

## **Duffys' Delight in Macroom**

Father and son team, Pakie & Colin Duffy claimed overall victory on round 5 of the National Navigation Trial Championship. The Cork 1000 Shakes is regarded as one of the toughest events of the year and 2012 proved to be no exception. Nial Murphy returned as CoC with the event based out of Macroom after a year's absence. A compact 100 mile route tested drivers and navigators to the limit and with 80 checkpoints on the night, there was little room for error. In the end, Midland Motor Club crews claimed each of the top three overall positions, with Pakie & Colin Duffy taking a one mark win over Chris Kelly/Sam Johnston. Darren Quinn/Nigel McCloughry continued their superb season with 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The first half of the event took crews to the Clondrohid and Carriganimmy areas with the petrol halt in Clondrohid. The majority of crews maintained clean sheets until the first plot & bash section between TP13 and TP18. The action was intense and the penalties started mounting. By C24, Chris Kelly & Sam Johnston led on 3 penalties. The newly-wed Greg Shinnors, driven by his brother Joe, held 2<sup>nd</sup> place on 4 penalties. Darren Quinn/Nigel McCloughry, Pakie Duffy/Colin Duffy, Alan Shinnors/George Shinnors and Richard Cassidy/Paul Phelan were all level on 5 penalties each. Already there were major casualties. Michael Carbin/Evin Hughes were forced into retirement with gearbox failure, while Colin Fitzgerald/Daire Hayes's bid for victory suffered a major setback after a missed time point. By C39, Chris Kelly/Sam Johnston still led on 7 penalties, but Pakie & Colin Duffy had joined them on that total and they were only behind on the 'furthest cleanest' rule. The top five was completed by Joe Shinnors/Greg Shinnors (8 pens), Darren Quinn/Nigel McCloughry (9 pens) and Alan Shinnors/George Shinnors (10 pens). Richard Cassidy/Paul Phelan retired after getting stuck and going OTL.

The event then moved west to some classic territory in the Ballymakeera and Ballingearry areas. Pakie & Colin Duffy had the bit between their teeth and took the lead by C112. Chris Kelly/Sam Johnston were hot on their heels and these two crews were beginning to pull away from the opposition. By C126, the leaderboard was Duffy/Duffy (9 pens), Kelly/Johnston (11 pens), Quinn/McCloughry (16 pens), Brian O'Mahony/Dave Swanton (21 pens) and Colin Fitzgerald/Daire Hayes (29 pens). Joe Shinnors/Greg Shinnors had dropped back due to a missed time point. The final section of the event was particularly challenging with four plot & bash time points and a SRS section to be tackled before the return to Macroom. Duffy/Duffy held their nerve as the event neared its 5am finish. Kelly/Johnston closed the gap to just 1 penalty but couldn't overhaul the Duffys' total. Their total of 16 penalties was enough to claim Colin's first event win. Behind Kelly/Johnston (17 pens), Darren Quinn/Nigel McCloughry completed a Midland 1-2-3 on 30 penalties. Brian O'Mahony/Dave Swanton (34 pens), Colin Fitzgerald/Daire Hayes (36 pens) and Joe Shinnors/Greg Shinnors (42 pens) completed the top six finishers.

### **Expert class:**

Such was the performance of the lower grade classes, the first finishing Expert was Colin Fitzgerald/Daire Hayes in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. Joe & Greg Shinnors finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with Alan & George Shinnors in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ger O'Connell/Denis O'Donovan and Ted Gaffney/Glyn Gaffney were the only other finishers.

### **Semi-Expert class:**

Pakie & Colin Duffy, Chris Kelly/Sam Johnston and Brian O'Mahony/Dave Swanton are all covered in the main report. Martin Dolan and navigator James O'Brien returned to this

branch of the sport after a long absence to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in class and 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Dermot Whelton/Barry O'Sullivan finished in 5<sup>th</sup> with Matt & Enda Hume completing the class finishers.

**Novice class:**

Darren Quinn/Nigel McCloughry took their third maximum score of the year and with main rival Muireann Hayes non-finishing, they are looking good for class honours. They are also well in the hunt for the overall title. Alwyn White/Adrian Tobin finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Andrew Beamish/Eoghan McCarthy took 3<sup>rd</sup>. Richard Jennings/Leslie Wolfe completed the class finishers.

**Beginners class:**

The Beginner class was the most strongly supported with 13 crews starting. Matt Shinnors/Catherine Levis took the class win and were well clear of Andrew Whelton/Cyril Maguire in 2<sup>nd</sup>. David Forde/Sean Henahan finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, leaving Sean well in the hunt for National class honours. Conor O'Neill/Patrick O'Leary finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place with Louis Garry/Kieran Reid completing the top five.

The championship returns to Cork in two weeks time with the Skibbereen 100 Isles on February 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>. Midland Motor Club crews are beginning to dominate holding each of the top three overall positions. However with dropped scores to come into play both Colin Fitzgerald/Daire Hayes and Michael Carbin/Evin Hughes still have a chance of the championship title.

Evin Hughes  
Championship PRO