

MOTORSPORT AUTOTEST



Ken Irwin with his brother Charlie (right) and Mervyn Buchanan. Both Charlie and Mervyn competed in the first ever Ken Irwin sponsored autotest in 1981, held in the grounds of Knocknamoe, which Charlie won.



Mark McAleer from Drumnakilly.



Castledearg's Ian Lowry in action.

Foster proves to be the 'Guy' to beat

BY CHRIS CALDWELL

GUY Foster claimed the coveted Ken Irwin Trophy during Omagh Motor Club's Christmas Autotest, which was held on Saturday.

The Navan man led from start to finish to claim the title from Dubliner Peter Grimes, who were separated by just 1.2 points after 12 tests after both enjoyed penalty free days.

In third place was Newmills man, Mark King, who again excelled in his Vauxhall Nova to push the Mini Special men all the way, while Northern Ireland Champion, Steven Ferguson, was fourth after earning a fall on the final test of the day. Just behind Ferguson was Chris Grimes, with Castledearg's Jonny McDaid sixth in his Mini, while Cookstown's Trevor Ferguson was seventh, one place ahead of Coagh's Damien Mooney.

George McMillan came home in ninth, ahead of three more Tyrone drivers, Brendan Mooney, Norman Ferguson and Mark Ferguson, who were 10th, 11th and 12th overall respectively.

The class A honours were also claimed

by Foster, with Grimes second and Ferguson third, with the class B crown being secured by Trevor Ferguson, who had a significant advantage over Brendan Mooney and Mark Ferguson, who were second and third respectively.

McDaid claimed the class C title from Norman Brown, whose to maximums in the final two tests left him a distance behind. And the class D crown was won by King, who finished in front of Damien Mooney, who enjoyed a fault free afternoon to finish second, with McMillan third.

In the clubman section, Jack Lowry pipped Ian Lowry to victory, with Paul Phean third and Adam Lowry fourth.

The advanced class only had three competitors, with Noel Cochrane the winner after a flawless run, beating Robert Robinson into second and Harold Hassard third.

An autosolo event ran alongside the autotest, with Emaonn Byrne enjoying a penalty free day to win by some distance from Angus Johnson, with Adam Brogan third. Full results available via www.stopastride.live.



Three generations of the McAleer family with their lockdown project; a lovingly restored 1988 1275 GT Mini. Originally bought for £200, the car was rescued from a field where it had lain for 15 years.



Overall winner, in his Ken Irwin built car, Class A champion, Guy Foster.



Ian Lowry with sons Adam and Jack. Jack won the Mini Clubman Class, Ian coming 2nd and Adan securing 4th place on a memorable day for the Castledearg family.



Autosolo competitor Gary Milligan in his Mini Cooper replica.