

Question: What motor sport offers the driver and passenger a great adrenalin filled day out without breaking the bank?

Answer: Sporting Trials

But what is it?

Think of a ski slalom in reverse using a specialised car, and you won't be far wrong. However unlike a ski event you are not against the clock.

The main object is to get as far as possible through a series of gates (12 in all) over challenging terrain that rises and falls using a combination of fiddle brakes (independent rear braking), throttle control and the right gear choice.

You will need to do this on different hill layouts during the day over three rounds - anything from 24-30 hills in one day, giving the driver and passenger a full fun day of motor sport.

Entry level cars can range from as little as £3,000 - and of course you can spend more, but this is not a motor sport where the more money you spend the higher you will climb - this is all about skill.

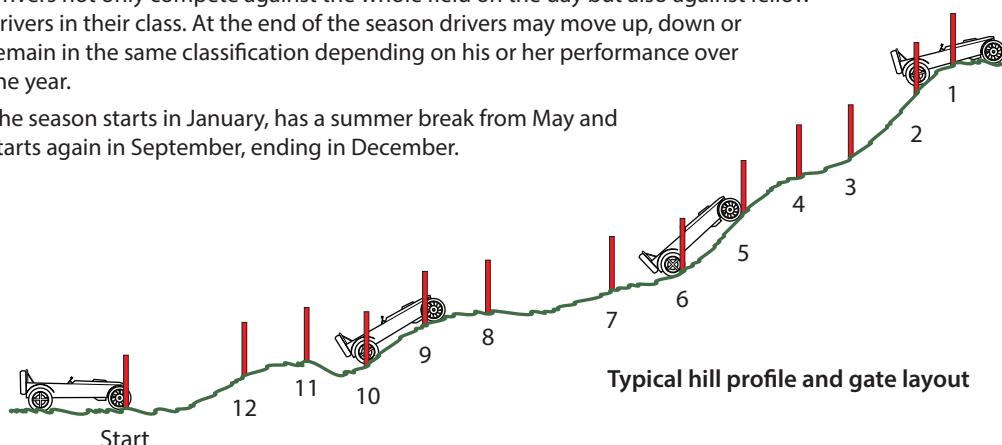
Penalty points are given by marshals on each hill depending on where the car stops and can no longer gain forward momentum. The driver and passenger with the least amount of penalty points at the end of the day will be deemed the winners of the trial.

There is a single classification of car (although many look different there are MSA rules governing the size and layout) and 3 classifications for drivers;

- Red - considered experts
- Blue - intermediates
- Green - novices

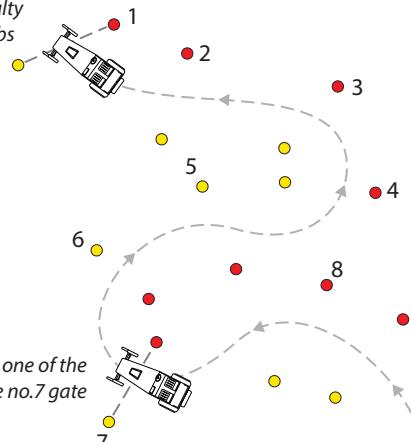
Drivers not only compete against the whole field on the day but also against fellow drivers in their class. At the end of the season drivers may move up, down or remain in the same classification depending on his or her performance over the year.

The season starts in January, has a summer break from May and starts again in September, ending in December.



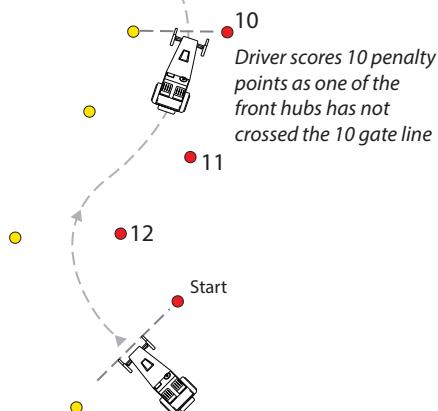
Typical hill section from an aerial view

Driver scores a 'clear round' (0 penalty points) as one of the front wheel hubs has crossed the no.1 gate



Driver scores 6 penalty points as one of the front hubs has passed the no.7 gate

Driver scores 10 penalty points as one of the front hubs has not crossed the 10 gate line



Further details and contacts:

Want to have a go?

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'How to start' article available as a PDF download on the BTRDA website; www.btrda.com/Sporting_Trials

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