

## *The club achieves two 'Best Event' awards from national championships and members win champion status at national and regional level*



Sarah Forsyth (centre) receives the Norrie Galbraith Trophy from Hazel Galbraith whilst Wiscombe Ltd Managing Director Peter Isaac looks suave and dapper.

An eight-day period has seen one Woolbridge Motor Club member receive his awards, plus acclaim from his peers, upon securing his second British Hillclimb Championship victory and the following weekend another driver was victorious in the car trials championship of the Association of South Western Motor Clubs. In addition to these successes the club has been recognised with 'Best Event' awards in two national championships.

The club has a high profile within the sport of speed hillclimbing in the south west and throughout the country, which was confirmed at the recent annual awards presentation of the British Hillclimb Championship which included three presentations to members of the club. Porsche 911 Carrera pilot Jonathan Williamson took victory in the Modified Cars-Series Production category of the British Hillclimb Cup series whilst Scotsman Wallace Menzies was crowned British Champion for the second time having repelled his challengers at the wheel of his prodigiously rapid Cosworth 3.3 litre V8 powered Gould GR59M.

The third award, which made its way to Dorset in the safe hands of club chairman Sarah Forsyth, was presented to the club in recognition of the best organised British Hillclimb Championship event during the 2022 season. The competition encompassed fifteen events with staged a total of thirty qualifying rounds across the length and breadth of the country. From Guernsey and Jersey in the Channel Islands to Doune in Scotland and across the Irish Sea to Craigantlet in Northern Ireland.

Sarah Forsyth received the trophy from Hazel Galbraith, the daughter of Norrie Galbraith, after whom the trophy is named. Norrie has become a hillclimb legend in his native Scotland, the five-time Scottish Speed Champion who also claimed the Scottish Hillclimb Championship on three occasions, lost his life when driving his single-seater racing car during filming for Scottish Television when he collided with a tractor which had unexpectedly strayed onto the track.



Race suits give way to black tie. Club members receive their B.H.C. awards from David Bond the Managing Director of Footman James (British Hillclimb Cup sponsor). Wallace Menzies (above) crowned British Champion for the second time and Jonathan Williamson who took the honours in the Modified Cars-Series Production over 2000 cc division in the Hillclimb Cup.



British Hillclimb Championship Awards photographs courtesy of BHC website

“Being presented with this trophy a couple of weeks ago, caps a very successful 2022 for Woolbridge MC, who also won the Mike Stevens Trophy for the best run round of the National Car Trials Championship that we ran in May. So for us to win the best run round of the two National Championships that we run in the same year, is a remarkable achievement, and one for which I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the organisation of those events.”

“I was delighted to accept the Norris Galbraith Award on behalf of Woolbridge MC at the recent BHC Awards. It was very kind of the Norrie's daughter, Hazel, to make it a very special evening. I recall attending an Awards Lunch as a teenager with my Father when he was running the WMC BHC round at Wiscombe in, we think, the early '90s, to receive the Norrie Galbraith trophy, so it's great to receive it again, about 30 years later.” Commented Woolbridge chairman Sarah Forsyth.

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The Mike Stevens Trophy can only be won for three years in succession so it is a considerable achievement for the club to have been presented with the award on four occasions during a five year period. Mark Hoppé, who as the lead member of the Woolbridge trials team has been instrumental in the club gaining this award, also bolstered his own trophy cabinet having recently been acclaimed the south-west trials champion with a narrow victory over fellow club member Charlie Dovey.



Mark Hoppé took his Suzuki Alto to the overall win in the Maurice Crabb Memorial Trophy at Uploders. The event was the final of the A.S.W.M.C. Trials Championship and the victory secured the title for the Sherborne driver.



Sunny days in May at Gurston Down. Wallace Menzies powers his 3.3 litre Cosworth powered Gould GR59M out of Karousel