

## Cross country report

The usual mix of SLROC Trials competitions continues for all levels of experience – TYRO, RTV & CCV – on a variety of different sites including a return to a farm at Callander on the shores of Loch Venachar, with stunning views of Ben Ledi. Timed Trials have proved to be a great success and will be run again next year. Green Road Runs and Driving Days continue to be well supported.

Collaborations between clubs also continue. The Gemm 4x4 Mudmaster Navigational Trial was a resounding success. A joint venture between SLROC and the British Army Motorsport Association, some 60 teams competed, navigating to various venues throughout Central Scotland where they had to complete various off-road trials, orienteering, auto tests and road safety / Highway Code quiz. Teams (civilian and military) came from all over the UK. Congratulations go to Phil Griffiths & Neil Watterson (of LRO magazine fame) for their overall win. SORC also had 5 or 6 club members taking part, some attempting this type of event for the first time. Now the word has spread to everyone else, SORC may well be looking at a mini-scale version of their own to try in preparation for next year's event. Film crews were busy at some of the tests - look out for the TV coverage on BBC Alba in the New Year.

The 2015 Scottish Cross Country Championship was won by Campbell Erskine driving a Polaris. The famous Bathgate night comp had to be relocated to a new site at Kilwinning at very short notice due to ground conditions. Whilst a relatively short course was run, plenty of laps were put in and loads of mud was the order of the weekend. Some of the SCCC competitors joined NORC for the September round. The venue had to be changed at very short notice but NORC pulled out all the stops and managed to get access to one of their regular haunts at Loversall and put on a great event. The final round was in Galashiels, on a site that has not been used for a number of years. We hope to be able to return in the future, and that more of the land will be opened up to us.

The most recent round of SORC's trials championship round was very well received with a record number competing. A change of format saw the field split into two groups doing two completely different sets of sections in the morning and swapping over after lunch. From the plain old technical sections in a grassy field to the swimming through puddles and ditches that swallow your vehicle to some nice free flowing sections there was something for everyone to tackle – interesting to note that some of the vehicles with road tyres were managing better than those with mud terrains – and they just happened to be first-timers too!

SORC are taking a short break from off-roading for their James Bond Social Event which will include some Clay Pigeon Shooting as well as some food and a private screening of Spectre. Other planned outings this year are the Santa Hunt and Cold Turkey events.

SHRC's Scottish Borders Hill Rally is running on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November at Forrest Estate, St John's Town of Dalry, with a full entry of 50 and an initial reserve list of 10. This event is very popular with competitors and marshals alike. The response from marshals has been very encouraging but as with all events we could always do with some more!

What is clear from this brief review of activities over the past few months is the immense amount of work behind the scenes done by many individuals from all the clubs involved, in planning and putting on these events, finding new land, and getting stuck in – sometimes literally – to make the events run successfully when things don't go according to plan.

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

Diana Baines 13 Nov 2015