

## **A Year in the Life of a LNMC Member**

2013 – what a year! Passenger for 4 different drivers in different cars and events, 1 guest appearance thrown in, spectating and marshalling.

The year started with 5<sup>th</sup> of January, the Exeter Trial, on Simms marshalling, a great day out, can't think of a better way to start the new year.

12<sup>th</sup> of January, BTRDA Gold and Silver Star Final at Roland Uglow's Trecarne Farm, what a venue, wet, very slippery. I had the honour of passengering for Mike Wevill. Just a shame our day ended early but at least we could watch everyone else.!

January 27<sup>th</sup> Spry Trophy Trial was next on my calendar, again with Mike, the venue was Trevilla, wet but at least we finished.

10<sup>th</sup> February Lanson Trial – WET!! But again with thanks to all either competed, marshalled or helped in other ways the day was successful.

So on to the Holsworthy Motor Club Chairman's Trial. This time not as an organiser/marshal but passengering Simon Riddle in the Arkley. The weather was cool but dry with the odd snow flurry. I have marshalled this event a few times so this was a chance to see it from a competitor's perspective. We completed the event but I believe narrowly lost out on a class win to a certain red VW Baja – mmmm wonder who that could be! Oh well a good day, good event, only one slight criticism, some of the lanes could do with a trim. Moving on the following Sunday Camel Vale had an event at Washaway, so off I journeyed to watch and support another good club who put on a great event.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> came the Torbay Trial, again in spectator role. Thanks to Keith (3 consecutive Tamar Trials winner and counting) Saunders for my route map. I found myself at my usual morning section, a long climb up a very steep field. Best bike climb of the day was by a certain D Craddock, I believe 2013 was a good year for him! This is also where I had a chance to bounce for Paul Rogers in his Beetle, not an open roof as I am used to and we didn't travel too far up the section (I think the bruising has gone now), again a good event.

So to the MCC Lands End, doing my usual job starting the competitors on their way from Plusha (a job I love). A chance to catch a few words with each competitor and wish them well on their journey.

April 14<sup>th</sup> BTRDA a Sporting Trial near Cirencester, again partnering Mike Wevill. A good day, good event and we finished.

May saw Simon asking me to partner him on Camel Vale Landew Field Trial, again a good day and we managed to split the 2 trolls in the results.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> was our own Motor Traders Trial held at Waterloo Farm. Marshal's head back on and my lovely assistant was Simon's Gran!

So on to the second half of the year. Whilst driving home on a lovely sunny Saturday afternoon my phone sprang into life and a voice at the other end said "Hello Nige, Simon Oates here, what are you doing tomorrow? You're my first port of call" (actually his last – that desperate!). Did I fancy being passenger on the MCC Testing Trial? Well what an opportunity not to miss, after first asking the wife (thought I'd better for once).

On a beautiful hot sunny Sunday off we set, roof down (what roof?), shades on. A really good day, all sections were timed. Needless to say grass and dust weren't the only things

flying – ask the marshals!!! Well it wouldn't be a trial if you didn't scatter a few of them. So how well did we do? Well we finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class – maybe more sweets for the marshals next time, but at least the lads and lasses on bikes did their bit for local honours.

Moving on to the David Ayers Sporting Trial in September, I again teamed up with Mike. 'Fred' Moores was out with his new car .....AT LAST! The entries were down a little, but never mind it was a good day even if the weather was wet, but at least we finished.

The Taw and Torridge was later that month, again in the Arkley, a new experience for me as I have only ever marshalled on this event so again had knowledge of some of the sections. We had a fuel problem this time but we finished, again behind a certain red VW Baja in our class, but did enjoy the event.

October saw me in yet another vehicle, this time passengering for Fred in a Sporting Trial, up Gloucester way, I think. The venue was awesome, weather surprise, surprise was rain, lots of it! I was good fun for me sliding around like an eel (I think having seats may help). Lucy's Cordon Bleu cooking kept us going – bacon and sausage baps and cups of tea. THANKS ALSO TO Alan Ede for picking me up (rumour has it Turkey for hols in 2014)

On Sunday 27th of October it was the Tamar Trial. It's the one I look forward to most after the Launceston and the 2 south west MCC events. There was a good entry this time and I had my Official's hat on going around certain sections, making sure all was OK, a long day though.

In November I was off on travels again. This time to do the Allen Trial with Simon Riddle in the Arkley. A new experience for me, having only seen it on You Tube. At least on a local trial I had an idea where I was going and where re-starts were. It stayed dry (!!!) if a little cold. I'm up for it next year Simon if you want to do it? A very good trial.

So what is 2014 going to bring? My 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, better weather (?), Simon beating that red VW Baja, new events to try (The Exmoor at the end of January), a new name on the Tamar Trophy? Who knows, one thing is for sure – without fellow competitors, marshals and helpers these and more events won't run so thanks to all and a Happy New Year!

**Nigel Cowling**