

TDC Turbine

Treasure Hunt

10/02/2010



The winners, Dan Clarkin (centre) & Barry Lawford (right) with their chase car driver, Emmet Dunne.



The answer is in Frank Fennell's hands. Philip O'Reilly wonders what it is. Dad, Myles, appears indifferent.



Piers MacFheorais shows off his secret weapon



Fergal McAleavey got his maps out after a break of seven years



Paul Phelan and Ian McCulloch rustle up results



Burschi Wojnar looks on enviously as his mum, Trish, relaxes. Note her trendy footwear.



Donal Arundel and Ciarán Nutty get ready to drive off into the sunset.



Simon Echlin practises keeping his head down as he prepares for a night on the maps.



Mark Doran doesn't envy Richard Pain's jaunt in the left-hand seat.



Damien Doran came all the way from Waterford



Rory Bolton & Ben Deithrick are almost ready to go - well, Rory is anyway.



Danny O'Donohoe is appropriately dressed for the occasion.

Paul Tierney is determined to shine.



Eoin O'Curry survived the Tim Faulkner experience more or less unscathed

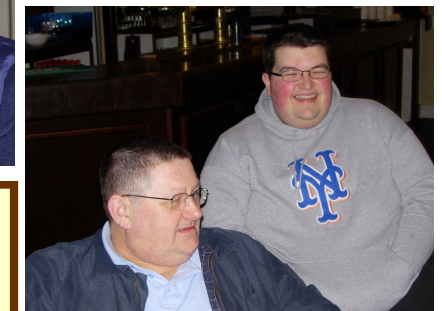


Thank you to Franks, Fennell & Lenehan, Felix, the Dorans, Dave Meeke and Robert Bolton, all of whose input was invaluable



Ciarán Freeney came along to offer his services

John Kane was sussing it out - another convert?



Vincent & David Fagan don't look too tired after their evening spectating.

A coherent account of the evening's goings-on

Several weeks ago Frank (Lenehan) mentioned a TDC Treasure Hunt and asked if I would like to go along to this fun event! Yea, sounds good! This quickly morphed into 'a sort of navigation event and, no, Frank would not be driving, as he would be marshalling, and maybe I would drive and Burschi (Patricia's son and occasional autotester) would navigate! Yea, sounds fun! Burschi was very interested; so on Wednesday 10th February the big day dawned.

We convened in The Summerhill Hotel for Burschi to do a crash course in navigation. He seemed to cop on quite well and was busy for ages plotting our route with the able assistance of Ian and the 'well not sure what that is' assistance of many other novice navigators.

I feel I qualify as a 'Born Again Novice Driver' as I have vague memories of driving - or was it navigating? - by 'Tulip' in the early '70s with Peter Berry!

So we had to calibrate our car.....WHA? Calibrate...just drive round the block and it should be 3.04 miles. OK.

We seemed to lose the plot a little around now, or should I say our timing got a bit off sync (unfortunately it stayed that way all night!). Burschi set off to learn how to use the *****, an instrument in the car which is for navigational purposes. I was lolling about in the bar when I was suddenly told we were to set off in about five minutes. I grabbed the map and regs and rushed out thinking we were on our calibration trip, but no, this was the real thing! We set off in a flurry, the rustles and squeaks coming from the navigator's seat alerted me to the fact that all was not well, but we both quickly settled down and set off on our first 'rally'.

Burschi seemed to have it all under control and coached me: 'faster, slow down, down to 17 mph, speed up to 24, right turn, stop at yield sign, etc.' It was all going swimmingly; other cars passed us, but what the hell, we know this is not a race, it is all about individual skills!

The test in Frank's yard in Glencullen was fun, Burschi drove this, I hung on for dear life, stop-watch in hand. His time was a commendable 30 seconds, 7th fastest I think.

Off we set; Glencullen, Glencree, Ballybrew (I think), Devils Elbow, Parcnasillogue and so on. *[I trust not in that order - Ed]* Navigation's not my strong point so I can't name all the interesting, narrow, dark roads we tootled or whizzed along! We did the Herringbone, the Clock Face, the Grids, the Trace etc.

There is a lot of Very Slow for the driver in this type of event (I never realised this before and thought we would be like the Circuit of Ireland). We had one nice exciting drive on the little bit of map navigators had to trace. We seemed to be slow on time so I had to light her up and whiz along at least 40 mph, with Burschi instructing 'keep her lit mom.'

A navigational error brought us past Djouce Woods; a quick turn and a speedy drive back soon had us passing Coolakay house, back on track.

Burschi felt we were on the button on timing. I found Frank's (the Cherry) car light and responsive but a little difficult to keep to an exact speed. I kept wandering up a little; not being quite able to see the speedo properly did not help!

Now we were on the road home, still laughing and having fun (the deleted expletive from the navigator that Frank talks about completely absent!).

I had forgotten to turn off my phone and had put it in the back; the five missed calls did not bother me! As we sped up the drive of the hotel we noticed a lot of cars! So we were last home (now I know who the five missed calls were from), but don't forget we left third or second last!

Burschi is still scratching his head; he can't understand how he got it so wrong!! *[He didn't - Ed]* Must have been the calibration! No, I think he just needs a good lesson in navigational skills and to accept the fact that it was a novice event and we were novices! I felt very happy with our 8th overall placing.

Conclusion: a really fun event, a good learning experience for the less knowledgeable among us, an event I hope will be repeated! To all the organisers; congratulations on the event and thank you for all the hard work and effort, which made it such fun.

Patricia Wojnar

A more "off the cuff" report

TOTALLY Colin Farrell !DEADLY BUZZ.

WHAT AN ABSOLUTE BLAST ! It took me two hours to wind down enough to go asleep, after!!!

Thanks a million Ian, FF and their helpers.

And an apology to Ian! Upon reflection I was late into TP3. We were stuck behind Damien Doran for a while and , despite an acquaintanceship dating back 47 !! years, Eoin resisted the Faulkner influence to be impolite and put pressure on to pass. Not at all like Trevor (Hamilton). *[A subsequent communication from Damien would suggest that Eoin was exhibiting such decorum that Damien didn't realise he was holding them up - Ed.]*

I don't know how the winners gained the two penalties (seconds?) advantage over us into the last control but well done to them both. I think I was matching mileage tenths to seconds rather than seconds to road. Put that down to experience!

The evening also shows I need to get more precise with the plotting.

Speaking of which, it was the hard part: thanks to Nikki (Doran) and Ray Shimmins (Trevor Hamilton's nav) for resolving a couple of errors in the route marking. But plenty of different types of route instructions to experience.

Out in car was great: no mal de nav: no rows. *[As you will realise from above Eoin is very mild-mannered - Ed]* But God! the road back from Glencree was rough in the dark : wasn't half as bad when we were out practising on Sunday in the daylight!!

Does everyone else not keep a scribble sheet with your cumulative distance /time at the speeds? Or how do ye do it?

Roll on the Irish Classic! Have to get into negotiations for a seat!

Tim Faulkner

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RESULTS

Driver	Navigator	Car	TP1	TP3	C2	Test	CB1	CB2	PC	Stop	Total
Dan Clarkin	Barry Lawford	<i>Escort</i>	4	15	3	32	0	0	0	0	54
Eoin O'Curry	Tim Faulkner	<i>Golf GTI</i>	3	15	5	32	0	0	0	0	55
Danny O'Donohoe	Fergal McAleavey	<i>Escort Mexico</i>	3	15	15	28	0	0	0	0	61
Eddie Peterson	Richard Pain	<i>Starlet</i>	8	15	15	27	0	0	0	0	65
Myles O'Reilly	Philip O'Reilly	<i>Starlet</i>	15	4	15	33	0	0	0	0	67
Denis Deegan	Nikki Doran	<i>Caddy</i>	6	13	15	34	0	0	0	0	68
Jonathan Bradshaw	Simon Echlin	<i>Land Cruiser</i>	7	15	15	32	0	0	0	0	69
Damien Phillips	Paul Tierney	<i>Starlet</i>	15	15	15	29	0	0	0	0	74
Trish Wojnar	Burschi Wojnar	<i>Cherry</i>	15	15	15	30	0	0	0	0	75
Damien Doran	Anthony O'Neill	<i>Golf</i>	15	15	15	33	0	0	0	0	78
Rory Bolton	Ben Deithrick	<i>Pajero</i>	15	15	15	35	0	0	0	0	80
Ciaran Nutty	Fergal Collins	<i>Midget</i>	15	15	15	29	0	15	0	0	89
Richie Radic	Richard Meeke	<i>Polo</i>	15	15	15	29	15	0	0	0	89
Trevor Hamilton	Ray Shimmings	<i>Mini</i>	15	15	8	28	0	0	0	50	116
Alan Bleakley	Trish Denning	<i>Focus</i>	15	15	15	45	15	15	15	0	135
Donal Arundel	Piers MacFheorais	<i>Starlet</i>	15	15	15	27	0	15	15	50	152