

PTMC Autotest - September 20th 2009



Port Talbot Motor Club held the latest in a series of Club Production Car Auto- Test events at the Cefn Coed Colliery site on Sunday September 20th. The event was held with the co-operation of the Welsh Assembly Government and again proved to be a great success.

The new team, led by Nigel Tucker and aided by his son Matthew, built on the strong foundations laid down by the previous team led by Dai Bowen. A slightly changed format in terms of the obstacles faced by the crews and a change to accumulative times for all runs meant that crews could approach each run knowing that they need not necessarily have to go “flat out” all the time to win. This didn’t however see anyone “back off “ and everyone was after the coveted Fastest Run award and the up to date results board was a very popular venue throughout the day!

A full entry of 12 guaranteed an enjoyable afternoons fun and competition. The dry conditions were a bonus for the spectators with the plumes of dust thrown up by the cars as they slid and handbraked their way around and between the cones, all adding to the excitement and enjoyment of both the spectators and competitors alike. New features included a box to be reversed into with seconds added if the stop was not behind the appropriate line. Not easy to see with clouds of dust behind you after using the handbrake to slide the car into position but all agreed a great addition to the event and great fun to watch. The Marshal in charge of the obstacle however might disagree!! With each competitor getting six runs at the course the times were tumbling as the event went on and the competition becoming intense as second by second the fastest time was reduced. Eventually the times were added and examined and the overall win went to Steve Griggs in his blue and yellow Mini, with Steve Phillips in his Astra picking up the fastest run prize.

Results were as follows:

Overall Winner : STEVE GRIGGS

Fastest Run of the day : CHRIS PHILLIPS

Under 18 Winning Driver : HUW JONES

Most Improved Driver of the day : ELLIOT EVANS



Left to right: Chris Phillips (Fastest Run); Elliot Evans (Most Improved); Steve Griggs (overall winner); Huw Jones (U-18 winner).

The organisers would like to thank the Welsh Assembly Government, Cefn Coed Colliery Museum, the people who live locally and all the competitors and marshals and their supporters, who all contributed to make the day a great success.

Watch out for the next one before Christmas?