

John Tite cruised to victory at Hogcliff Hill in modified Land Rover Defender



February 4X4 Trial Hogcliff Hill

John Tite unbeatable in first event of 2023

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Cerne Abbas driver John Tite drove to an emphatic victory at Hogcliff Hill in the first Woolbridge Motor Club four-wheel-drive trial of the year which attracted an entry of thirteen all but one of which were entered in the Class 2 category which caters for caged buggies and tray-back vehicles with standard fitment differential locks, fiddle brakes and a maximum suspension lift of 100 millimetres.

Tite moved into an early lead with his Land Rover Defender, the shortened chassis and his smooth driving style taking him through the first round which comprised of six tests, one which was cleaned and the other five yielding one penalty point each. At this stage in the competition John's only opposition came from his son, Chris, the sole runner in Class 1 where non-standard differential locks are allowed and competitors are subject to a ten point handicap. The 90" chassis and 4.0 litre Rover V8 power-plant saw the Lyons Gate driver, a previous 4X4 champion and regular event winner, finish the first round with a penalty tally of only two creating a father and son one-two at the head of the standings with Dave Butterfield their nearest challenger. The Weymouth driver was not at the wheel of his normal machine, due to a repair programme which is taking longer than expected to complete, but hustling the Suzuki Jeep campaigned by John Kirby and his daughter Emma in which he completed the first round with fourteen penalties to lead both of his co-drivers and the similarly mounted Simon Baxter.



Greg Dank in Suzuki previously campaigned by John Darcy Tite took second Novice award in two events Tite and Rod/Richard Thorne

Vehicle problems during the afternoon for Chris Tite saw him take to another vehicle so he declared himself a non-finisher which left the way clear for Tite senior to consolidate his position at the head of the field with just a single penalty incurred during the second round. Mechanical issues decimated the entry during the course of the event with Simon Crook and Olly Samways withdrawing after just four tests in the turbo-diesel Land Rover Discovery which Simon had substituted in place of his specialist Range Rover engine Worthington which awaits parts to complete a shock absorber rebuild.

Also destined not to complete the event were the Kirby/Kirby/Butterfield Suzuki and the similar vehicle of Derek Callaway; the latter exhibited an extrovert style prior to his retirement two tests into the afternoon session.

At the lunch break Bridport's Simon Baxter enjoyed a seven point lead over his son Kieran but the six afternoon sections saw the tables turned with a thirteen point swing enabling the youngster to claim the Up to 2.0 litre class honours. Darcy Tite won Class 2B as well as the Best Novice Award. The latter being Darcy's second such trophy in two weeks having achieved the same success the prior weekend in the Woolbridge's Upwey Cup car trial.

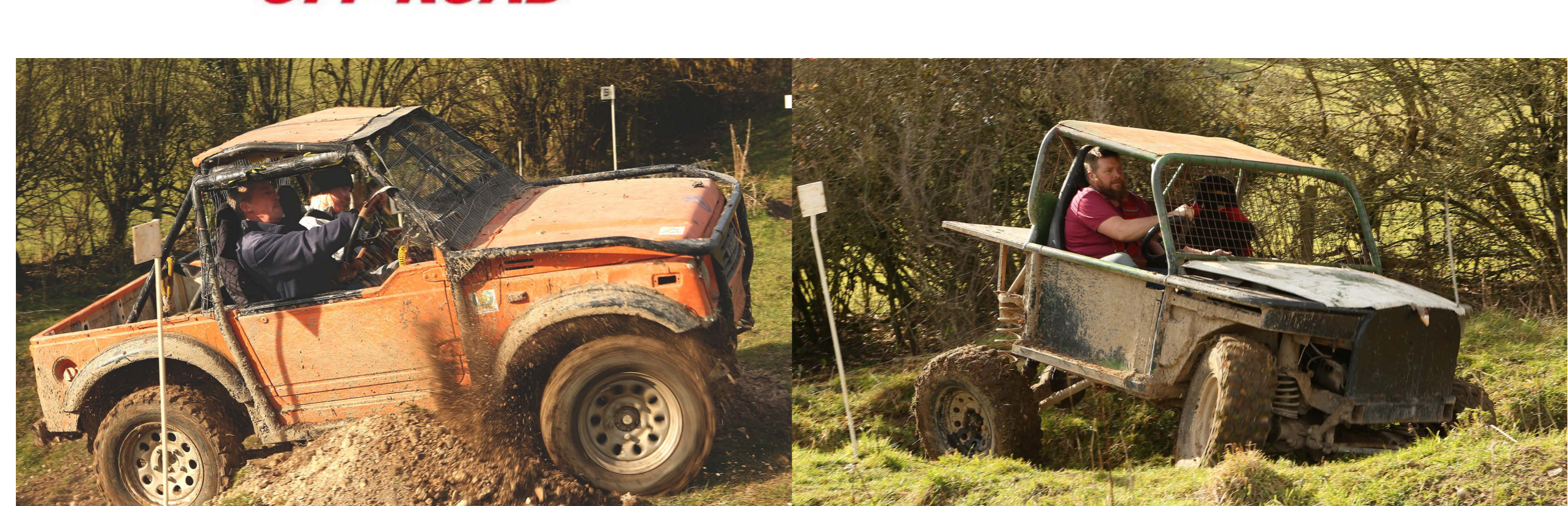


Simon Crook and Olly Samways were early retirements in TDi Discovery

A strong afternoon run from Kieran Baxter turned the tables on father Simon for 2.0 litre honours



**Next 4 X 4 Event
Sunday March 19th 2023**



The hard-worked Kirby Suzuki Jeep with Dave Butterfield at the wheel

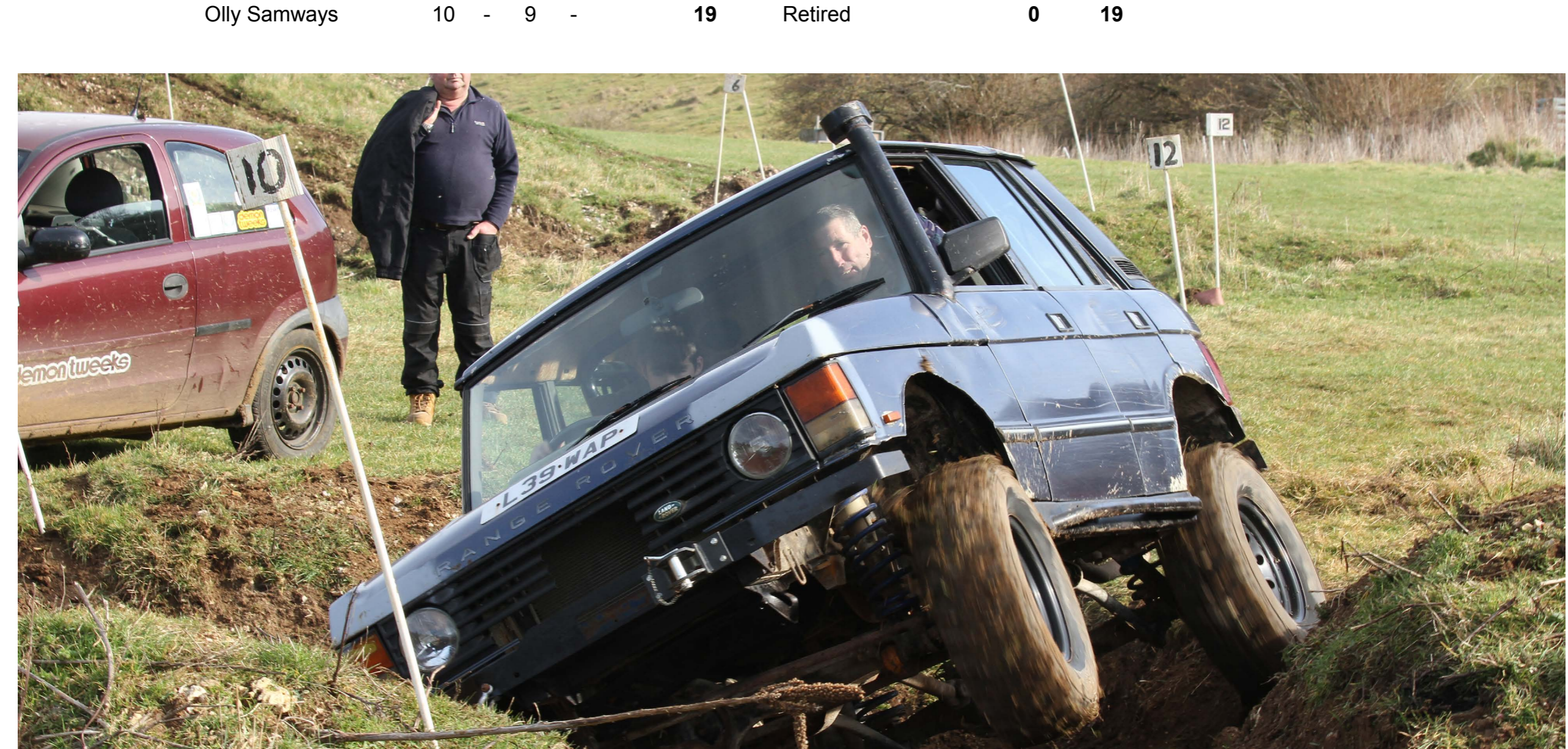
A DNF for Chris Tite.



4 X 4 TRIAL HOGCLIFF HILL

Sunday February 19th 2023

DRIVER	RUN 1						RUN 2						Grand Total	Position
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Class 1														
Chris Tite	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	6	9	0	0	15	17 DNF
Class 2														
John Kirby	5	10	7	1	10	2	35	3	10	8	11	9	41	76
Emma Kirby	3	3	9	7	4	2	28	10	10	6	10	2	38	66
Dave Butterfield	1	2	0	1	9	1	14	10	9	0	10	9	38	52
Kieran Baxter	1	3	6	10	4	0	24	9	9	0	6	1	0	25
Simon Baxter	1	9	3	0	4	0	17	10	5	6	11	1	5	38
Derek Calaway	10	9	3	11	4	2	39	10	9	Retired			19	58
Greg Dank	9	5	10	7	9	2	42	10	9	7	10	6	11	53
John Tite	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Simon Crook	10	9	10	11			40	Retired					0	40
Darcy Tite	2	9	5	0	9	0	25	10	3	7	10	5	2	37
Matthew Taylor	11	4	8	10	2	4	39	10	1	7	10	7	5	40
Olly Samways	10	-	9	-			19	Retired					0	19



Matt Taylor replaced Land Rover Discovery with Range Rover.



Exuberant drive from Derek Callaway but failed to make the finish