

Mud flies. Hoppé on a mission. EYOZ ENO

## A single point victory and the championship lead for Mark Hoppé

AUTOTECHNICS TROPHY TRIAL

## Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Incessant rain and then frost immediately prior to the event was always going to have an impact on the ground conditions at Hogliff Farm as competitors gathered for the

Autotechnics Trophy Trial, the second round of the Woolbridge Motor Club's current trials

season following the cancellation of last month's event. Although the conditions, particularly following a heavy rainstorm minutes after the start, were destined to provide a challenging day for the drivers two champions within the entry were to be involved in a close battle across the twenty-four tests. Previous multiple British Champion Mark Hoppé faced up to the current national number one Tim Dovey.

The former, campaigning his diminutive 993 cc Suzuki Alto, was the choice of some pre-event pundits who believed the skills of the Sherborne driver allied to the light weight of his Japanese mount would be a deciding factor. Other knowledgeable observers attested that the reigning British and Association of South Western Motor Clubs champion would get the verdict utilising the two-litre power of his Renault Clio Sport.



commenced his retaliation on the ninth climb where he reclaimed a single point. Three sections later another three points were recovered leaving Hoppé in command at the

against forty-four. The third tranche of six tests saw Hoppé extend his lead by three points but on the run-in to the finish Dovey started to claw back some of that lead. First a single point and then four, but it was too little too late for the agricultural contractor who finished just one point adrift and was obliged to settle for the class win as his adversary was promoted to the overall victory and the championship lead. Moss and Evie Dovey completed the Class One podium with total scores of seventy and ninety-three respectively.

halfway point by a mere three points. In the wake of the duelling titleholders in Class One

(Two Wheel Drive production cars with no ballast) David Moss, from Swanage, in his Ford

Fiesta and Evie Dovey, co-driving her father's Clio, were split by four penalty points; forty



whilst Mark Dunkerley had an outing in a Ford Ka (one of the club's loan vehicles) and the

into the expert ranks having taken the Novice trophy.

Ben and Jemima Stephens duo unveiled their Saxo. The Rear Wheel Drive category was populated by two seater sports cars with David Robinson claiming a comfortable win in his Reliant Scimitar SS1 after the similar car of Wool duo Adam Smith and Ryan Whincop retired with a broken clutch cable but village honour was upheld by Donal Doyle who took his Mazda MX5 into the runner-up slot ahead of Weymouth's John Kirby driving a Marlin. Another trophy for the Moss household was won by Alistair when he claimed the Best Novice award and despite the door mirror moment captured above Richard Wilson moves

Mike Dore romped to Class 2 victory in his 1360 cc Citroen Saxo



Autotechnika Trial 3rd December 2023 Round 1

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'Oh bother' moments for Will Lawrence (Peugeot 206) and Richard Wilson in his Vauxhall Corsa

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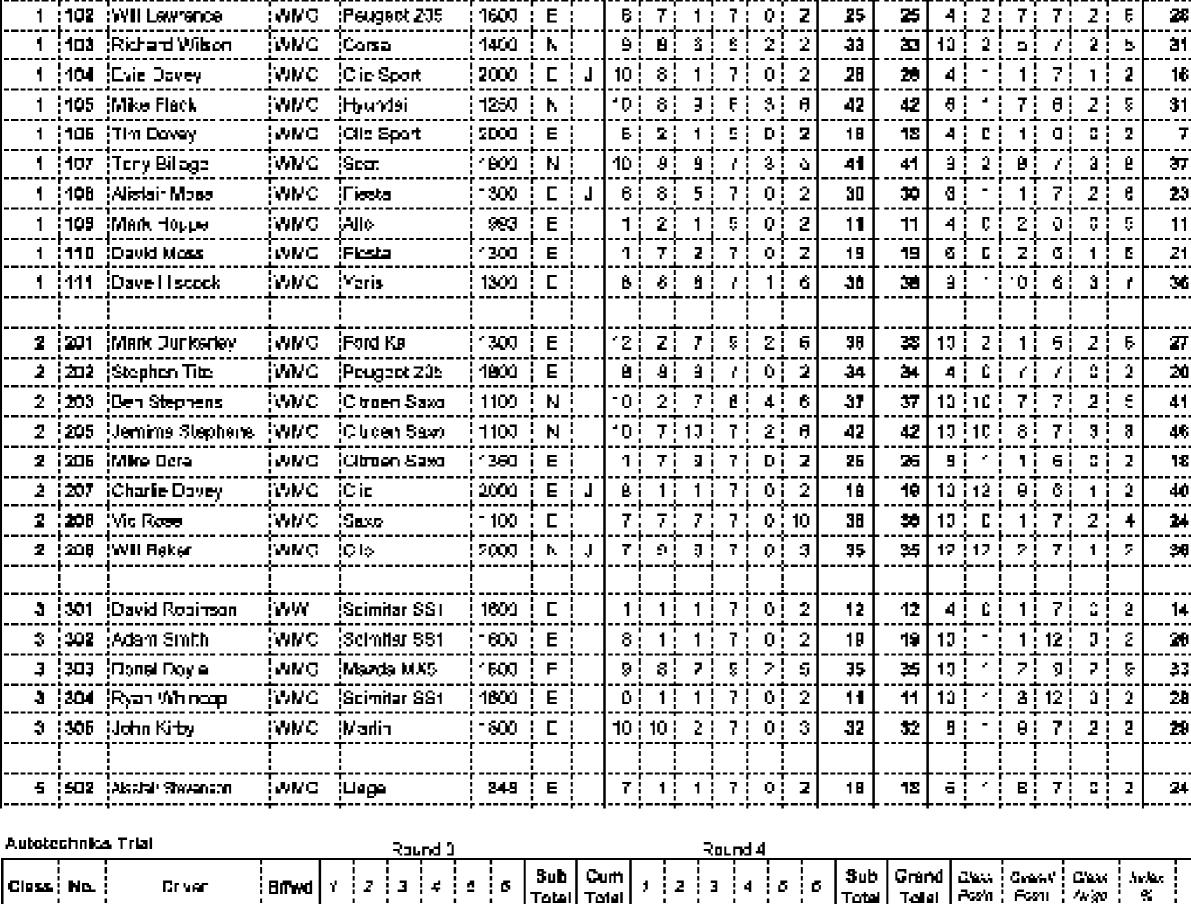
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**Maurice Crabb Memorial Trial January 24th 2024 Uploders** 

Class 3 honours for David Robinson/Scimitar SS1



Fiesta took Alistair Moss to Under 23 Award

2023 - 2024

