



The diesel powered Land Rover of Darren Evans proved invincible

## GOOD EVANS!

### April 4X4 Trial Loscombe Down

Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

At last the rain has ceased. After the cancellation of both car and four wheel drive trials the improvement in the weather was universally appreciated by competitors at Loscombe Down near Winterbourne Abbas east of Dorchester on a sunny day when the bleating cry of lambs in an adjacent field and swallows swooping overhead provided a bucolic scene which gladdened the heart.

One month ago the ground was so wet that the organisers deemed it prudent not run the event and wait for improved conditions in order not to risk the possibility of damage to the field which would weaken the relationship with the landowner. So from torrents of water running down the sections to, one month later, dust in the air as the twelve drivers fought their way through outcrops of gorse during two runs of six tests which provided a close battle for overall honours as if the celebrate the return of competitive motor sport.



Toby Cameron turned the tables on the last section



Darcey Tite looks to the top of the section

Fittingly the competition, particularly for overall honours, was hard fought with reigning champion Chris Tite driving his 3.9 litre V8 Range Rover engined special challenged by the 2.5 litre turbo diesel Land Rover equipped Darren Evans. Although competing in different classes (more on that later) the combatants completed the first run of six tests all square with four penalty points each and just two ahead of John Kirby which saw the leading trio break clear of fourth place man Dave Butterfield, at the wheel of his V8 powered special, to the extent of nine points.

The afternoon session required the driver's attention following numerous amendments to the tests during the lunch recess and inspecting the sections on foot prior to driving was certainly a prudent approach and one that helped Tite steal a three-point advantage over Evans on the first hill following the resumption of play prior to extending the margin to six points following the next climb.



Dave Butterfield finished runner-up in Class 2



Derek Callaway was sidelined with propshaft failure



John Kirby claimed Class 2 win



John Tite drove solo



Chris Tite missed out on the overall win but took Class One honours

The two adversaries matched each other on the next two prior to the Cerne Abbas driver going clean on the penultimate test whilst Evans collected two penalties and then won three back on the final section of the day to finish five points down across the day. However, as the Class 1 specification machine of Tite features fiddle brakes and modified differentials a ten point weighting/handicap was applicable which switched the positions giving Evans the overall victory by five points with Tite claiming the win in Class 1 ahead of Toby Cameron and Bridport's Simon Baxter who were separated by a mere two points although some twenty odd in arrears of the class winner.

The afternoon tests saw the leading duo pull away from their challengers and with the elevation of Evans to the overall win it was John Kirby, from Maiden Newton, who conducted his diesel powered machine in to third overall and first in Class 2 with a total of twenty-seven penalties just six up on Butterfield who in turn edged Darcey Tite into third place by two. Electrical problems on his Land Rover hindered Dave Clayton during the morning but a temporary repair enabled the Wimborne driver to enjoy an improved afternoon.

Another to suffer mechanical gremlins was Class 2b driver Derek Callaway with his Suzuki Jeep. A broken prop-shaft sidelined the Dorchester driver and thereafter he shared the drive with Chris Tite but was unclassified in the final results leaving fellow Suzuki driver Kieran Baxter the sole runner. The Bridport driver completed the morning with eighteen on his scorecard (just a single point in arrears of his father Simon competing in Class 1) but lost ground during the afternoon to finish with a total of sixty-eight.



Graeme Wills goes clean



Simon Baxter clears the gorse



Electrical gremlins hindered Dave Clayton



Darcey Tite on her way to another clean



Great to be out trialing in the sun



No rain but dust in West Dorset!



3.5 litre V8 power launches Dave Butterfield

## Next Event - May 19th Mannington Quarry



Kieran Baxter the sole finisher in Class 2b