

Trish's Traipsings

Beginners' Autotest Round 2 23rd June

if nothing was going on, though some of the young bulls were a bit bullish! All the excitement must have got to them. The doves looked magical against the hazy blue skies.

June 23rd dawned, earlier than usual for Frank as there was a lot to be done! First off, Test Trial Etiquette for young bulls and cows. It was explained that their usually calm corrals would be invaded by small cars of all types and colours, mostly very



noisy, so stay calm guys, just keep

chewing that cud! Next up the Doves were lined up and instructed that their Flyovers should be orderly, impressive and no aerobatics that might upstage the antics of the competitors! And no dropping of unwelcome 'bombs'. The Cockerels were asked not to disturb anyone with loud indignant crowing and the hens were told that, despite the disturbance, their laying quotas must be maintained. Swallows were asked to eat as many midges as possible, for the comfort of the guests! The weather gods were poured a libation!

The yard was spruced up;



straw bales positioned, tests laid out. The hay wane was parked in the barn and filled with goodies (buns and baps, popcorn, sweets and crisps, minerals and wine). The Barbie was wheeled into position. All was ready to go.

Cars and competitors arrived, hailing from the UK, Cork, Wicklow and Wexford, the Midlands and all over Dublin. The road and car park were packed with cars and trailers. Competitors and spectators streamed into the yard, forty competitors and surely a hundred and fifty or so spectators.

It was one of the balmiest evenings this summer; the weather god was benign (or was it all just hot air?), a lovely family evening, lots of mums and dads, kids and babies. The aroma of bangers and burgers sizzling on

Ruth and Poppy en route to the Barbie with the vital victuals



Ruth's Barbie was mouth-watering.

Some youngsters got to put their hands into a real chicken's

Eve and Kate Phillips



nest, tucked away in a bale of hay and feel her eggs (the chicken having long since flown the coop). Two young ones cuddled down in the hay later; I'm sure I heard an egg crack.

All the livestock behaved as

The event seemed to go well; lots of noise, revving, tyre screeching etc. - all very exciting for us spectators. I had invited some of the Mountain Mollies



Mollies: Barbara Cassidy, Trish and Lulu O'Reilly

(walking women more used to the quiet of the Wicklow hills) and almost converted them to the adrenalin rush of fast cars!

There was a lot of dust due to the lovely dry weather. Many usually white-haired men looked rakish with their new grey mops.

Proceedings carried on well into the dusk, ending in the barn where results were announced, prizes given out, goodbyes and thank-yous said.....and as the story goes, 'We all went home tired but happy'.

Premier award winner, Ian Downey, was particularly happy



Trish Wojnar



TDC Turbine

I think this must have been the biggest entry ever, 40, for this popular event. Despite the crowd there was no response from dis-commoded locals. Maybe they are getting used to it. There was a strict enforcement of each of the “double drivers” completing a full lap before they swapped places. This seemed to improve the “flow” though there were still long queues, particularly on Test 2, the longest one. Those of you familiar with the theory of “lines” will realise that the random arrival times of the competitors, while unavoidable, is not helpful. This factor also has an impact on the calculation of results as fail/max times cannot be finalised until all of the runners have finished.

There was a forty-first driver on the list – John Denning,



who never got going. I think he was daunted by the queue lengths. At least Piers MacFheorais’s “road” Starlet, which he was due to share with Donal



Woe is me!

Arundel, was spared some abuse. John Byrne and Anthony Preston were also dis-commoded by the throng, neither managing to complete their full quota of tests.



John

Most unfortunate incident of the evening involved Danny O’Donohoe’s Escort. A “late” throw resulted in the rear passenger quarter panel making contact with a well-founded RSJ. This resulted in rather more trauma to the former than it did to the latter. Both car and driver had arrived immaculately turned out. Danny changed into more casual attire, so maybe this was the Escort trying to achieve a scruffier look. I was tempted not to include mention of the above to spare Danny’s blushes but I was persuaded to change my mind by brother, Andrew, who was not at



The white marks on the green post are the points of contact

all sympathetic. Also, I had commented comprehensively on Andrew’s woes previously. Incidentally, John Denning’s presence was fortuitous as arrangements for an early repair were made. When phoning home (to gloat?) Andrew’s five year-old daughter, Susan, wondered whether or not Danny had been looking where he was going.

Eleven beginners showed up. These didn’t include James Mansfield and Jeremy Bishop. Jeremy arrived later on to have a

look but didn’t enter as he was worried he might do damage



(again!) to Jay Donegan’s immaculate Starlet. Jay looked in fine form but a couple of “fails” (were the tests just a mite too convoluted for these guys?) saw him finish in second place, just 1.5 seconds ahead of Anthony O’Neill.



Keith Byrne was fourth, which keeps him second in the champion-



ship behind Jay. The best beginner, after a very tidy run, was Ian Downey in his everyday Starlet.

Quickest man of the evening was Simon Echlin in his Caterham. It really is a joy to watch him in action. His seemingly cool, calm and collected approach suggests that he is travelling more slowly than the stopwatch ultimately reveals.



TDC Turbine

Stefan Walsh, in his not quite showroom condition Colt,



was comfortably the best of the novices. Did his new hat inspire him?

It was good to see some female competition for the accomplished Patricia Denning.



Noel with daughter, Rachel

Lyndsay Doran was making her debut in a double-drive with Noel Devlin in a scrappage Corsa. She looked comfortable, though it will take her a while to reach Trish's standard. An impromptu Ladies Award was revived for Lyndsay. This was not in deference to the time-honoured "motorsport is not misogynistic" tradition – she really did deserve it.

The usual suspects, Eamonn King and Paul Phelan, made their



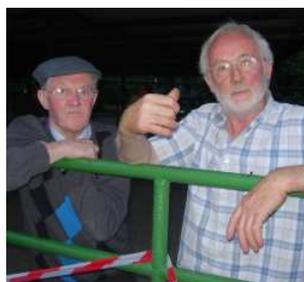
customary administrative input. Robert Bolton undertook C-



o-C duties under the watchful eye of el Presidente, Joe Doran, both of whom deployed an encouraging number of marshals to good effect.



Even though he featured on the front page of the June Turbine, Frank Lenehan deserves considerable plaudits for all of his work – Woodside, as an autotest venue, doesn't just happen; it is



Frank, here with Jim Grimes. You will notice that neither of these men is sitting on the fence

caused. Frank wasn't the only Lenehan to the fore. Ruth did

what seems to have become ex-



Ruth prefers to keep a low profile

pected of her on the barbecue front – it doesn't mean it is appreciated any the less. She had a new assistant this year who acquitted herself magnificently, Eve Phillips.

Looking forward to a similarly large turnout for Round 3.



Trigger happy, Ian McCulloch

The photos featuring cars are courtesy of Peter Boyd (peespeed). Thank you.

TDC Turbine

A flock of Fagans - Keith & Kevin, Vincent, Fiona and Laura



Hugh and Jenny Lynch



A selection from the Doran entourage - Rachel & Nikki (L) and Monica & Andrea



Richard Jackson dropped to make sure that Richard Pain was managing to find his way from test to test



Anthony & Aidan Freeney



Damien & dad, James, Doran



Alan (Butch) & Robby Brunkard



A couple of Lenehans and brood - Joanna & Zoe, Emma, Tom & Derek



Chris Grimes points the way



Damien Phillips, sister, Lisa wife, Bonny & nephew, Aaron



Doug Richardson admires Trish

Denning's revised hairstyle

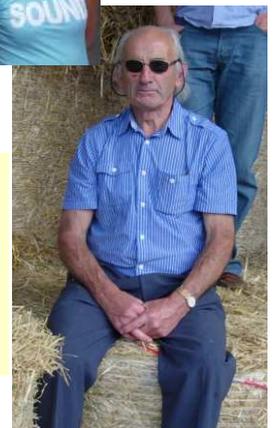


Craig O'Rourke made a detour on the way home from work with colleague, Alicia Daly. Did she think this was a good decision?



Paul Tierney & Gosia Rala

Pat, patriarch of the Denning dynasty



TDC Turbine



Team Lennon: Declan, Jamie Keane, Graham White in fetching pink hoodie and Carly, who finds it all rivetting



John Maher & Keith Slowey take it all very seriously



Declan Hendrick (L) seems to get a bigger kick out of driving Frank's tractor than his Starlet. Is Liam Cashman envious?



John's minder, Cian Keogh



Ciaran Nutty looks happy but why is Mark FitzSimons looking over his shoulder?



O'Reillys - Myles, sartorially splendid steward, Philip, still with two LC exams to go and Marian, content



Martin Devine, sans fancy gloves, Rory Power, who ran out of petrol on Test 5 and John Nolan



Ronnie's boys, Shane & Jason, are into pedal power. Ronnie



reckons you could get a good autotest car for the price of one of their bikes.



Steven Bolton in a hurry



Ronnie Griffin keeps the dust down. Some competitors claimed that his enthusiasm with the hose was off-putting. Liam Cashman complained that his Starlet had suffered a few mud splashes



Alex Fawcett has the first piece in the jigsaw that will be his stellar autotesting career



Lyndsay Doran in action

TDC Turbine



Frank's factotum, Francis, wonders at the insanity of it all



Ken McCready



Stefan Walsh proves to be a discerning reader



Frank Fennell, Dermot Corcoran



One of these might have been handy at times when I was teaching



Eddie Peterson in unstable equilibrium



Piers MacFheorais



Paul Ramoutar



A blast from the past - Derek Vard



Anthony O'Neill's travelling companion, Toni O'Neill - no relation (yet?)



Eamonn Byrne chews



Tim Faulkner, conventionally dressed now that the rugby season is over

Ian's Inklings

Firstly, I would like to thank Frank for the use of the yard; it was the handiest event to get to as it wasn't far from home. I think this also helped draw a lot of spectators to the event. The weather worked out great and the tests that were laid out were challenging and creative. As I wandered around walking the tests many a fellow competitor gave me some useful hints and help. This friendly atmosphere was one which was noted throughout the evening by all helpers, marshals and competitors. Being only new to auto-testing, I knew it was going to be difficult to remember the tests while actually doing them and a few times I will admit to having to look back at the diagram to remind me where to go next. After a while, I found it easier and then on the second lap, I started to really enjoy them. The enjoyment carried on for the rest of the event and getting used to attempting manoeuvres on a few of the tests and then watching some of the experts show you how its done was great and a joy to see their superb car control. Honestly, I am hooked and will hopefully be out for the next one.

Ian Downey

