

Orchard Classic Rally, Loughgall 21st May

John Byrne has been taking part in the Loughgall Festival of Speed

As you can see, this photo of John & Keith Byrne is courtesy of Peter Boyd. He has lots more action shots of the event on his website.

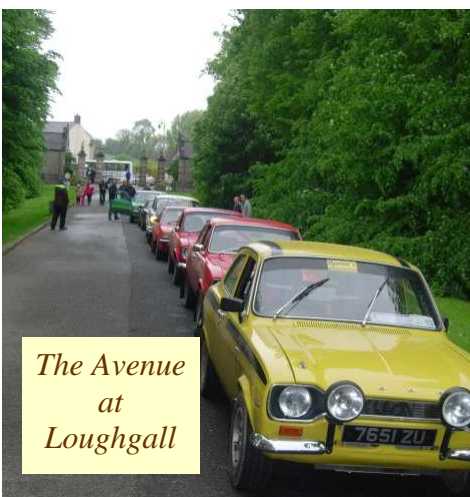


for a few years. He did the Historic Stages event around the park roads. This year, in addition to the usual stages, autotest and static displays, Ronnie Mitchell put together the Orchard Classic Rally. This was essentially a multi-venue autotest consisting of 23 mostly special tests over a 55-mile route around Loughgall. The last test was particularly special. It was the 3-mile "stage", albeit with lots of codeboards and stop boxes to keep us from losing the run of ourselves. The whole shebang started at 9:00 a.m. and, but for an inci-



dent on the stages which caused an unscheduled delay, would have been over by the originally planned 1:30 p.m. As classic cars tend to be conducted by more mature folk, Ronnie hoped to accommodate their afternoon nap, especially in this instance, as it was a very early start for any crews which had to travel.

Entries were encouraged by word of mouth. Rob was unavailable due to the Heineken Cup Final so when Mark Doran rang I was able to say yes. An ambiguous arrow on the first test caught us both out. Then Mark did well to avoid an apple tree on Test 12, first assaulted by Dermot Carnegie and finished off by Mark's dad, Joe (lots of competitors were challenged at this spot). Subsequently, it was plain sailing.



The Avenue at Loughgall

All in all, a good time was had by anybody I spoke to, though John Byrne had the misfortune to do severe damage to the undercarriage of his Sunbeam on a girder hidden in the grass on Test 2. (This was definitely a case of whatever the opposite of poetic justice is called.) Frank Fennell got away with snagging a tyre on the same piece of metal. The journey home was grand until we started listening to the radio commentary on the above mentioned Heineken final. Fortunately we made it back to Dublin in time to watch Leinster's remarkable second-half recovery.



ster's remarkable second-half recovery.

Editor



RESULTS

1. Robert Woodside Jnr./Dean Beckett, Mazda MX5, 25:16
2. Will Corry/Richard Nelson, Midget, 25:21
3. Eamonn Byrne/Joanna Lenehan, Mini, 26:07
4. Dermot Carnegie/Kevin Fagan, Escort, 26:37
5. Ashley Lamont/Kenneth McDonald, Midget, 26:40
6. Kevin Fitzgerald/Vincent Fagan, Escort, 26:50
7. Robert Dickson/Catherine Dickson, Mini, 27:03
8. Mark Doran/Ian McCulloch, Escort, 27:12
9. Frank Lenehan/Olwen Blair, Datsun 100A, 27:13
10. Colin Earney/Andrew Earney, Mini, 27:18
11. Robert Woodside Snr./Tommy Hood, VW Beetle, 27:59
12. Alan Harryman/Terry Harryman, Mazda MX5, 27:59
13. John Farrell/John Golden, Escort, 28:04
14. Martin Nugent/Shay Crawley, Escort, 28:09
15. Joe Doran/Noel Broderick, Opel Manta, 28:26
19. Frank Fennell/Davy Johnston, Mercedes 300SE, 29:04
20. Steve Griffin/Jason Loughrey, Opel Kadett, 29:05



The forest at Loughgall

TDC Turbine

Will Corry & Richard Nelson, who enjoyed an unscheduled tour of Armagh (along with quite a few other crews) en route to Test 1



Vincent Fagan wonders will Kevin Fitzgerald's driving exploits be as enthusiastic as his verbal prognostications.

Jason Loughrey got father-in-law, Steve Griffin, to all of the tests



Does this mean Eamonn Byrne is a "Hoodie"?



Craig Hunt is hoping that a person with an "AWAY" board will come along



Les belles femmes: Catherine Dickson, Olwen Blair & Joanna Lenehan

Davy Johnston having a smoke in the bushes



Peter Murphy & Andy Hennessey were doing the Stage event. Andy is pointing out to Vincent Fagan and Dermot Carnegie the scene of yet another outstanding driving feat.



Frank Lenehan reckons that Olwen Blair has eyes in the back of her head as she seemed to be able to read the codeboards even if he neglected to back off

Shay Crawley enjoyed his spin with Martin Nugent



Noel Broderick found it easier when he turned his map the right way up.

TDC Turbine



Kevin Fagan, Frank Lenehan & Joe Doran are amused

Michael Beattie adopts a proprietorial gait simpatico with the backdrop



Conn Williamson made stately progress in his BMW Coupé



"It's just not like it was in the 'Good Old Days'," opines Terry Harryman to Brian Nelson



Eddie Fitzgerald was due to accompany Bernard Bradley on course-car duty in a Nissan 240 RS. The car, new to Bernard, had a fixed co-driver's seat to which Eddie was unable to gain access. The flexibility of his joints is somewhat compromised as he approaches "Senior Citizenship". Eddie was reduced to engaging passers-by in conversation - not an unrewarding experience.



John Farrell on the move



Colin & Andrew Earney

Brian McCurry



Robert Woodside Snr.



Brendan Mullin, Eric Martin & Martin McBride



Arthur McMullan & Josh Douglas



Neil Fletcher & Cliff Auld