



(Founded 1950)

STROUD & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB LTD.

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REMINISCENCE OF BY-GONE CLOUDS

For those of you who are not in possession of the book published for Stroud & District Motor Club's 50th Anniversary, this is a report on the 1970 Cotswold Clouds Trial, you will see the route is entirely different to the present day event. It was written by Geoff Browning, who is the oldest honorary member of the Club, and was the Clerk of the Course for the 1970 Clouds. You will see from the report that a number of the hills are no longer available for the Club to use.

COTSWOLD CLOUDS TRIAL – FEBRUARY 8TH 1970

No less than 95 entries were received for this popular event in the Stroud and District Motor Club Calendar, and 80 entries were accepted with several reserves.

78 cars actually started from the "Horse Shoe Filling Station", Moreton Valance at one-minute intervals to the first o/section at "Pinswell" near Cirencester. This was a new hill which most competitors did not have the pleasure of seeing any further than Section 9. I would like to thank the marshals, in particular, who did a great job in such wet conditions.

The route brought the cars back to the picturesque Ebworth estate, although in February the whole of the woods were very set and slippery. Five o/sections were used and two timed tests to decide in the event of a tie in the Results Sheet. Next to "Fred's Folly" near Bull's Cross, was a very muddy and hard climb for most cars, but with plenty of marshals from Glos. Motor Club on hand, and by recognition a few EMCOS faces.

Still in Dedcombe Woods, the cars (depending on the class) followed a very slippery track along the valley to "Down Barn". This again was a hill not used for some while on trials, very long and excessively muddy at the summit, obviously favoured by the rear-engined contingent but it made the Landrover struggle more than once. Perhaps the marshal in charge of this hill will remember to bring a set of spare keys next year!!!

"Catswood" or as it has since been referred to "Carbreaker", was the next hill, bringing many cars to a stop. May I remind you that this is a public road used many years ago as the main road from Cirencester to Gloucester. It seems the Council forgot to resurface it.

Due to publicity in the local press before the event, Nailsworth Ladder had many spectators and is still one of the best hills in the district, the steps half-way up being conquered from many directions. Class 3 (Specials) had a "Stop and Restart"; only two competitors in this class managed to finish the climb.

Crawley near Uley, was the next one, a new hill for the Clouds. This was a steep long hill rising over 300' in as many yards, with various cambers, and a hairpin thrown in for luck.

The last hill, and still unclimbed by many enthusiasts was "Hodgecombe". This year it appeared less wet, but still deceptive as only five cars came out from the top. This hill was still being run when darkness fell.

From Hodgecombe, the cars went through Dursley, along the A38 to finish at Moreton Valance. A total of 71 arriving there in a muddy condition for hot meals and a good chin-wag.