

Ferguson Flying High with Fifth Win

The fifth running of the Keith Boyd Autotest was held on Saturday 20th May at St Angelo Airfield. Enniskillen Motor Club welcomed a solid entry of 37 cars, who screeched and slid their way over the tarmac at the airfield. This was the fifth round of the McMillan Specialist Cars Northern Ireland Autotest Championship and Clubman/Advanced Challenge. The venue, tests and weather, played into the hands of reigning NI champion Steven Ferguson who continued his winning ways at the Enniskillen event, taking the overall win. In the Clubman category, Garrett Kennedy would make his debut outing and debut win in his rear-wheel drive sports car and the Advanced category would go to an every improving, Adam McMullan in his Toyota Starlet Special.

With Ferguson taking the overall win this would elevate Peter Grimes to first in Class A and fifth overall. James Wilson took the runner up spot in the class with Christopher Grimes Jnr claiming third place in class. Unfortunately Guy Foster would be again forced to make an early exit from Class A, after suffering an irreparable mechanical issue on the first run of the final test forcing him to withdraw from the remainder of the event.

Andrew Blair, from Ballyclare was the solo competitor in Class B winner in his Westfield, taking the class win and finishing the event sixth overall.

In the Small Saloon Class C, Robin Lyons from Drumbo in his Mini Saloon would take the win and finish third overall, with Andrew Earney runner up in the class.

The Large Saloon Class was again a hotly contested, with all four competitors trading times throughout the day. It would be David Thompson who would again come out on top, taking the class win and finishing second overall, with Newmills' Mark King taking the runner up spot in class and fourth overall at this round. Damien Mooney would take the final podium position in the class, after battling all day with Dungannon's Gary Campbell.

In the Clubman classes, Jordan Burns in his Ford Fiesta Special would take his first win in Class A win, as well as finishing third overall in the Clubman Category. Class B would go to Garrett Kennedy, who also took the overall Clubman Category win. Clubman Class D would see a seven way tussle for the win with all drivers pushing their Mazda MX-5s as hard as they would go. Roger Gordon would finish the day first in class, with James Mansfield in second and Ian Lowry in third.

In the Advanced classes, Adam McMullan would take the Class A win, as well as the overall Advanced category win. Robert Robinson in his Toyota Yaris would take the Class C win, as well as the runner up spot in the Advanced category, with Gareth Dillon finishing third overall and first in Advanced Class D.

In the Production Car category it would be father and son pairing of Andrew Molyneaux Snr and Jnr who claimed the top two podium spots, with Kevin McNamee finishing third. Omagh's Ryan McAleer put in another fine performance in his Ford Fiesta to finish fourth in the category.

At prize-giving the Clerk of the Course, Lorraine Simpson thanked all the competitors for their entries, the marshals who turned out to assist and her organising team for all ensuring a slick and smooth event. She also thanked St Angelo Airfield for the use of their premises for the event.

Now at the half-way point, with five rounds completed, championship and class points remain very tight as we head into the next event. Round six will be hosted by Omagh Motor Club at Omagh Showgrounds on Saturday 10th June which will see the battles continue throughout the different categories and classes.

McMillan Specialist Cars Northern Ireland Autotest Championship Round 5

Overall Winner – Steven Ferguson

Championship Category:

Class A – Peter Grimes

Class B – Andy Blair

Class C – Robin Lyons

Class D – David Thompson

Clubman Category:

Class A – Jordan Burns

Class B – Garrett Kennedy

Class C – No Competitors

Class D – Roger Gordon

Advanced Category:

Class A – Adam McMullan

Class B – No Competitors

Class C – Robert Robinson

Class D – Gareth Dillon

Production Car Category:

Class P – Andrew Molyneaux Snr