

Woolbridge 4x4 end of season review

It's that time of year again; the grumpy old man can wine about the season's antics.

This year's weather was kind to us as we did not cancel any events due to bad weather, though a few were cancelled later in the season due to low numbers so you can't win! Well we can, next seasons summer time events have been cancelled, but eight events will still be run across the year.

Yet again this year as try as we might: phone text, E mail, Facebook. Mobile phones do not work in contacting to book entries for events: so without fail we have no idea how many people will attend.

Thanks to the few that without fail contact us with a simple yes or no before the event, it's only a small thing, but it does help in sporting events.

After losing a few venues in recent years the addition of a venue at Kenton Mandeville, a large venue that can be used in any weather was a bonus thanks to Paul Johnston in securing the site. Simon crook has also helped with his venue at crossways clearing a large area of land to use

I will sort the end of season results, most of them are in the computer that is now in a skip! Anyone that knows my technical skills on the computer will know backups don't exist so it's back to the old score sheets.

The two classes ccv and rtv had mixed numbers during the year, by the end of the season the rtv class had almost vanished the ccv class had a steady five or six at each event, that is why a change is coming I will talk on this later.

Big thanks must go to the few that without fail help at each event believe it or not even when they don't drive they show up and marshal. Who would have thought it!

NEXT SEASON

At the last event of the season with what few drivers turned out held a brief meeting to discuss the way forward, I did offer to stand down and let fresh blood have ago, a strange silence followed, by "your having a laugh if you think you can get out that easy" so here I am.

- The big question was more drivers where do we find them?
- Here was a few of the comments received:
- No point chasing existing drivers that turns up once a year?
- Change the type of vehicles used?
- Cars too valuable to damage?
- People are too busy (rant we all but we still fit it in)?
- Make events more family friendly?
- Try combining with other clubs?

A few things to ponder on:

I had invited Merv in the duster to get some feedback on suv off road use and jes who has land rover diff oil as his blood, to give me there thoughts. Then a strange thing happened they agreed to set up a class and run with it YES NEW HELPERS!!!!!!

After Garry slapped me to make sure I was not dreaming the following was agreed:

- Set up new class SUV;
- Run completely different sections to the other classes ;
- Sections slightly rougher than car trial sections but drivable in any suv and shiny land rover or crew cab pickup and any other make in-between;
- Minimal risk of scratching or other damage;
- To start with two classes in the suv over 2 litre and under 2 litre ;
- No tyre restrictions at the moment;
- Promote the class for all 4x4s crew cab pickups and suvs;

- It's more than likely that we will be the first club in England offering suv trials, it will take some work to start with but it might just save the 4x4 trials;
- Every event should have a ladies /children's toilet;
- The ccv class sections will stay the same;
- The rtv sections will be made easier, less damaging ;
- We will offer a season booking;
- Six trials £90, you will get refund if the event is cancelled, or if you don't show up no refund.
- You can book what six events you wish to run during the season;
- Under 18 £5;
- Booked in one week before the event £20;
- Turn up on the day or few days before £30;
- All drivers on the group booking will be able to pay £15 for the remaining events.

Let's see what happens.

The taster trial was a perfect opportunity to start the ball rolling.

Garry, Jes and myself set out a five sections for suv type vehicles and some rtv sections a poor turn out of existing drivers meant the rtv sections were barely used, but Jes had waved the land rover magic wand and a good turn out of ten land rovers and two troopers and Merv in his Duster, Colin in his 4x4 Jago Jeep and three Shoguns.

The sections were very similar to car trial sections, but the gradually got tougher throughout the day.

The Mitsubishi Pinin was used by most on the rtv sections, just to give them an idea of the rougher sections.

What an enjoyable day, even the rain shower didn't drown the usual Land Rover verses jap cr!P verses Duster banter; which was taken all in good spirits. We made a point of getting section feedback from the drivers which helped with the setting up of the next event. Which will be at Hogcliff on the 15th October at Hogcliff . A trophy was given to Chris who had travelled one hundred and fourthy miles in a series three Land Rover to attend, and drive home!

It was good to see the ladies having a go as well in the 110 Land Rovers and crew cab pickups, we just need to get the word about to all the suv drivers to have ago, So if you own a Duster, Subaru, Kuga, Honda ,M class, Hyundai, Kia, or Suzuki, that has a little button with four wheels on. So why not come and test the button and see what it does!

Rant over

John (grumpy 4x4)Kirby