

April Blossom 2015

Results comment.

First my thanks to all of you for your entry and well done in getting to the finish of what, especially for experts, was a challenging evening

A cracking run for the beginners in Car 1 of Gee and Marcus would have seen them win except for a missed board on a triangle. They did not need their panic envelope although they had been expecting to be given a marked map at the Start. I fully expect them to make a challenge in the Novice class next series.

The novice class was closely competed with Jim and Graham in Car 4 overcoming all others, including the experts, by only dropping time on four sections. Well done for 1st Overall. Kevin and Antonia in Car3 had a steady evening winning first Novice award and clearly having no dramas just to persuade Kevin to drive a bit quicker.

The experts, with the exception of Car 6, clearly had a tough night and were unable to provide sufficient competition to John and Ian who ran out comfortable winners in their class.

TC2 to TC3 was a relatively gentle introduction with the first code board being advised in the Finals and I fully expected clean sheets into TC3. Car 2 beginners of Tony and Ken were not yet up to speed and missed both boards whilst Cars 11 and 12 both dropped eleven minutes and the second board - so possibly guessed a route and eventually found the end control.

TC3 to TC4 all crews dropped time here, which did surprise me. I can only assume wrong slots as both sets of navigation were simple, although Luis and Lucy in Car 7 insisted on waking up the children near the DIP board so that they could show them their nice Mini!

The link section to TC5 must have been mis-plotted by Adrian in Car 10 as they missed the control altogether, I assume they slotted left off the A120 too early as they got the board on the first triangle.

TC5 to TC6 all crews were clean on this section so by now everybody had clearly got in full rally mode.

TC6 to TC7 nothing particularly noteworthy about the route (rather rubbishy from me) and this is where Car 1 got their damaging fail here by missing the triangle. For the experts the joining up of the junctions was clearly time consuming to unravel and they certainly suffered over the other crews here - I had expected the fast roads to provide some opportunity to recover plotting time.

TC7 to TC8 all crews dropped time on this the longest section of the night. With the navigation showing a piece of map of the junctions passed through, although not in order for the experts, this was clearly time consuming and the roads perhaps a little testing in places. The cumulative loss of time for the experts, apart from Car 6, was to count heavily in the last third of the event as this put all of them into OTL at later controls.

TC9 to TC10 was the section with the herringbone navigation. All crews dropped time on this section so perhaps some training might be helpful on this type of navigation. The expert one was clearly not understood by most crews. I made a small mistake in the results here as I included time penalties as well as fails (for a WD approach) at TC10 for Eddie and Adrian in Car 10. The results are modestly changed whereby they are now classified in front of the Car 9 crew of Mike and Mark, apologies for not spotting that on the night.

Crews with time penalties on the 'link section' to TC11 reflect the lost time on the previous section and by missing TC10 the cumulative lateness is shown here. You were all appropriately behaved for your meeting with Brian the DSO in Matching Green for which I thank you.

The final three sections from TC11 to TC14 clearly took their toll on Car 5 crew of Ben and Simon. With the loss of a total of 8 minutes relegated them from a winning position down to fifth overall. For the struggling experts these sections were only about getting to the finish and needing a beer to drown their sorrows and to work out a way of towing the dining room table with them!

Bob