



## 4X4 Trial Season Opener Hogcliff Hill

**First victory of the season goes to Dave Butterfield**

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Dry and sunny conditions greeted competitors at Hogcliff Hill for the first four-wheel-drive trial of the season as the focus of Woolbridge Motor Club activities switches from speed hillclimbing, ascending an uphill tarmac track in the quickest time, to trials where it is more important how far you can climb a course laid-out in a grass field with a steep gradient than how quickly you drive.

All the contestants were classified within Class 2 which caters for vehicles with standard diff-locks, limited suspension travel with the opportunity to use fiddle brakes and it was Weymouth window repair specialist Dave Butterfield who immediately demonstrated his intent as the drivers embarked upon three runs each of six tests. Dropping just two points on the first climb Butterfield made a positive start which was matched by Darren Evans, driving a Land Rover, who was competing at the venue for the first time having joined Woolbridge the previous day.

Although some drivers could match the eventual winner on individual sections a consistent challenge across the eighteen tests was not forthcoming and at the completion of the first stanza of sections the gap between Butterfield and Evans had developed to fifteen points with Simon and Kieran Baxter tying for third in their Suzuki some ten points in arrears of the second-placed man. The Bridport father and son duo were however immersed in a close battle with Emma Kirby whom they led by a single point and Shannon Butterfield who trailed the Japanese machine by a brace of points. Emma Kirby's morning was hindered by a light barrel roll which fortunately inflicted very little damage to her father's self-built Daihatsu based machine as the pairing enjoyed a close battle which saw the fairer sex with a three mark advantage following the initial batch of tests.



Precarious business 4X4 trials. Is John Kirby telling his daughter Emma, who is driving, that they are about to roll?

As the drivers commenced the second run Butterfield maintained his advantage but was unable to match his first run total score with many of the sections having been amended to ensure that a challenge was preserved. Evans was a mere two points adrift on the second run but was unable to reduce the lead which Butterfield had earlier created.

Behind the leaders however the battle was still intense with Shannon Butterfield, co-driving with her father Dave, moving into third place on a score of seventy-five penalties just two ahead of Kieran Baxter.

The final six sections saw Dave Butterfield hit a purple patch tackling three tests without penalty to secure victory with a total penalty count of fifty-seven. Evans shadowed the victor through the final tests with the loss of seventeen points which was a mere two points in arrears and meant he was nineteen points shy across the day. Simon Baxter fought hard to make up the ground lost to his son Kieran and the pair finished in third, both having amassed one hundred and seven points. Matthew Taylor returned a score sheet of one hundred and thirty-seven in his Land Rover Freelander which was the vehicle closest to a road-going specification, whilst Shannon Butterfield was unable to build on her second-round success when she was forced to retire from the competition due to a painful arm.



Suzuki grass cutter - Simon Baxter at the wheel First Woolbridge 4X4 trial for Darren Evans



Shannon Butterfield retired after the second run



Standard looking Freelander of Matthew Taylor



## 4 X 4 TRIAL HOGCLIFF FARM

Sunday October 16th 2022

DRIVER	RUN 1						RUN 2						Sub Total	RUN 3						Grand Position Total				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					
John Kirby	10	3	6	7	9	11	46	7	9	3	4	6	10	39	85	2	0	11	3	7	2	25	110	4th
Dave Butterfield	2	3	3	0	9	0	17	2	9	3	2	6	3	25	42	3	0	0	0	3	9	15	57	1st
Simon Baxter	10	3	4	6	9	10	42	10	9	3	4	6	10	42	84	6	0	0	5	3	9	23	107	3rd
Emma Kirby	5	4	8	7	9	10	43	10	9	4	4	6	10	43	86	3	0	7	3	8	11	32	118	5th
Shannon Butterfield	7	5	5	7	9	11	44	11	1	3	5	1	10	31	75	Retired								
Kieran Baxter	10	3	6	6	9	8	42	8	8	0	6	6	7	35	77	10	0	4	1	5	10	30	107	3rd
Darren Evans	2	7	3	7	9	4	32	9	8	1	0	6	3	27	59	6	0	0	0	10	1	17	76	2nd
Matthew Taylor	10	7	8	10	9	7	51	7	4	11	7	3	11	43	94	6	3	7	9	10	8	43	137	6th



**Next 4 X 4 Event**  
**Sunday November 20th 2022**



John Kirby made up ground on the final runs