

## Young talent WOOLBRIDGE to the fore



Having competed in a diesel Peugeot Eleanor Tite learns all about the Ford Ka

The engagement of young people in UK sport has become a major consideration for Government Ministers as part of initiatives to foster inclusion (to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or other need), to improve levels of fitness and in certain areas of the country to reduce crime.

Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of a number of sports have promoted the participation in sports especially to those in their teenage years. In recent decades club motor sport (under the jurisdiction of the Motor Sports Association/Motorsport UK) in this country has benefited from a reduction in the minimum age of competitors which has increased the number of young drivers competing and this is demonstrated by the increase of those from this age group competing in grass root Woolbridge events.

For those with a desire to emulate Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE (and have an appropriate budget!!) a budding Grand Prix driver can start racing karts in the Bambino division at just six years of age prior to promotion to the Cadet formula two years later. Things are slightly different in the real world of Woolbridge events in which a two-year-old is able to be a rear-seat passenger on Road/ Navigational Rallies, Car Trials and Classic Trials whilst at the age of twelve they can sit in the front passenger seat whilst involved in Trials and Autotests and can even take on the role of navigator in the aforementioned Rally type events.



WMC Championship leader Charlie Dovey

Girl power. Darcey Tite, Emma Kirby and Georgia Crook

As a result of the initiatives for encouraging younger competitors Woolbridge car and 4X4 trials have seen healthy numbers of young drivers getting behind the steering wheel. Many are in their teenage years and it is now time to highlight their efforts. Interestingly, the majority are of the fairer sex. Leading the youth movement in terms of trophies and championship success is eighteen year old agricultural contractor Charlie Dovey who started trialling sharing a 2.0 litre Renault Clio Sport with his father Tim and has been young trials driver of the year on two occasions prior to being crowned Silver League Champion for the 2021-2022 season. Charlie, having won the first two events of the current championship year has demonstrated his intent to add victory in the overall championship to his successes and during the last season has been competing against his fifteen year old sister Evie who drives alongside her father Tim in a Toyota MR2.

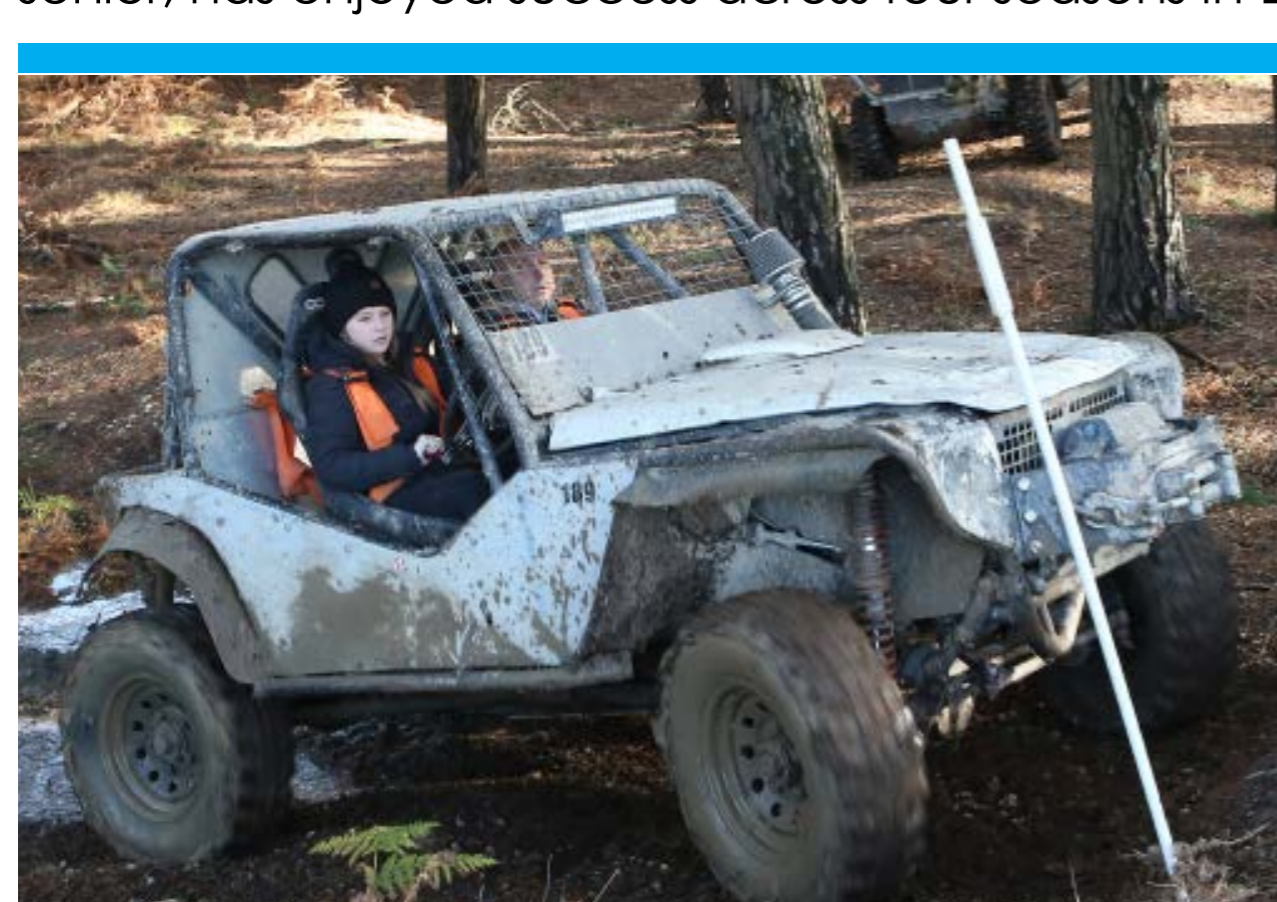
A number of the new drivers have acted as passengers prior to switching to the righthand seat and one such driver is Darcy Tite, a third generation trialist, who having 'bounced' for her father Chris in both car (Citroen Saxo) and 4X4 trials (4.0 litre Land Rover Special) is now amassing trophies of her own. Similarly Eleanor Tite shares the driving duties with her father Stephen at the wheel of a Ford Ka having served her apprenticeship driving a diesel Peugeot 205.



Evie Dovey learns the ropes alongside her father Tim

A determined Darcey Tite drives 4X4 4.0 litre V8 Special

Girl power is very much to the fore in the 4X4 classes with three drivers, including the aforementioned Darcy Tite, following in the wheel tracks of Shannon Butterfield. Eighteen year old Life Science student Emma Kirby, who has been competing for three years, ensures she has time to compete alongside her father John amid her studies at Aberystwith university and her other hobbies of horse riding and paddle boarding. Emma won the club's Junior Victor Ludorum Championship in 2019 and has trophies for Best Junior and Best Woman to her name. Similarly, Weymouth College student Georgia Crook combines education with her hobbies of 4X4 trials driving and shooting. Georgia, seventeen, has taken class awards in the 3.9 litre Rover V8 powered Whitbread Challenge Truck she drives with her father Simon and looks to emulate the successes of her engineer brother Ben who, three years her senior, has enjoyed success across four seasons in European events.



Georgia Crook at the wheel of the Whitbread

Emma Kirby competes in the Frankingeeep

Joining the girls in the four-wheel-drive events is Matthew Taylor from Dorchester. At sixteen the Thomas Hardy student competes in a Land Rover Freelander and is a regular visitor to the gym which will certainly help with the more physical aspects of off-road trialling.

Richard Thorne combines hillclimbing his 450 cc Suzuki RMZ motorcycle with car trials at the wheel of a Reliant Scimitar SS1. In the latter the Kingston Maurward College agricultural student has won numerous Under 23 year awards and has recently secured the 2021-2022 Bronze League Trials Championship for newcomers to the sport.



Richard Thorne competes on two and four wheels

Working hard. Matthew Taylor with 1.8i Freelander



**LET'S GO  
TRIALLING TOGETHER  
IN 2023!**

**WOOLBRIDGE  
4X4  
OFF ROAD  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2022 - 2023**

