

The 1st Rabbit Bank Car Trial

What is a Car Trial – quite simply put it's getting a production / trials car up a number of steep, grassy, numbered hills, these are marked from 12 at the bottom to 1 at the top, to drive to the lowest marker you can achieve before the car comes to a complete standstill. The lower the number the better the score as the competitor with the lowest score achieved over the course of the day wins.

After having had to cancel the last 3 or 4 car trials at Morley, Charlie and myself decided that it was about time that we found a venue that we could actually run a full one day car trial at. The contacts / family members that Charlie has through the farming world is astounding and so it came about that "Uncle Alan", who is extremely keen on motorsport, had the perfect venue, not a million miles away at Muggington Lane End Farm. A naturally formed steep, non damaging to cars field where we could have run, if we had the time, at least 12 different sections.

So the decision was made, we would run the 1st Rabbit Bank Car Trial on the first weekend of September, permit was applied for, regs were written and sent out with entry forms, which we put a limit on the number of cars to 30 entrants in total, and entries, though slow, began to come in.

Charlie, Steve and myself spent a number of hours planning sections, sorting out all of the score sheets, score cards, section marker poles, numbers etc ready for the smooth running of the day. The Saturday before the trial we were setting up the sections when the heavens absolutely opened, and the 3 of us said that with conditions like this tomorrow would be very interesting – how wrong we were.

Sunday arrived, the sun was shining, and it did all day, as the brief was given to all drivers. We were very pleased with the number of entrants for a first time run event – 13 in total, ranging from pure novices in a Mazda 2, well done Louise, to hardened trailers in their purpose built class 8 trials car, to Sam H in his trials prepped VW Beetle.

We had 6 sections set up which we would run 4 rounds, after each round the sections were tweaked to make them more challenging throughout the day.

The first section we had laid out was very simple, on a not too steep part of the field. All drivers had a really good run at this section, even the extremely nervous Louise in the Mazda 2, who actually scored the same as Nathan but got further. She came off the section with a smile on her face and then started attacking the sections, and on a number of sections getting better scores than Nathan– well done Louise.

As the day went on it was pretty clear that all drivers were getting the knack of trialling and learning to control the throttle on the sections – thus giving more traction – well nearly all, Adrian as always had one hell of a heavy right foot, you'd have thought he'd have learnt by now 😊. We had one young driver who was showing the older drivers how to drive in his dad's class 8 buggy – Sam P, and it was clear that I'd got to stop him somehow. So the last section of the day I set up a really tricky restart for all trials cars, the standard production cars could, if they got to the restart, drive straight through as they had no restart. My plan worked and I stopped all of the trials cars, including young Sam P. He dropped some points at last after a very commendable drive throughout the day – only dropping 3 points on the last section and winning the trial overall!

It was great to see at the end of the day all drivers with a huge smile on their faces, all talking as to where they went wrong, how they could have improved, what they'll do at the next Rabbit Bank trial. What more can I say, the trial went superbly with no hitches.

We would like to say a huge thank you to a few people. Firstly 'Uncle Alan' for allowing us to use his fields as a venue. Paul for marshalling all day for us, Sharon for keeping scores throughout the day, ensuring that the final results were read out within 20 minutes after the last section. Mark for his assistance with the permit application and the finalisation of the regs.

And last but not least to all who turned up, making the first running of Rabbit Bank Car Trial a huge success.

Kevin, Nathan, David, Louise, Adrian, Roger, Richard, Sam H, Dean, Ian, Kieran, Steve and Sam P

We will build on the success of the first Rabbit Bank Car Trial and be running one if not two trials at this venue in 2020, hopefully making it a yearly event. We would like to see as many EDMC drivers out as possible enjoying this cheap, non-damaging, grass roots motorsport.

Stuart, Charlie and Steve