Duties of Marshals’

Marshals are required on the day of the trial to ensure the smooth running of the event. The number needed depends on many things, i.e. the type of trial, the venue, the size of entry, etc. A marshal's duties are to officiate at each section (or as directed by the Clerk of the Course) and to ensure that each section is clear of vehicles and spectators before a competitor is allowed to attempt the section. A start marshal must also check the competitor and any passenger are wearing a seat belt (minimum lap strap) and not smoking, and that competing drivers do not passenger other drivers in the sections, and where a vehicle is driven by more than one person to make sure they spread out within the group.

Laying out Trials

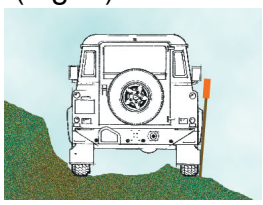
Each gate will have a white top on the right and a red top on the left, each denoting the gate number. Occasionally blank canes (other than crossed canes) are used to further define the route which competitors are required to take on a particular section. A vehicle hitting such a blank cane incurs penalties as if it had stopped at that point. To achieve a "zero" a competitor must successfully negotiate the course without stopping, without touching the canes, and without deviating from the section.

When marshalling the finish, you will usually be asked to mark competitors' scorecards. Before marking scorecards, always move the competitor off the section and start the next vehicle, liaise with the other marshals to ensure the correct score is obtained. Mark the card entering the figure scored, written number and sign (i.e. 5, five, F. Bloggs.). Marshals should also collect the scorecards on the last section and if possible total up the scores. Don't chase after competitors, let them come to you.

Scoring Trials

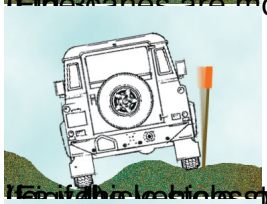
If any part of a vehicle touches a cane the competitor's score for that section is the number on that cane. As soon as one cane is touched, the driver ceases to compete on that section, i.e. if canes number 7, 4 and 2 are touched, the score for that section is 7.

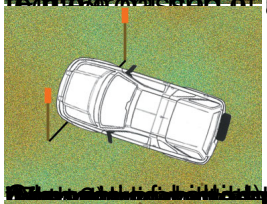
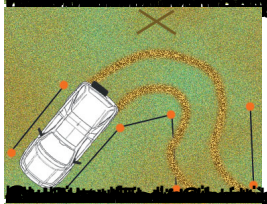
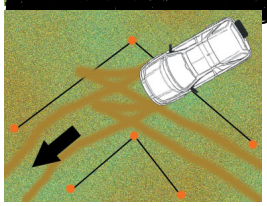
(Fig. 1)



(Fig.2)

If the canes are moved by the ground being displaced by the vehicle's wheels this is a clear



If the vehicle stops between the cones 8 and 7, it is scoreless. The next pair of canes it is approaching,

If the vehicle passes a line between a pair of canes, the whole vehicle is deemed