

The Tour of Anglesey Historic Rally 13 and 14 February 2010 - Report by Richard Dix

The Tour of Anglesey Historic Rally was included in the HRCR Clubman's Championship for the first time in several years and formed the opening round of the 2010 season.

I have competed in 4 previous versions of the event, 2 with Andy Gibson in 2003 and 2006; and 2 with Gill in 1996 and 1997. Although organised by the same Clerk of the Course, the pairs of events varied markedly. In the 90's they were highly navigational, whilst latterly they became less so, with plenty of tests, and even a night section.

This year the event reverted to a daytime only format, with tests being run on Saturday afternoon, and full days rallying – tests and regularities - on Sunday. The Saturday tests were run in raw windy conditions at the local Showground – mainly sealed surface with a little smooth loose. The drivers enjoyed these, many exercising their cars for the 1st time this year. The time penalties incurred decided the starting order for the Sunday run. A low entry 29 crews had entered, but only 2 of these were non-championship. Many crews from the 2009 series were not present – deciding to wait until the Tour of Cheshire, so there were plenty of points to be fought over. Last year's Champion driver, Martin Neal, had teamed up with Championship co-ordinator Andy Gibson and were amongst the fancied crews. Other leading contenders were Ian Crammond with seasoned navigator Nigel Raeburn on the maps. Elsewhere the Pedley brothers were expected to show strongly in their Cooper S; whilst Mike and Lorna Harrison, and Keith Colman and David Taylor have both achieved success in 2009.

Sunday started with 4 tests at the Anglesey Race Circuit. It was then immediately into regularities. The 1st was to cause some head scratching – a sign of things to come. It should have been simple, with clock faces describing the route – approach on the hour; depart on the minute. The handout was made slightly more challenging by mixing 12 and 24 hour clocks. After another short regularity and some tests, it was onto a long regularity to lunch. This really started to sort the crews out, taking in most of the complex of lanes to the NE of the island. We dropped 3 code boards in this area, whilst Andy Gibson missed an ITC with the subsequent high penalty, dropping down the order.

The afternoon was more constant action leading to the penultimate regularity – another lengthy navigational route that started near Llangaffo and circulated to the west of Llangefni before finishing back near the Race Circuit. There was plenty to challenge both crew members, and more missed code boards and ITC's were common.

The final tests planned for the Race Circuit were cancelled due to the event running late, so the final section was a very short regularity starting on the outskirts of Holyhead. It seemed bizarre to start regularity in a housing estate. When I asked the marshal he said the islanders loved rallying. It certainly

seemed that way, with crowds of people watching the cars find their way in and out of the lay-by in GS 2282. It was then a blast around the coast road to the finish at Trearddur.

Some new faces appeared in the top 10 – that is good news for the season ahead. Will there be more challengers for the Championship? Let's hope so.

This was a refreshing and entertaining event, giving the Championship a completely different style of rallying. The enthusiastic organisers and helpers deserve a full entry in 2011 – don't miss it!

Results:

1.	Mike Vokes	Matthew Vokes	Hillman Imp	34.24
2.	Ian Crammond	Nigel Raeburn	Mercedes 280SL	37.39
3.	John Sykes	Nick Cooper	Austin Mini Estate	39.48
4.	John Lythaby	Shon Gosling	Riley 1.5	42.37
5.	Paul Richards	Peter Cox	Min Clubman GT	42.54
6.	Keith Colman	David Taylor	Volvo PV544	47.14
7.	Roger Bricknell	Ryan Pickering	Triumph TR4A	49.33
8.	David Mustarde	Richard Dix	Alfa GTV 1750	56.08
9.	Duncan Wilde	Steve Skepper	Triumph 200	57.14
10.	Mike Harrison	Lorna Harrison	Triumph TR4	58.19