

Report of cross country co-ordinator

The Scottish Borders Hill rally, held at Forrest Estate in November 2014, attracted a near maximum entry of 42 and was well received by competitors, marshals and officials. Chris Bird and Chris Hammond (Milner R5) were first overall, 9 minutes ahead of Johnnie Drysdale and Tony Rae (LR 110) and 10 minutes ahead of Willie Stubbs and Andy Hill in a Milner R5. The Borders was the final, decisive round of the Bowler Defender championship. One of the Defender entries was a writer for EVO magazine, and the current issue has an excellent write-up, comparing his experience in the Defender and Hill Rally to his normal Historic Rallying in his Escort. Another first was a Polaris RZR; very fast and nimble on the stages, attracting a lot of interest from other competitors, marshals and media.

All being well, both will feature in future Borders events.

The first local round of the 2015 Scottish Cross Country Championship – a joint venture between SHRC, SLROC and SORC- is expected to take place in May 2015; the venue is still being negotiated. An open meeting of interested parties is planned for 18th March in an attempt to involve more volunteers and officials from the three clubs and to get a feel for competitor preferences: one day or two? Venues? How many rounds? As last year the first round of the year has just been held in Northern Ireland, attracting a number of Scottish competitors and marshals. Initial indications are that this was again a great success.

In addition to the usual Trials, SLROC's timed trials are now into their second year, and are attracting good numbers. SLROC are also trying "Club comps", the first of which is scheduled for the end of March and, if the popularity of timed trials is anything to go by, then these should be a great success. Club comps, run over a couple of miles and restricted to vehicles of a single manufacturer, are designed to straddle the ground between the Timed Trials (300 yard course over challenging terrain) and a Comp Safari. Both are designed a relatively low cost feeder events for Hill Rallies.

Diana Baines

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