

ENDURANCE NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 20017.

As we are midway between the Monaghan round and the next round (Birr), it is probably a good time to give an update.

Monaghan was a good event, with tight but challenging selectives. Some were new, some old favourites and the organisation was up to their usual high standard. An encouraging sign was the level of entries – 42, the highest there has been for many years.

Unfortunately, one selective included a stretch which was quite the roughest I've seen for many many years. As M.I. Steward, I try to drive as many selectives as possible but even in my 4WD Volvo, at walking pace, I was sure I'd do damage; thankfully, we got through without any.

Competitors were not so fortunate, with damaged sump-guards, suspension, punctures and even one unconfirmed report of an airbag going off!! The problem for the club was that the first part of the selective was ok and the last part was superb – it was just the bit in the middle. In my opinion, there should have been several code boards or stop boxes on that section, to slow cars down and minimise damage – or else split the selective into two. I have a certain sympathy for the club, as splitting the selective would have spoiled an otherwise good selective.

There were several new competitors and let's hope they were not put off by the rough bit.

The other bone of contention was the code boards, with some competitors missing boards which they felt were exceptionally hard to see. Code boards have been a thorny subject for some time and the Navigation S/C is looking at a novel solution which would eliminate the need for the boards.

So we move on to the Birr event. This will be the final event in the championship and going into the event, Kevin O'Rourke has the advantage over Patrick Corcoran but the destination of the championship will be uncertain until after the Birr round. Eoghan Longworth runs a good, generally smooth event and I expect this year will be no different. Brian Duggan has kindly put the standings on Rally.ie

We are still pestering the Rallies Committee to show more commitment to Endurance Trials, including asking them to relax the rules on advertising, as any small financial assistance from a local garage or company might make the difference between someone competing or staying at home.

On a different matter – while I don't mind doing this Newsletter, I wonder if it would be more efficient if it was put up on the ALMC website. My reason is that I find it quite difficult to get email addresses for newer competitors and my 'circulation list' includes a number of people who no longer compete. Any feedback would be appreciated.

Frank O'Donoghue,
Championship Registrar.