

Trial by Stumps'

Trallwm Estate, Abergwesyn Trial Report - July 2007

Section 1 – Sticky Mess

First of the day, after a 10 minute Comp up through Trallwm Forest, heading up through the clouds we arrived at the start of section 1. This was a muddy bank crawl along the side of the forest track. Not really a major problem unless you took the wrong line through the 5 gate. This saw a pile of stake-wood on the left, but the drivers decided to go through the pile instead of around it!! This pushed the wood into the gate and almost everyone stopped on the sticks. Only Tom Jewel got through and made a satisfying 2!

Section 2 – Death of Scrapu

This section started up a small bank and into a cross axle, weaved across the road, turned round, then up another muddy bank, through some stumps and then across a pitch, which led down a really steep bank, see-sawing over the crest on the belly and then finally a slight turn on the downhill to the finish!!! (Teg & Ceri never make things easy! – Editors' note) Most people cleared all of this easily, the Discovery tried to level the whole mountain with its front end, Tom Jewel did a bit too much fiddling at the start and flattened the cane, but the biggest event on the section – We finally stopped the Scrapu!! Unfortunately we nearly killed it, ripping off the gearbox cross-member. Frantic hammering ensued before Marks turn at the section, who then proceeded to do exactly the same thing again!

Section 3 – The Stumpy One

First section where we entered the dreaded stumps...

First up was Tim. Up the hill, across a ditch into the stumps and then stopped- pinned! There was a massive stump under the back axle, and the front end was 3 foot down a ditch! Luckily the chainsaws were handy, and lumber-jacking ensued. The stump was removed and the ditch was filled! This section was still a bitch! The high-lift was out again to rescue Matt Tomley from the stumps! Tom Jewel yet again made it through, though to only get a Clear.

Section 4 – Slalom

This was set out as a nice easy section after the "trial by stumps", though it turned out to be the hardest!! There was a side slope to start, which weaved across the road twice with 2 walls of death and a steep climb. All of the turns were too tight and the wall rides too steep for anyone to handle. What a difference a night of rain makes!! A pretty unsuccessful section which no one managed a clear. The highest score on this section was 3, and lowest was 6. Clive had the best setting his standard for the rest of the days driving well. Lunch afterwards was well needed!

Section 5 – The Stumpy Two

More stumps!! Cut them off first this time, so no problems!

Through 9 into a very tight 8 gate, back on the road, then bounce up the low bank and over a ditch. Next it was round the trees to get to the right angle to go through the big windblow root hole, along the little cliff. The windblow hole caught out Matt, Angus and Simon, and Mark nearly rolled off the edge of the little cliff!! After that it was down the vertical back on to the road and up to the nasty gate I set 90 degrees to the vertical climb! Not as bad as it looked!!

Section 6 – The Ditch

This section was along a ditch on the side of one of the tracks. Straddling the ditch to begin with, it had to be proven to be driveable because it looked harder than it was! Into the pitch, straddle it again with two wheels on the rock wall, then through a cross axle on the side-slope, along the slope then onto the road and up the bank to finish. This section was supposed to be really tricky, but by the time a few drivers had been through, it was a straight run with a long line of clears on the score sheet.

Section 7 – The Somme

This section started with a muddy steep climb to 9 and down to a massively rutted road. The course ran down the road, zig-zagging through the huge ruts before finally running through a big puddle to the end!!

Section 8 – The Somme 2

As above but in reverse, very hard for Discovery's. Angus and Tegwyn towing with mud flying 40 foot in the air. Saw him through thgough. Other than the few that got through the rest got stuck on the steep bank.

It was a long day for everybody but luckily the midges stayed away and so did the rain. Thanks to George Johnson and his family for allowing us to use his land and for the fantastic food served at the café at lunchtime!

A brilliant day out for all!

Tegwyn & Ceri Hughes