Woolbridge Motor Club





Uploders near Bridport Hoppé on a roll

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Having won the previous qualifier of the Woolbridge Motor Club's 2022-2023 Car Trials champion-

ship the momentum appears to be with Mark Hoppé as the Sherborne driver took his second victory of the year at Hogcliff Hill and equalled the season victories amassed by his rival Charlie Dovey. Piloting his Suzuki Alto, Hoppé, a previous British champion, made a solid start in the Upwey Trophy contest completing the first six sections without penalty, a feat also achieved by fellow front wheel drive campaigners Andy Webb and Mark Dunkerley, who were both driving Citroens. A 1600 cc Saxo for Webb, who was running in class I (no ballast), and an 1100 cc AX for Dunkerley who was contesting Class 2 in which vehicles are allowed to carry ballast. Winner of the first two rounds of the current championship, Charlie Dovey, would have joined this select band but incurred five penalties marks on the final test of the first stanza when executing a tight 'S' turn which also caused problems for his father Tim (competing in Class 1) who simply did not have sufficient steering lock or manoeuvrability with his rear-engined Toyota MR2. Jim Forsyth experienced the same issue at the wheel of his Volkswagen Beetle (competing in Class 3 – cars with rear engine or rear wheel drive) and chose to give himself more room by approaching the turn via a deep crater – an option shunned by the rest of the field. The ploy worked to good affect, but the Poole driver then missed the subsequent 'gate' so gained four penalties. Dry ground conditions provided drivers with plenty of grip so first-time Clerk of the Course Mike Dore

about an error from the drivers and generally this was achieved with eleven competitors, in addition to those mentioned above, gaining penalties points from just a single section during the first round of six tests. Mark Dunkerley made the most of those of his opponent's mistakes to take an early lead Class 2. The Poole driver remaining penalty free in his 1100 cc Citroen AX to lead Stephen Tite (Ford Ka) and

Chris Morgan (Mini Cooper S), who had both dropped two points, and the 1600 cc Saxo of John Tite

who shadowed them on three.

Driver Under 23.

and his team elected to provide long meandering tests with numerous bends in an effort to bring

Wool duo Adam Smith and Ryan Whincop, double driving a Reliant Scimitar SS1, led the way in Class 3 completing the first round penalty free and then only dropping one point each in the second. The second round saw numerous penalties across the thirty-five-car entry but the competition between the

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leaders remained close with only four drivers, Tim and Charlie Dovey, Vic Rose (Citroen Saxo) and Gary Morris (Vauxhall Corsa) handing-in clean score cards. Morris, 'definitely not my day', had

Alan and Christain Hardy drove the club's Acadamy Ka Second in the championship - Adam Smith

staged a recovery having totalled eleven penalties on the first round and feared the damage to his trophy aspirations had been done. Meanwhile, Hoppé continued serenely with just a single point dropped on the lead up to lunch as did Dunkerley, Whinchop and Smith. Just six hills were run following the recess so there was no room for error in the battles for class wins

and the overall victory. Mark Hoppé delivered a winning performance with the loss of just one point

against his closest pursuers in Class 1. Clive Morgan and Swanage's David Moss dropped five points across the six tests whilst Andy Webb and Tim Dovey's score cards showed six points lost. The Suzuki Alto pilot had done enough to secure the Upwey Cup for the event victory leaving the class win to Clive Morgan who headed Andy Webb and Tim Dovey. The verdict in Class 2 fell to Charlie Dovey who, no doubt rueing his early error which probably cost him the event win, drove the rest of the event without further penalty. Eleven points in arrears was

Chris Morgan with John Tite a mere two points shy in third driving the Saxo usually campaigned by

his son Chris. The award for the Performance by the Best Novice was won by sixteen- year-old

Thomas Hardye School pupil Darcy Tite who shared the drive with her grandfather. Ryan Whinchop lost the battle for Class 3 having been awarded ten penalties during the afternoon against the five of co-driver Adam Smith who now tracks Trials Championship leader Charlie Dovey by 2.7 points with Mark Hoppé a mere sixth tenths of appoint adrift of Smith in third. Alistair Moss, sharing the driving duties with his father David in the Ford Fiesta claimed the award for the Best

Class 1 winner Clive Morgan finished six points in arrears of overall victor Mark Hoppé





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Mark Hoppe WMC Suzuki Alto 107 John Wiltshire WMC Citroen Saxo 1360 Mike Flack 109 WMC Hyundai 1250 David Moss WMC Ford Fiesta 110 1300 1 111 David Mears WMC VW Polo 1390

112 Alistair Moss

101 Clive Morgan

Gary Morris

Graham Timbers

Richard Wilson

Charlie Etwell

John Kirby

Championship leader Charlie Dovey won Class 2

Driver

Club

WMC

WMC

WMC

WMC

12th February 2023

Car

WMC Citroen Saxo

Corsa

WMC Mini One

WMC Ford Fiesta

Citroen Saxo

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Upwey Cup Trial

No.

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Tim Dovey fought back to Class 1 podium

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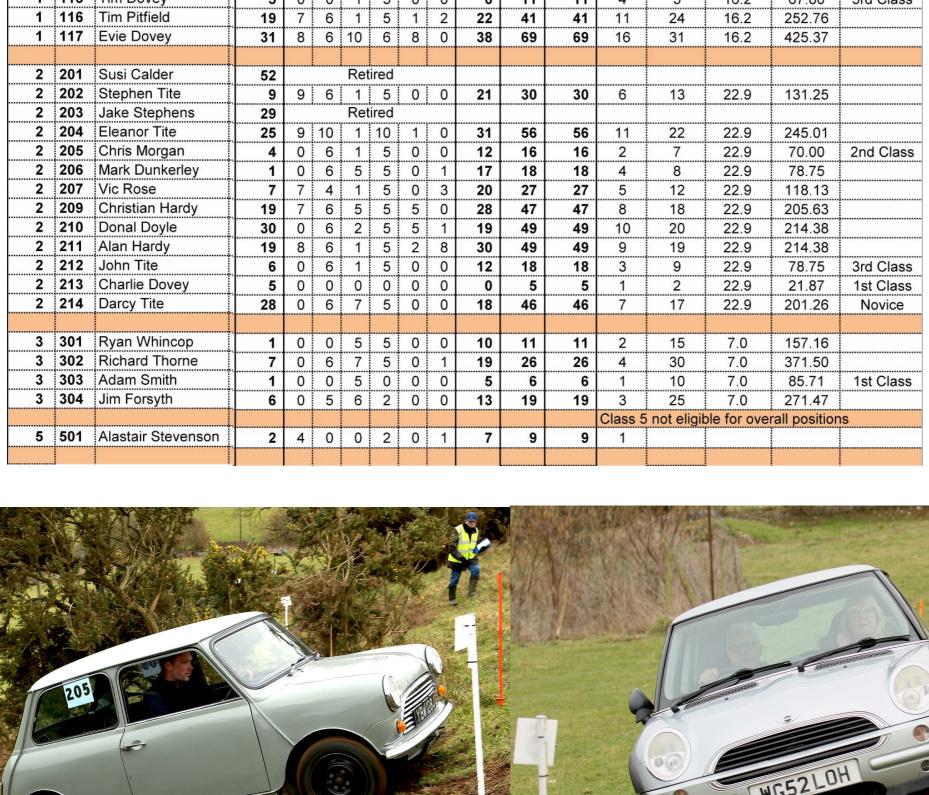
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3	301	Ryan Whincop	WMC	Scim	itar S	3S1	1/	600	E		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
3	302	Richard Thorne	WMC	Scim	itar S	3S1	1	600	E	J	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	7
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Next Car Trial WOOLBRIDGE **Lulworth Cove Trophy**

Variants of the Mini. Cooper 'S' of Chris Morgan (2nd in Class 2) and Mini One driven by Richard Wilson

March 5th 2023 Venue to be advised.



