

TOP MARKS FOR HOPPE



THE MAURICE CRABB MEMORIAL TRIAL

Mark Hoppé makes it two out of three and leads the car trials championship

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Round three of the Woolbridge Motor Club Trials Championship saw another day-long battle between trialling maestros Mark Hoppé and Tim Dovey (both have been crowned British Champion) which saw the former establish himself at the head of the points table with a 2.2 point lead. Clerk of the Course Andy Webb devised eight long, circuitous and testing sections which the competitors tackled on four occasions and which were amended throughout the day to ensure that the challenge for the drivers was maintained.

The intensity of the battle between the champions was evident from the start with the duo completing the first round with two penalty points apiece but with ground conditions becoming more testing with the passage of cars errors emerged. Dovey, at the wheel of his two-litre powered Renault Clio Sport, was the first to crack dropping five marks on the sixteenth section against the single point loss of his adversary and therefore trailed by five points at the halfway stage.



Second for Adam Smithin the battle of the Scimitars Charlie Dovey took Class 2 win in re-engined Clio

All to play for then in Class 1 (two wheel drive cars not carrying ballast) as round three saw the momentum turn in favour of the Marlinstown agricultural contractor, by a single point, as Hoppé picked-up penalties on two tests including an all-four-wheels-out infringement. The final stanza of tests saw the rivals matching scores until four from home when Dovey scored a three whilst Hoppé, in his Suzuki Alto, went clear and then lost another point on the very next section.

With a three-point advantage the Sherborne driver was back in the lead but Dovey battled to the end reclaiming a point on the penultimate section to reduce the margin. With the Index of Performance calculated the Maurice Crabb Memorial Trophy was awarded to Hoppé and the class win to Dovey.

Swanage driver David Moss claimed second in class at the wheel of his Ford Fiesta, having been engaged in a contest with co-driver and son Alistair. Moss senior made a strong start building a seven point advantage at the close of the first round but during the next eight sections Moss the younger pegged his father back and trailed 'the old man' by six points at halfway. However, as the duo focused on their own contest it was Gary Morris who took his Vauxhall Corsa into an early third place but dropped to fifth by the end of the third round with Evie Dovey splitting the Moss's.



David Moss took third in Class 1 after an early battle with son Alistair and Gary Morris

Not following the correct route on a section in the final round cost David points, not to mention some noisy barracking and banter from his offspring. But the end of the event Alistair overhauled Evie for the fourth slot to finish three points to the good.

Charlie Dovey scored an emphatic victory in Class 2, which catered for Front Wheel Drive machines with ballast. The reigning Woolbridge champion took his Renault Clio, now back to the rudest of health with a replacement engine following his retirement during the Autotechnics trial with a dropped valve, to a comfortable win some twenty-seven points to the good of Broadmayne's Citroen Saxo pilot Vic Rose who enjoyed a close battle with co-driver Mark Dunkerley despite having to rely on a jury-rigged repair to manufacture an emergency fan belt in order not only to cool the car but to introduce some power to the battery following numerous 'bump starts' during the morning. The pairing matched scores (6) on the first round with the car's owner eking a one point advantage at halfway prior to the guest driver turning the tables during the penultimate round to move ahead by a solitary point. The run-in to the finish saw Rose back in the ascendancy to finish five points to the good.

The Rear Wheel Drive division was dominated by three SS1 variants of the Reliant Scimitar with David Robinson securing the victory from the similar car of Wool's Adam Smith having led by two points at the halfway point prior to extending his advantage to thirteen by the thirty-second and final test.

Sixteen year old student Evie Dovey claimed the Best Performance by a Driver under 23 years of age at the wheel of the car she shares with her father Tim and also moved to the top of the Bronze League competition for drivers who at the start of the season had limited experience or are eighteen years or younger. Seat driver Tony Billage took the Novice Award.



David Robinson unbeatable in Class 3 defeating the similar car of Adam Smith and Ryan Whincop



Tony Billage claimed the Best Novice trophy David Mears climbing hard in his Volkswagen Polo



YouTube



MAURICE CRABB '24 MEMORIAL CAR TRIAL



RESULTS

Maurice Crabb Trial														14th January 2024																				
Class	No.	Driver	Club	Car	cc	E/N	Round 1														Round 2													
							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	Gary Morris	WMC	Corsa	1400	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	10	4	1	1	4	0	0	1	2	1	17	14						
1	102	Dave Hiscock	WMC	Yaris	1300	E	0	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	2	10	10	0	2	3	2	1	5	2	2	1	10	27						
1	103	David Moss	WMC	Fiesta	1300	E	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	12					
1	104	Tony Billage	WMC	Seat	1900	N	1	0	0	4	6	11	3	2	27	27	1	1	7	0	0	0	1	5	7	14	42							
1	105	Alistair Moss	WMC	Seat	1300	E	J	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	3	12	12	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	6	18							
1	106	Will Lawrence	WMC	Peugeot 206	1600	E	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	5	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	5	13	18								
1	107	Richard Wilson	WMC	Corsa	1400	E	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	3	9	9	0	1	1	2	0	1	4	2	11	20								
1	108	Mike Flack	WMC	Hyundai	1250	N	0	0	1	4	0	2	5	5	17	17	0	2	5	5	0	1	4	6	23	40								
1	109	Tim Dovey	WMC	Clio Sport	2000	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	9							
1	110	Mark Hoppé	WMC	Alto	993	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4							
1	111	Evie Dovey	WMC	Clio Sport	2000	E	J	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	6	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	5	10	16							
1	112	David Mears	WMC	VW Polo	1400	E	0	4	0	0	0	1	4	3	12	12	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	4	12	24								
2	201	Charlie Dovey	WMC	Clio	2000	E	J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2							
2	202	Stephen Tite	WMC	Peugeot 205	1800	E	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	2	11	11	0	1	1	3	0	4	2	1	12	23								
2	203	Vic Rose	WMC	Saxo	1100	E	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	6	6	0	1	0	3	0	1	4	1	10	16								
2	204	Eleanor Tite	WMC	Peugeot 205	1800	N	J	0	0	0	2	8	3	6	5	24	24	0	1	5	3	8	1	3	4	25	49							
2	205	Mark Dunkerley	WMC	Saxo	1100	E	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	6	6	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	4	11	17								
3	301	David Robinson	WV	Scimitar SS1	1600	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	8								
3	302	Adam Smith	WMC	Scimitar SS1	1600	E	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	6	10								
3	303	Donal Doyle	WMC	Mazda MX5	1600	E	0	0	6	2	0	0	3	1	12	12	0	1	1	5	0	1	2	1	11	23								
3	304	Ryan Whincop	WMC	Scimitar SS1	1600	E	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	7	7	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	8	15								
5	502	Alistair Stevenson	WMC	Liege	848	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	6	10								

Maurice Crabb Trial														Round 3														Round 4													
Class	No.	Driver	B/Fwd	Round 3														Round 4														Sub Total	Grand Total	Class Posn	Overall Posn	Class Avge	Index %	Award			
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sub Total	Cum Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sub Total																			
1	101	Gary Morris		0	1	0	3	8	2	3	5	22	36	1	1	3	1	3	4	0	14	50	6	16	38.3	130.44															
1	102	Dave Hiscock	27	0	3	5	4	2	2	7	28	55	11	3	6	3	4	3	4	5	39	94	10	18	38.3	245.23															
1	103	David Moss	12	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	4	10	22	0	3	0	3	4	5	2	0	17	39	3	5	38.3	101.74	2nd Class													
1	104	Tony Billage	44	1	1	0	3	8	2	2	5	22	66	0	3	4	3	4	3	4	8	29	95	11	17	38.3	247.64	Novice													
1	105	Alistair Moss	18	0	1	1	3	0	2	2	4	13	31	0	1	0	2	4	2	5	16	47	4	6	38.3	122.61	3rd Class														
1	106	Will Lawrence	18	0	2	6	3	0	2	2	5	20	38	0	3	0	2	0	4	4	4	17	55	7	10	38.3	143.48														
1	107	Richard Wilson	20	0	2	3	3	0	2	5	17	37	0	5	3	3	2	3	4	5	25	62	8	13	38.3	161.74															
1	108	Mike Flack	40	0	2	3	3	4	2	7	5	26	66	0	3	6	6	4	3	5	7	34	100	12	19	38.3	260.88														
1	109	Tim Dovey	9	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	5	14	0	1	0	2	3	2	1	0	9	23	2	2	38.3	60.00	1st Class													
1	110	Mark Hoppé	4	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	4	11	15	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	6	21	1	1	38.3	54.78	1st O/A													
1	111	Evie Dovey	16	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	5	11	27	10	3	0	3	0	3	4	0	23	50	5	7	38.3	130.44	Under 23													
1	112	David Mears	24	0	2	1	3	4	2	1	0	13	37	0	3	5	3	4	2	4	4	25	62	8	13	38.3	161.74														
2	201	Charlie Dovey	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	4	9	14	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	6	11	22	1	3	33.8	65.59	1st Class													
2	202	Stephen Tite	23	0	4	0	3	8	2	0	4	21	44	8	2	7	5	4	3	4	7	40	84	4	18	33.8	248.53														
2	203	Vic Rose	16	0	5	0	3	0	2	2	4	16	32	0	3	2	2	2	1	5	17	49	2	11	33.8	144.97															
2	204	Eleanor Tite	49	1	5	6	5	2	4	3	7	33	82	11	6	7	8	4	5	9	7	139	5	21	33.8	411.26															
2	205	Mark Dunkerley	17	0	1	0	3	0	1	4	5	14	31	0	4	7	3	2	2	0	5	23	54	3	12	33.8	159.77														
3	301	David Robinson	8	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	7	15	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	0	8	23	1	4	25.4	90.55	1st Class													
3	302	Adam Smith	10	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	4	7	19	0	1	7	3	0	1	3	1	16	35	2	9	25.4	137.80														
3	303	Donal Doyle	23	0	4	5	5	4	2	2	5	27	50	3	2	6	6	4	2	2	5	30	80	4	20	25.4	314.98														
3	304	Ryan Whincop	15	0	0	0	3	8	2	2	5	20	35	0	1	7	3	4	0	0	6	21	56	3	15	25.4	220.48														

Next Car Trial
The Upwey Cup Trial
February 4th 2024
Hogcliff Farm



Evie Dovey went home with the Best Under 23 award Ryan Whincop checks his score



Mark Dunkerley was busy keeping the Saxo running Unmistakably diesel for Eleanor and Stephen Tite



A visit by a herd of sheep caused a short delay. Merv Brake is distracted from the results and turns to counting sheep Another kind of trialling. 'Come-hey, Away, Stand and That'll Do' as Sue Webb tries her hand at sheep dog trials