



Driveshaft failure denies Tim Dovey of trialing Triple Crown in BTRDA final but the next day he scores the first win of new season

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

A weekend of car trials brought heartbreak and then elation for recently crowned British Car Trials Champion Tim Dovey as he competed in the finals of the British Trials and Rally Drivers Association at Woolminstone near Crewkerne and then commenced the new season with the first round of the Woolbridge Motor Club's 2023-2024 Car Trials Championship.

Following the third round of eight tests Dovey, from Martinstown, and his son Charlie were sitting in the pound seats occupying the top two positions separated by three points and an astonishing fifty-four points up on their nearest challenger in the Front-Wheel-Drive class. Victory, and another championship success, for Dovey senior seemed a forgone conclusion until on the last test of the third round a driveshaft failed on the two litre Renault Clio and heralded instant retirement. To be a finisher the rules state that a competitor must complete seventy-five per cent of the event. Tick, they had. Said regulations also state that if a driver does not attempt a test/hill they are given a maximum score of twelve points therefore both Tim and Charlie had ninety-six points added to their scorecards for not contesting the final run of eight hills.

Miraculously, they still finished first and second in class with Tim on a total of 142 points and Charlie with 145 just one point ahead of Simon Harris in his Volkswagen Golf GTi. Although Tim had won the class, because he did not complete the event he was excluded from the index calculation which would have otherwise secured him the BTRDA Championship.



Class 2 victory for Simon Harris and VW Golf GTi

Graham Timbers trying hard on the final run

However, the following day Tim returned to the fray in the Front-Wheel-Drive division with the Renault Clio Cup car, in which he and Charlie had finished first and third in the Motorsport UK British Championships, and proceeded to annihilate the opposition completing thirty-two sections with the loss of a mere five points which was twenty-nine to the good of the Simon Harris driven Golf.

Dovey's performance was such that he won the event overall with an index of 17.98% compared to the 77.77% of Mark Hoppé, the victor of the Rear-Wheel-Drive (Pre 1984) class, who amassed a total of fourteen penalty points which led to Harris inheriting the class honours ahead of Dovey's daughter Evie who shared the drive in the Clio. Following the event agricultural contractor Dovey and Hoppé were tied at the top of the Association of South Western Motor Clubs Trials Championship with the victory being awarded to the former due to his superior index rating.



Mark Hoppé claimed Class 3.1 honours with Dutton Melos but lost out to Tim Dovey in ASWMC contest

Rupert North, having contested the finals event the previous day, made the most of a dry and sunny weekend of motorsport and secured the victory in the two-wheel-drive unmodified with no ballast class in his 993 cc Suzuki Alto finishing forty-one points to the good of Bridport driver Gary Morris in his Vauxhall Corsa.

Wool drivers Adam Smith and Donal Doyle took two awards from the Rear-Wheel-Drive class which catered for cars manufactured after 1984 with Smith taking his Reliant Scimitar SS1 to an emphatic victory by thirty-one points over his co-driver Doyle who claimed the award for the best novice.



Gary Morris claimed 2nd in Class 1 with Corsa



Adam Smith climbing to Class 3 win

Reg Paul Trial													8th October 2023													Round 1													Round 2												
Class	No.	Driver	Club	Car	cc	E/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	101	Tim Pitfield	WMC	Peugeot 107	998	N		11	10	6	11	11	9	9	3	70	70	11	6	6	11	8	11	4	0	57	127																								
1	102	Gary Morris	WMC	Corsa	1400	E		5	4	1	8	0	6	0	0	24	24	11	4	0	5	7	3	0	0	30	54																								
1	103	Will Lawrence	WMC	Peugeot 206	1587	E		5	5	11	0	6	11	5	0	43	43	1	5	3	0	7	6	4	0	26	69																								
1	104	Wayne Grimshaw	BDCS	Corsa	1800	E		11	6	7	11	10	6	6	3	60	60	11	6	6	6	6	8	4	0	47	107																								
1	105	Richard Wilson	WMC	Mini One	1600	N		11	6	7	10	8	7	5	3	57	57	11	6	7	8	8	6	4	0	53	110																								
1	106	Mike Plack	WMC	Hyundai	1250	N		11	6	10	8	6	5	3	3	55	55	11	6	6	10	8	6	4	0	51	106																								
1	107	Rupert North	ASP	Alto	993	E		5	4	0	5	0	5	0	0	19	19	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	24																								
1	108	David Mears	WMC	VW Polo	1390	N		11	7	6	11	7	6	4	3	55	55	11	6	4	10	8	6	4	0	49	104																								
1	109	Andy Webb	WMC	Citroen Saxo	1600	E		11	4	0	11	7	6	0	3	42	42	5	4	0	8	0	2	0	3	22	64																								
2	201	Evie Dovey	WMC	Clio Sport	2000	N	J	1	1	0	0	3	5	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	0	7	17																								
2	202	Trevor Moffatt	Stroud	Corsa	1600	E		0	4	1	7	2	5	0	0	19	19	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	23																								
2	203	Tim Dovey	WMC	Clio Sport	2000	E		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2																								
2	204	Eleanor Tile	WMC	Ford Ka	1300	N	J	11	10	1	11	10	11	6	8	68	68	11	10	10	9	8	6	4	0	68	136																								
2	205	Graham Timbers	WMC	Citroen Saxo	1360	E		9	2	0	8	2	6	5	0	32	32	0	1	0	3	1	5	4	0	14	46																								
2	206	Stephen Tile	WMC	Peugeot 205	1800	E		11	6	0	11	8	6	4	0	46	46	9	6	3	7	8	6	4	0	43	89																								
2	207	Mike Dore	WMC	Citroen Saxo	1360	E		11	4	11	11	3	5	4	3	53	53	0	1	0	7	8	6	0	0	22	75																								
2	208	Simon Harris	WMC	Golf GTi	1800	E		0	2	0	0	2	5	4	0	13	13	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	7	20																								
3	301	Adam Smith	WMC	Scimitar SS1	1800	E		9	4	0	8	1	6	6	0	34	34	0	2	0	7	8	6	4	0	27	61																								
3	302	Mark Bennett	WW	Mazda MX5	1800	E		11	6	6	9	6	7	7	10	62	62	9	6	0	7	8	6	5	9	50	112																								
3	303	Donal Doyle	WMC	Scimitar SS1	1800	N		1	8	0	7	2	7	6	0	31	31	0	3	0	1	8	6	6	0	24	55																								
3	304	Harrison Bennett	WW	Mazda MX5	1800	E		9	8	3	11	10	6	5	12	65	65	9	6	0	7	8	5	10	0	52	117																								
3	305	Tony Billage	WMC	MG TF	1600	N		9	11	7	10	11	11	6	10	75	75	11	8	6	8	11	6	12	6	68	143																								
4	311	Jim Forsyth	WMC	Beetle	1600	E		5	4	0	5	1	6	4	0	25	25	1	3	0	6	0	5	3	0	18	43																								
4	312	Ian Nute	BTRDA	Melos	1600	E		11	7	6	6	1	6	5	0	42	42	0	2	2	7	1	3	0	0	15	57																								
4	313	Nigal Jones	Bala	Melos	1600	E		0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	12																							
4	314	Kevin Roberts	WMC	Phaeton	1600	E		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	6																								
4	315	Mark Hoppé	WMC	Melosa	1800	E		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7																								
4	316	Gareth Jones	Bala	Phaeton	1600	E		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	19																								
4	317	Philip Thomas	LKNC	Melosa	1800	E		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	5																								
4	318	Barrie Parker	WMC	Liege	848	E		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2																								
5	501	Alastair Stevenson	WMC	Liege	848	E		10	2	6	7	1	2	1	0	29	29	9	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	45																							

Reg Paul Trial													Round 3													Round 4												
Class	No.	Driver	Club	Car	cc	E/N	J	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sub Total	Cum Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sub Total	Cum Total	Class Posn	Overall Posn	Class Avg%	Award					
1	101	Tim Pitfield	127	5	6	7	7	8	9	2	3	47	174	11	4	11	5	8	9	4	52	226	9	20	116.0	194.83												
1	102	Gary Morris	54	0	4	4	5	7	6	0	0	26	80	0	4	4	5	0	4	0	17	97	2	6	116.0	83.62	2nd Class											
1	103	Will Lawrence	69	0	3	6	5	0	6	0	3	23	92	0	3	4	3	7	10	5	32	124	4	9	116.0	106.90												
1	104	Wayne Grimshaw	107	11	5	7	5	8	10	4	10	61	168	11	6	7	5	8	9	4	50	216	8	19	116.0	187.93												
1	105	Richard Wilson	110	1	10	7	8	10	4	3	51	151	11	4	7	7	8	9	5	51	212	7	17	116.0	142.79													
1	106	Mike Plack	106	5	6	7	7	8	10	3	3	49	155	11	4	7	5	8	6	4	45	200	6	16	116.0	172.42												
1	107	Rupert North	24	0	3	4	4	7	0	0	3	21	45	0	1	4	3	0	3	0	11	56	1	2	116.0	48.27	1st Class											
1	108	David Mears	104	0	5	7	5	8	6	5	3	39	143	11	3	5	5	8	6	5	42	185	5	14	116.0	159.48												
1	109	Andy Webb	64	5	3	7	5	7	5	0	3	35	99	0	2	4	5	0	4	4	15	113	3	7	116.0	101.72												
2	201	Evie Dovey	17	0	4	1	1	5	0	0	1	11	28	0	0	4	3	1	3	4	19	43	3	13	27.8	154.68	2nd Class											
2	202	Trevor Moffatt	23	0	1	4	5	7	0	0	3	20	43	0	0	4	1	1	3	0	9	52	4	18	27.8	187.06												
2	203	Tim Dovey	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	5	1	1	27.8	17.98	1st Div											
2	204	Eleanor Tile	126	10	10	7	8	10	4	11	70	206	11	10	7	7	9	10	4	57	263	8	29	27.8	96.11													
2	205	Graham Timbers	46	0	1	7	5	2	4	0	3	22	186	11	10	1	0	5	11	0	16	84																