

# WMC 2022/23 CAR TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL POSITIONS

The final round of our championship was the annual National event the Golden Springs Trophy Trial under the control of Mark Hoppe held on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The venue at Woolminston was very slippery on the Saturday but improved considerably on the Sunday to produce challenging but almost perfect conditions.

A good entry of 30 with 8 National Championship contenders attempted 8 very different challenging hills some of which were modified each round.

The event had to be run under the new class definitions (because of its Championship status) but in order to cater for the large number of old style class 1 cars in the Woolbridge Championship Class 1W was invented for this event.

The new classes have not been well supported in the National Championships and the Golden Springs was the first event with entries in Class A and Class C and it was interesting that these entries came from Woolbridge members.

Class 1W had 8 contenders with Gary Morris taking the win from Andy Webb with Richard Wilson third in the borrowed Clive Morgan Saxo.

Class A contained 2 entries with Tony Billage in his wife's shopping Seat taking the class.

The new Class B formerly known as Class 2 was the usual domain of the Doveys in a brace of Clios with Charlie taking the honours in the original car closely followed by Dad Tim sharing the second car with daughter Evie.

The new Class C had only one entry with Donal Doyle having bought an MX5.

Duncan Stephens in Mark Hoppe's Melos duplicated last year's win with first overall just 0.21% ahead of Charlie Dovey with Barrie Parker keeping him honest in Class D.

The championship this year had 51 competitors with at least 10 Juniors, not a position any other club could boast about! We keep talking about breaking the 40 entry mark on any trial, a feat rumoured to have happened in the past, I wouldn't bet against it happening next year! The biggest entry this year was on The Maurice Crabb combining the ASWMC Final where 35 contenders visited the Uploders site. Unfortunately the weather played its part in bringing the event to a premature finish.

The Golden Springs results didn't have a great effect on the Championship positions as Charlie Dovey had it sewn up before this event. He has had a fantastic year with taking his class on every round and only failed to gain a maximum due to a lack of entries in his class on the Lulworth Cove event, however dropping this event score produced a maximum from the 6 counting rounds finishing 1.7 points ahead of Mark Hoppe. Mark had a second and third on the first 2 events but returned to first place on the remaining rounds though also suffered from a lack of entries on The Lulworth Cove. His Clerk duties on the Golden Springs helped his score a little but he needed Charlie to have an off day or car failure which didn't happen.

Adam Smith has been so consistent this year and won the Silver League by a considerable margin but he came up against some serious opposition on the Golden Springs, however dropping this score maintained his 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the main Championship thus forfeiting the Silver League pole position. There's a good chance he may become a graded driver next year! The best Junior / Under 23 award this year goes to Alistair Moss with 6 events entered and some good scores.

The Silver League vacated by Adam falls to his co-driver Ryan Whincop who missed one round but hasn't managed to beat Adam on any event this year however he is certainly not far behind.

Stephen Tite and Mike Dore collect the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions in the Silver League both entering all rounds and Mike Clerked the Upwey Cup at Hogcliff.

Our new recruit Bronze League has been won by Donal Doyle who missed the first round but has scored well in the remainder, the MX5 could well be the car

to have in next year's Championship. Mike Flack started the year as a spectator, marshalled on 2 events and then bought a car and entered the last 4 events thus achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Bronze League which was richly deserved.

The final trophy will go to Richard Wilson in the BMW Mini who has entered all events, borrowing a Saxo on the final round showed him that maybe the car is holding him back a little so what will he do next year?

Alastair Stevenson finds the tyre pressure rule on his Liege a problem so runs it in Class 6 on low pressures thus winning the Class 6 Trophy with 3 scores and 4 marshal points from Colin Cheffey who only entered one event but marshalled 4 times.

We had 33 marshals and officials this year, what would we do without them, we are all very grateful to them all. Graham Blake who is Equipment Officer, tows the club trailer to every event and either marshals or clerks the events, he is top marshal this year followed by Geoff Lang who has marshalled every event.

All in all another great year, we the Trials sub-committee hope you enjoyed it we hope to see you again next year.

There will be a meeting of this sub-committee soon to set next year's dates, classes, officials, graded drivers etc so if you have any comments, queries, revelations, volunteering prospects, new venues etc etc please get in touch!

We still have the 2 loan cars for use at Hogcliff so tell your friends and don't forget the Taster events at Hogcliff in September and Waddock Woods on Boxing Day.

Here's to next year!

Andy Webb