attendees. The trials sections on the Saturday provided an enjoyable challenge, followed by a club BBQ in the evening before heading back out to go playing in the mud on the Sunday.

Coming up, SORC are holding another couple of Punch Hunts and Trials, as well as an on-road navigational exercise and a social event which will be themed with the release of the new Bond film.

**SHRC**, in addition to being involved with the Comps, are again running the Scottish Borders Hill rally on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> November, at Forrest Estate, St John's Town of Dalry. Based on the number of entries received to date, a full entry appears likely. As usual, a significant number of marshals of all disciplines are needed to make it run safely.

**Off-road marshals' training.** Last month SLROC arranged a Marshals' Training course at Cumbernauld. Presented by Rupert Hine with the support of the British Motorsports Training Trust, the course was aimed at those who have marshalled, and who will be marshalling, at Mudmaster in October. Some 25 marshals attended; the course was well received, and benefited from the wide range of experience of those present. SHRC will be running two marshals' training sessions on the Friday evening prior to the Borders – details to be confirmed.

**Mudmaster** is a navigational trial organised by the British Army Motorsports Association, and open to civilian and military competitors. Starting from Dunfermline and taking place over the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October, the event consists of a series of tests at 14 sites across central Scotland with the aim of developing on and off road driving, map reading skills and road safety awareness. This event is very popular with competitors and marshals alike – highly recommended!

Please contact me [bainesdt65@gmail.com](mailto:bainesdt65@gmail.com) if you would like any further information regarding any of the above events.

I am grateful to Dean Pugh and to Graham B Somerville for their invaluable contributions to this report.

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