

## **Report from Cross Country Co-ordinator**

The first round of the Scottish Cross Country Championship was held at Dumbarton in April; it attracted 10 entries, including some from the North of England.

The second round, at Drumclog on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> May, will long be remembered for the awful weather. During set-up on the Friday the principal hazards were dust and sunburn. After monsoon-like rain on Friday night, the service area and camping field were transformed into a sea of mud which presented a significant challenge to marshals in getting to their allocated positions. The entry of 29 included 13 from the Northern Off-Road Championship, and two from Northern Ireland. Course conditions became so challenging on the Saturday that the organising team had to take the decision to abandon some sections of the course. SRVs were kept very busy; at the end of the first day one of the competitors who had strayed into a particularly boggy area had to be recovered with the assistance of a tracked excavator. It didn't help that a number of competitors appeared to be completely unprepared for the conditions – at least a dozen bailed out after the first day. Further concerns for ground damage meant that the course had to be altered again for the Sunday runs; these took place without any further incidents.

The third round, at Forrest Estate on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June, attracted 13 cars and was incident free. Jock Armstrong visited the site on Saturday and was persuaded to go round as a passenger in one of the comp cars – I'm told that he found the experience "interesting"!

The third round of the British Cross Country Championship – the only one to be staged outside Wales - was also held at Forrest Estate on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June, attracting 25 entries. The BCCC drivers are some 20mph faster than those in the SCCC, and the cars are very different. Parts of the course can only be described as tyre- shredding; competitors, marshals and the recovery unit all suffered punctures. As is normal with the BCCC the event was filmed and will be broadcast in the near future.

The Borders Hill Rally is being run on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> November, also at Forrest Estate. It's estimated that there will be some 100 competitive miles. The event will be recorded for TV and will be broadcast by Motors TV some time in December.

In common with stage rallying, cross country is finding it very difficult to attract sufficient numbers of marshals; this was particularly evident at Drumclog, where the shortening of the course made the shortage less critical. The Borders Hill Rally will need a significant number of marshals of all disciplines as there will be up to three stages running at once.

The MSA have indicated the 2014 Inter Association Cross Country Tyro should be held in Scotland – further details will be circulated as soon as they are available.

Diana Baines, 17 June 2013