

Road Events Report

November 2020

On-line activities: The Nicolson Digital LTD Table Top Rally Series

Interest in competing in the online table top navigational events continues to prove popular. This week we have a total of 69 entries undertaking round three of the Nicolson Digital LTD Table Top Rally Series, this one organised by Stuart Merry. My thanks go out to all those who have given up their time to both set and mark the results of these events.

Boffins still at work!

You will recall from my last report that a couple of systems were being looked at with the aim of reducing the need for so many marshals on navigational rallies as some clubs were finding it difficult to persuade marshals to come out and help on events.

One such system required the competitors to use an App on their mobile phones that uses GPS signals to trigger a time when they arrive at a control point. It is an adaptation of a system used for American TSD (Time/Speed/Distance) rallies originally produced by Rich Bireta. He has amended the system so that it generates time of day at each control rather than the elapsed time to the second that the TSD rallies use.

When a car reaches a Control Point the GPS will trigger and record the time, which is displayed to the competitor, it is also sent to a cloud based server whenever the phone has a signal, as a last resort all the times could be uploaded at the end of the rally.

Well this system was trialled one weekend in the NE of Scotland by half a dozen, same household crews tried it out and were generally happy with the results. The main drawback is that the system as used did not differentiate between different approaches to the control. This is being looked at and should be able to be overcome.

A similar system called RallyAppLive also uses GPS to identify locations and do the timing. This is more sophisticated and also seems to work well. Doug and Linda Weir have already run a test on it and it is hoped to test it further with a few other crews in due course.

This system is being looked at on a UK wide basis and there is already a Facebook group set up for general discussion <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373533407159505/>

The other system (Marshaliser) that I mentioned at last meeting. Is still to be tested, but it is hoped to do this in the not too distant future.

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