

Stonehaven & District Motor Club

Hairst Rally 2019

The SDMC Hairst Rally 2019 took place on Saturday 16th November starting and finishing at the Scout Centre in Methlick. A total of six crews contested the rally, two Experts, two Non-experts and two Novices.

After a bit of a wet day, in the evening the weather gods were kind to us, there was no wind and the temperature was above freezing (about 3-4°), the moon came out to watch and there were occasional fog patches, but no rain much to the relief of the marshals!

The event was won by Charlie Brown/Gordon Reid, in their VW Golf, with 17 penalties, followed by Andy Tong/Duncan Cameron.

Gary and Alan Ross won the Non-Expert class and finished with a brilliant 12 penalties, followed by Andrew and Sam Hunter with 35, a good step up from Novice class which they won last year.

Unfortunately there were no finishers in the Novice section as both crews went OTL at the final control, which was a great shame as they had been performing well throughout the event, at the halfway point Brian and Connor Black had 18 penalties (having missed a code) and Dave McLoughlin/Graham Robertson had only 7!

As Dad Brian says:- "Connor had been at the doctor this week for a bit of a chest infection and started coughing so badly that tears were rolling down his face and so we were stationary for 15 mins, then he couldn't speak so we must have missed a turning. But he was really getting to grips with the clues, so there is always next year!"

Graham Robertson said:- On the last section, I simply lost my positioning when we arrived at the 1st control board as it came up sooner than I was expecting. We then went the wrong direction and struggled to get back on track - lots of reversing and attempting to retrace steps, by which time it was too late.

(Note: The Blue Book R15.1 and R15.1.1, "*competitors must visit at least 2/3 of controls within maximum lateness and MUST arrive at the finish control within maximum lateness*".)

Full results are attached or can be accessed on the club website.

A total of 18 Marshals and Officials signed on, on the night, most having to man two controls, all carried out with good humour. My grateful thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to make the event possible, in particular Andy Ward who checked, corrected and re-checked all my clues and Richard Spark and Yvonne Donald who did half the PR work for me *and* put out all the code boards *and* were closing car on the night!

The post event refreshments were provided by the Methlick Scout Group and was much appreciated by everyone, our thanks to the Scout Group and the ladies who produced and served the food, the stovies were particularly good!!