ALRC Competitive Events

TRIALS

The courses of the three types of trial are divided into sections, which are marked by pairs of sticks or canes ("gates") to define the route. These are precision driving events where competitors attempt to drive their vehicles through a dozen or so such gates without touching any of them or stopping. The events are not timed other than be exception as referenced under MSUK NCR 20.8.3.26 - 27. Sounds easy but the ground used will be hilly, bumpy, muddy, sandy, gravely or partially flooded!

Tyro Trial. This is the entry level to trailing catering for the standard road taxed showroom type vehicle as produced by the manufacturer, as well as for the enthusiast who wishes to take his "Cherished" vehicle into competition and young people beginning their path into full sized vehicle Cross Country events. It is seen as a starting point for beginners to more serious off-road trialling. The type of terrain used must not risk damage to the underside or bodywork of competing vehicles, and contours may not exceed 50% (1 in 2) fore & aft gradient, 25% (1 in 4) transverse gradient, or have water sections deeper than 0.3 metre.

Road Taxed Vehicle Trial (RTVT). This event is aimed at competitors with a greater level of experience than the Tyro Trial, and may use more challenging terrain, though still being non-damaging to sensibly prepared basic production vehicles. All vehicles must be fully road legal with tax, MoT (if required), insurance etc.

Cross Country Vehicle Trial (CCVT). This is a more difficult event and competition vehicles are to a different specification. They are often cheaper than RTVs as they don't have to be road-legal. They must all be provided with rollover protection and carry a fire extinguisher, but may otherwise be similar to vehicles used in RTVTs

TIMED EVENTS

Additional technical and safety requirements are required for the following:-

Timed Cross Country Vehicle Trial. This is a timed version of a CCV Trial. Formulae are applied to determine scores based on the time taken compared to a pre-set time period. All vehicles must be fitted with a roll-cage for safety and carry a fire extinguisher.

Competitive Safari. This is a kind of timed single venue stage rally on a cross country course of several miles in length. Vehicles must have a full roll-cage, additional lighting and must carry a fire extinguisher but may otherwise be similar to vehicles used in trials. Highly tuned engines and strengthened transmissions are common. Probably the most expensive type of event but is generally perceived as the most exciting to watch.

Team Recovery. A team of two vehicles must traverse a short but usually very difficult course as quickly as possible. It doesn't really matter how they manage it so long as both vehicles succeed. For example one vehicle may drive around the outside of the course and tow the second vehicle through a particularly difficult part. However, this process will need to be repeated with the second vehicle towing the first in order that, as stated, both vehicles complete the whole of the marked course. Vehicles must be fitted with strong mesh screens front and back to protect occupants in the event of a rope breakage.

Point-to-Point. A team of drivers or individuals must visit a set of points in a random or pre-set order in the shortest time. The points will be laid out on a tract of land but they may not necessarily be visible one from another and may be hard to find. Proof of visiting the point is achieved by recording the fact with an official at that point or by collecting a token from the point. All members of the team must complete the course to qualify as finishers.

OTHER EVENTS

Winch Recovery. In this event, a team of no more that three members with two vehicles, one equipped with a winch, must winch an object (often a tree trunk or a disabled vehicle) around a course defined by suitable markers. The team vehicles mustn't move whilst winching and very specific safety precautions must be observed during this process. This isn't a "horsepower" event, but one that needs planning and thought. The team completing the course with the fewest penalties as stated in the SRs will be the winner.

Concours d'Élégance. This is a static competition mainly for road going vehicles, open to both Rover cars as well as Land Rovers. Each entry is judged on its merits by a panel of experts. Trophies are awarded for various classes including Series 1, 2 & 3 as well as Ex-Military, The Everyday Working Vehicle and The Most Original Working Vehicle.

Gymkhana. This event is usually set out on a grassed area, in which driving AND other skills combine to achieve a score. Very often, the activities of a passenger are required such as directing a blindfolded driver. Other tests include reversing as close as possible to a marker post or towing a tyre on a rope around a marked out course without it or the vehicle hitting any of the markers; or exciting things like dropping balls into a bucket, which is surprisingly difficult if done from a moving vehicle!

Promotional Event. This isn't a competition.The event is intended to encourage those who haven't driven their vehicles "off-road" before to have a go. Typically a bumpy, muddy, wet but not hazardous area is provided for drivers to saunter around. Recovery vehicles will be present and marshals will be around to help and give guidance to the inexperienced.