

Mark Hoppé back in the winning way with Suzuki Alto



Maurice Crabb Memorial Trial Uploders near Bridport

Hoppé claims trial and ASWMC Championship victory

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Two wins early in the winter season for Charlie Dovey the Winterbourne Steepleton driver the lead in the Woolbridge Motor Club's Car Trials Championship but a hat-trick was to elude the eighteen-year-old, who claimed victory in Class 2 for Front-Wheel Drive cars, carrying ballast, but lost the contest for the overall win to Mark Hoppé who was more than twenty points to the good of his nearest challenger in the Class 1 category for FWD machines not carrying ballast.

Hoppé, from Sherborne, was the man in form at Uploders near Bridport for the third qualifier in the 2022-2023 Woolbridge Championship and the delayed final of the Association of South Western Motor Clubs 2022 series. Driving his diminutive 993 cc Suzuki Alto the six-time national series champion (Motorsport UK twice and British Trials And Rally Drivers Association four times) made a good start on the frozen terrain but was shadowed through the first round of eight tests by Bridport driver Gary Morris who kept his Vauxhall Corsa in the battle trailing by just three points and in turn eking a single point advantage over the Peugeot 206 of Dan de Chazal.

By the time the event paused for lunch the multiple champion had succumbed to pressure from his main challenger with Morris turning the tables on Hoppé and taking the class lead by two points. De Chazal remained in third.

A close contest ensued in Class 2 with Charlie Dovey and Stephen Tite providing the entertainment. The Woolbridge Championship leader completed the first round a mere one point ahead of Cerne Abbas driver Stephen Tite in his second event with the Ford Ka and becoming more accustomed to his mount. As the sun began to thaw the frozen fieldscape, slippery mucilaginous mud became a challenge where the grass surface had been broken and the Ford driver excelled during the second round posting a total of nineteen penalties, three less than Dovey to usurp the lead by two points and fourteen ahead of third placed Phil Buckle at the wheel of a 1600 cc Citroen Saxo.

Meanwhile, the two morning rounds had enabled the experienced David Robinson to show his dexterity in the Rear-Wheel Drive division with his Reliant Scimitar SS1 increasing an eight point advantage over Jim Forsyth (VW Beetle) and Tony Billage (MG TF) at the end of round one to a healthy lead of fourteen over the former at lunch following the retirement of the MG with overheating maladies.



Circuit racer and trialist - Chris Morgan

Run of wins broken but Charlie Dovey still took Class 2

The combatants reassembled for the afternoon competition which was limited to a single round of eight tests leaving little room for error in the battles for superiority in the first two classes. The final stanza of tests saw Hoppé and his Suzuki annihilate the opposition amassing only ten penalties when compared to the count of thirty-five for Morris, although Tim (Renault Clio Cup) and Charlie Dovey, in Class 2, collected fifteen and twelve respectively. This starting final round by Hoppé built an advantage large enough to give him the overall win and the Maurice Crabb Memorial trophy not to mention a sufficient margin over Charlie Dovey to secure the crown of the A.S.W.M.C. Trials Champion. Morris finished twenty-three points shy of the victor and claimed the class honours ahead of de Chazal. Swanage's Dave and Alistair Moss enjoyed close competition with the former taking third in class just one point up on his son who received the award for the Best Under Twenty-three year old driver.

Class 2 saw the lead return to Charlie Dovey as Stephen Tite shipped a massive twenty-three points on his adversary but still hung on to second place, twenty-one in arrears and five ahead ahead of an improving Tim Dovey. David Robinson maintained his form during the afternoon to defeat Adam Smith, also piloting a Scimitar SS1, in the final analysis by nineteen points. Ryan Whincrop, co-driving with Smith, won Best Novice.



Gary Morris claimed class one honours when Mark Hoppé took the overall victory.



Second in Class 2 for Stephen Tite and Ford Ka

Dave and Dougie Atkins enjoy the trial in Citroen AX

Maurice Crabb Trial 22nd Jan 2023													Round 1					Round 2										
Class	No.	Driver	Club	Car	cc	C/N	J	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sub Total	Cum Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sub Total	Cum Total	
1	102	Richard Wilson	WMMC	Mini Suxo	1800	N		4	4	2	5	2	4	1	7	5	35	33	3	3	5	8	5	1	1	8	31	64
1	103	Chris Morgan	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	E		5	1	3	2	5	1	0	1	1	26	28	3	1	0	8	5	1	1	8	39	65
1	104	Gary Morris	WMMC	Corsa	1356	E		3	3	2	5	1	0	1	1	1	19	19	3	2	3	8	1	1	4	22	41	
1	105	John Kirby	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1400	E		3	5	1	4	2	4	7	2	2	32	32	4	2	7	7	2	1	1	0	36	68
1	106	Mark Hoppé	WMMC	Suzuki Alto	993	E		3	5	1	4	1	0	0	2	16	16	3	2	7	8	1	1	1	0	4	27	43
1	107	John Willshire	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1380	N		5	4	8	7	2	7	7	6	44	44	4	3	11	8	3	4	1	1	8	40	84
1	108	Tim Pitfield	WMMC	Peugeot 107	358	N		6	10	11	6	6	8	7	7	63	63	8	10	9	9	6	7	7	7	64	127	
1	109	David Moss	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	E		3	4	2	5	2	4	1	1	5	26	28	4	2	8	7	2	4	1	6	34	60
1	110	David Meers	WMMC	VW Polo	1390	N		5	3	2	7	2	3	7	7	41	41	4	2	8	8	2	4	1	1	8	40	81
1	111	Stephen Tite	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	E		3	7	1	8	4	1	1	1	25	25	3	2	8	8	3	3	1	1	9	39	52
1	112	Will Lawrence	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1357	E		3	7	1	8	2	0	1	5	22	22	4	2	8	8	5	5	1	1	5	38	60
1	114	Graham Timbers	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	E		4	4	3	5	2	4	2	5	25	25	3	2	9	8	2	4	1	1	5	34	63
1	115	Dan de Chazal	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1987	E		4	2	1	6	2	0	1	5	20	20	4	3	4	7	5	1	1	1	9	37	57
1	118	Elliott Timbers	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1300	N		3	4	8	8	2	4	1	5	33	33	2	2	8	8	8	1	1	1	9	42	76
2	201	Stephen Tite	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	E		3	0	1	4	0	0	0	3	11	11	3	0	9	3	1	1	0	4	19	30	
2	202	Phil Buckle	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1300	E		4	7	1	0	0	1	4	4	16	16	3	2	9	7	2	1	0	5	26	44	
2	203	Blair Moss	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	N		3	3	5	0	0	1	1	5	16	16	4	2	11	6	9	1	1	9	42	58	
2	204	David Dovey	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1350	N		3	5	1	6	3	1	1	5	27	27	4	2	8	8	5	1	1	1	9	42	58
2	205	David Dovey	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1200	N		4	2	9	3	1	7	5	3	34	34	4	2	9	7	2	1	1	1	8	38	70
2	206	Dave Atkins	WMMC	Citroen AX	1124	E		5	4	3	5	3	4	7	7	34	34	4	2	9	8	1	2	7	7	8	45	87
2	207	Tim Dovey	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1200	E		3	3	8	4	1	1	1	7	22	22	3	3	10	8	1	1	1	3	27	55	
2	208	Dougie Atkins	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1100	N		5	7	3	5	0	7	7	7	41	41	5	5	9	8	2	1	7	7	49	90	
2	209	Chris Morgan	WMMC	Mini	1275	E		4	4	8	4	1	4	1	4	26	26	0	1	10	6	2	1	1	3	26	56	
2	210	Charlie Dovey	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1300	E		3	1	0	7	3	0	0	2	10	10	7	0	9	7	7	0	2	2	22	32	
2	211	Stephen Tite	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1300	E		5	4	5	4	2	3	1	5	29	29	5	5	11	8	2	2	1	4	4	36	84
2	212	Will Lawrence	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1124	E		4	4	5	4	1	4	1	3	24	24	4	2	10	3	2	2	1	4	3	29	59
2	213	Jim Forsyth	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	N		3	2	5	5	2	7	2	5	40	40	4	3	11	8	5	2	7	4	47	87	
2	214	Mike Dove	WMMC	Citroen AX	1400	E		3	2	7	5	2	0	3	3	22	22	3	2	9	8	3	1	1	5	29	61	
3	301	Tony Billage	WMMC	MG TF	1300	N		3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	3	0	9	3	1	1	0	4	19	29	
3	302	Phil Thomas	WMMC	Dutton	1300	E		3	5	1	7	3	4	1	4	26	26	3	3	8	10	5	1	0	4	3	35	61
3	303	Alistair Silvester	WMMC	Ugac	348	E		6	5	7	3	0	6	7	40	40	6	5	3	7	5	4	7	7	7	49	89	
3	304	Ryan Whincrop	WMMC	Reliant SS1	1600	N		3	4	1	7	3	1	1	5	26	26	3	3	4	8	3	1	1	4	34	52	
3	305	Adam Smith	WMMC	Reliant SS1	1600	E		3	4	1	7	3	1	1	5	26	26	3	3	4	8	3	1	1	4	34	52	
3	306	Adam Smith	WMMC	Reliant SS1	1600	E		3	2	1	7	2	4	8	3	26	26	2	1	9	8	6	1	0	2	27	55	
3	307	David Robinson	WMMC	Reliant SS1	1600	E		3	1	0	7	2	4	0	2	18	18	2	0	8	7	5	1	0	1	23	41	

Maurice Crabb Trial 22nd Jan 2023													Round 3					Grand Total					Class Average					Index %		Award	
Class	No.	Driver	Club	Car	cc	C/N	J	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sub Total	Grand Total	Class Posn	Overall Posn	Class Average	Index %	Award									
1	102	Richard Wilson	WMMC	Mini Suxo	1800	N		4	4	2	5	2	4	1	7	5	58	122	11	22	91.7	132.97									
1	103	Chris Morgan	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	E		5	1	3	12	6	1	7	5	7	61	116	2	6	91.6	126.43									
1	104	Gary Morris	WMMC	Corsa	1356	E		3	3	2	5	1	0	1	1	3	31	116	7	6	91.7	126.43	1st Class								
1	105	John Kirby	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1400	E		3	5	1	4	2	7	7	2	3	40	108	2	6	91.7	117.71									
1	106	Mark Hoppé	WMMC	Suzuki Alto	993	E		3	5	1	4	1	0	0	2	16	53	1	1	91.7	117.71	2nd Class									
1	107	John Willshire	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1380	N		5	4	8	7	2	7	7	6	44	135	13	27	91.7	147.14										
1	108	Tim Pitfield	WMMC	Peugeot 107	358	N		6	10	11	6	6	8	7	7	64	104	14	33	91.7	167.28										
1	109	David Moss	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	E		3	4	2	5	2	4	1	1	5	37	97	4	9	91.7	105.72	3rd Class								
1	110	David Meers	WMMC	VW Polo	1390	N		5	3	2	7	2	3	7	7	41	120	12	24	91.7	139.51										
1	111	Stephen Tite	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1300	E		3	7	1	8	4	1	1	1	25	120	12	24	91.7	139.51	1st Class									
1	112	Will Lawrence	WMMC	Peugeot 206	1357	E		3	7	1	8	2	0	1	5	22	120	12	24	91.7	139.51	Under 25									
1	114	Graham Timbers	WMMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	E		4	4	3	5	2</																			