

## **Stonehaven & District Motor Club**

### **Hairst Rally 2023**

The SDMC Hairst Rally 2023 took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September starting and finishing at the Scout Centre in Methlick, courtesy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Methlick Scout Group. It is a superb venue and the addition of WiFi was very welcome and facilitated our results system.

This year we again used RallyAppLive but with the addition of 50% of the controls being manned and operating in 'Marshal Mode'. We had not tried this before on a proper rally, and expected teething problems, but in the event it worked perfectly even though none of the marshals had seen or used it before.

A total of six crews contested the rally, two Experts, three Novices and one Newcomer. We actually had 9 entries but personal and work related problems (it is not called 'The Hairst' by chance!) intervened and three of them had to withdraw..

After a bit of a grey day, in the evening the weather gods were kind to us, there was no wind and the temperature was benign, it was overcast but no rain much to the relief of the marshals!

The event was won by Alan Radin/Graham Watson from Highland Car Club, in their VW Polo ,followed by Geoff Bateman/ Graham Couser..

Richard Spark/Gemma Donald from SDMC won the Novice class in spite of Gemma suffering from 'mal de navigator' part way through the event.

The Newcomers Harry Garden/ Thomas Comber from ADMC made a good showing even though it was their first ever Navigational Rally. We look forward to seeing them again as they progress in the sport.

Full results are attached or can be accessed on the club website.

A total of 15 Marshals and Officials signed on, on the night, all marshals having to man two controls, all carried out with good humour. My grateful thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to make the event possible

Andy Ward and Duncan Cameron checked, corrected and re-checked all my instructions, Brian Black and John Godsman did the PR work for me, and Andy Tong, Duncan Cameron and Tom Purvin put out and retrieved all the control and code boards.

Spiced Parsnip Soup and sandwiches were provided at the finish, and there was some lively post event discussion with the more experienced competitors giving the Newcomers a quick tutorial!

Gerry Potter

Clerk of the Course