

## **Cross Country report**

SORC, SLROC, Buchan, Tay 4x4 and Edzell off road clubs continue to hold events of varying degrees of difficulty monthly, all of which are well supported. SLROC's recent green road run, in the Balquhidder area, was very popular and benefited from a heatwave. The Scottish Green Training Club, a (MSA affiliated) sister club of the Scottish Green Road Club (SGRC), runs a training day every quarter. The next one is at Bathgate, on 10<sup>th</sup> July. SGRC runs eight green road runs per year, restricted to Land Rovers.

Last weekend saw a large group of competitors and marshals drawn to Forrest Estate in Dumfries & Galloway for Round 4 of the Scottish Cross Country Championship. Amidst variable weather, and enthusiastically welcomed by the local wildlife (the Forrest Estate midges are something special), the SCCC organisers were very fortunate to be able to stage an 8 mile course around some of the iconic Borders Hillrally stages. Some 30 competitors gave it their all on the fast flowing stages (and occasional more technical quarry). With some obstacles that were not for the faint hearted, the stage really sorted both the mechanically resilient and the high speed drivers from the pack, and we saw steadily improving times throughout the weekend, interspersed with the occasional excitement – the culmination of which was Karl Gudgeon's spectacular barrel roll over the finish light beam! No time recorded by the automated clocks, but fortunately the marshals in the timing caravan were not distracted and he still managed a (very respectable) time for the lap. The crew were fortunately unharmed, but the car had managed to damage all four corners, so we wish Karl's GSR Mini a speedy recovery!

The next Comp, in August, is the famous "Night Comp" at Bathgate. This is another firm favourite, and should be the usual mix of fast open hillside sections and technical cross country obstacles. With competition taking place in three sections – two in daylight on Saturday and Sunday, and the challenging Saturday night section, this should be an interesting round. This event is a complete change in terrain from the hard granite chippings and rock faces of Forrest Estate, to the softer (but not necessarily smoother!) ground on Cairnpapple Hill.

The highlight of SLROC's year to date has been The Big May Weekend. On the Saturday over 60 competitors took part in the various Trials competitions, and on Sunday over 70 enjoyed the driving day across the farm land above Bathgate. The Saturday night social in the marquee included Chinese food, music & dancing, together with home made games. But the highlight of the weekend was Land Rover Jousting - look out for pictures and a full story by the journalist Russ Brown in Land Rover Owner Magazine. All this fun enabled SLROC to donate £1,000 to the British Heart Foundation – all in all, a very enjoyable and worthwhile weekend.

Another date for your diary - The Scottish "Borders" Hill Rally, at Forrest Estate on the 19th & 20th of November. Regs will be out soon and entries will be opening within the next couple of months. As with all events of this kind a large number of marshals of all disciplines will be required to enable us to run this iconic event safely.

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