

4x4 Trial Hogcliff Bottom 15th October 2017

Woolbridge Motor Club

The first trial of the season, with the two usual classes and the addition of the SUV class which is split into two sub classes road tyres and mud tyres. The new class has been added to try and boost numbers as the last few events had very poor turn outs, so a change was needed. Try as we might, the existing classes kept losing drivers so the new class will and has opened up a new aspect to 4x4 trials with non damaging non scratching events, which is why the venue had to be changed. For the first event Simons Quarry being a great venue if mud sand deep holes and massive trees are you thing, not so good when you need to use your 4x4 the next day for work or the wife wants it to take the kids to school.

Hogcliff was the obvious choice and the taster day had got a lot of interest so a similar event was needed.

Well there, was no improvement in CCV numbers or RTV 6 in the CCV 2 in the RTV, but the SUV 13 drivers it does make you wonder if this is the way forward; are the costs involved in CCV going to be the end of the class?

What a range of vehicles, series Land Rovers: I haven't seen a series Land Rover trialing for at least ten years and a series four Discovery all shiny and dripping with electronics, a few LWB Land Rovers and a LWB Nissan crew cab pickup, Isuzu Troopers and not forgetting one of the volunteers to run SUV, Merv in his Daica Duster,

As I was running the CCV/ RTV sections I missed most of the goings on for SUV sections, so hopefully one of them can write a few words to cover them. The CCV sections were a challenge to say the least. I set them out hard due to the dry conditions would give plenty of grip so plenty of sheer banks and axle twisters, and looking at the scores it worked. Simon Crook was storming ahead until the afternoon when the front axle would take no more and went bang, which was the end of his and Bens day. Soon followed by the front axle of Greames x90 which left only three in the class. Our Shogun special was on its first event and was having fuel issues all day. You know the sort, just when you boot it and nothing! Let off and it revs up.aah! but any way that's my excuse why Garry beat us in his tractor / Land Rover.

Garry Arnold	Land Rover hybrid	49 pts	1 st in class
John Kirby	Shogun special	69 pts	2 nd in class
Sarah Kirby	Shogun special	78 pts	best junior
Simon Crook	Range Rover hybrid		retired
Ben Crook	Range Rover hybrid		retired
Greame Wills	x90		retired

The RTV class run the CCV sections, but the sections were adjusted quite a lot to make them more drivable in a road going vehicle. It was a lot of extra work for just two drivers, but we need to encourage the drivers to come out and run this class or it will be the first class to be dropped. Garry Morris, the now famous Victor Ludorum champion, was out in his trusty Shogun and Colin Chaffey was out in his Jago /Daihatsu hybrid Jeep which seems to be a very capable truck. I'm sure when Colin gets to grips with driving it off road, he will be giving Garry a good run for his money

Garry Morris Shogun 50 pts 1 st in class

Colin Cheffey Jago 89 pts

All I know about the SUV class is a Land Rover didn't get to the event; one snapped its chassis and one broke a half shaft and the rest had a really good day. The class has attracted drivers from, Portsmouth, Cardiff and Chris drove his series three from near Coventry that's the spirit and where are the local drivers nowhere to be seen!!

The sections were a very good starting point now we know what they are capable of we can build on it

Road tyre class

Kori Hupe lenz	Isuzu Trooper	0 pts joint first in class
Simon Wraith	Isuzu trooper	0 pts joint 1 st in class
Dan Bowden	Nissan pickup	11 pts
Merv Taylor	Dacia Duster	1 pt third in class
Andy Donovan	Land Rover	15 pts
Amy Littlewood	Nissan pickup	14 pts

Mud tyre class

Chris Rimell	Land Rover	0 pts joint 1 st in class
Derek Collard	Land Rover	10 pts
Martin Simmons	Land Rover	16 pts
Dan Pengilly	Land Rover	0 pts joint first in class
Andrew Rriths	Discovery 4	0 pts joint 1 st in class
Heidi War	Land Rover	retired
Loan Griths	Discovery 4	24 pts

Congratulations to all the contenders and we will try and sort the first over all winners in the next few events, if the weather doesn't do it we will have to sort the sections to catch you out.

All the feedback from the new drivers seemed to be good and everyone had a good day the usual Land Rover against Jap 4x4 banter was all taken in good heart, even Garry Arnold managed to fail a suv course; much to the amusement of the new drivers, he had a few excuses but no one listened!! Just laughed

I would like to thank Jes and Heidi and Merv with setting up the suv courses and running the suv side of things

Garry Arnold and Sharon for their continued support in running the ccv/rtv

John Kirby