

Ed Hollier started the 2024 season as he finished 2023. Winning!!!



## Wiscombe Park Hollier Unbeatable

**Ed Hollier starts Wiscombe season with a brace of victories**

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

The reigning Association of South Western Motor Clubs Hillclimb Champion, Ed Hollier, kicked off the 2024 season in scintillating form taking two victories at Wiscombe Park in the first speed events of the season from the South Dorset based Woolbridge Motor Club. The wet weather of recent months, which has caused recent events to be cancelled, impacted on both days of the weekend with the organising team reducing the normal four climbs to three which gave drivers one practice run and then two official timed runs from which the results were determined.

Hollier, at the wheel of his fleet Force HC, commanded the up to 1100 cc Racing Car division with times which were also undefeated by the rest of the one hundred and twenty plus entry leaving the Culmpton driver to return home with the Channon and the Mark Salter Memorial trophies. In the Saturday event, when track conditions were slippery throughout the day, the nearest challenge to Hollier's winning time of 41.88 seconds came from the class winning four-wheel-drive Subaru Impreza saloon car of Jack Ellis who was less than one second in arrears. Twenty-four hours later, with improved levels of grip Hollier was again victorious with an improved time of 38.77. With the elevation of Hollier to the premier awards Tom and Mike Williams claimed first and second positions in the class (on both days) with their self-built MWR Storm whilst Shelley Deacon secured third on the first day of the meeting along with a brace of Fastest Lady awards at the wheel of her OMS PR.



Gordon Pearce took a third in Classic Marques



Precision driving. Chris Briant and his MG ZR

Lyme Regis driver Julian Rinaldi claimed a win in the Road Going Series Production Car up to 1400 cc class with his one litre, three-cylinder turbocharged Ford Fiesta. The garage proprietor posted a 47.16 second climb on the Saturday to defeat the Suzuki Swift GTi of Peter Stiles but was unable to replicate the performance the following day and had to settle for the runner slot sixteen hundredths of a second off the Japanese machine. MG ZR driver Chris Briant, from Bridport, showcased his skills as a driving instructor by making the class podium on Saturday with a climb of 52.53 seconds. After two rounds Julian lies third in the Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Park Championship.

New club member Jonathan Parry joined the ranks of the 1400 cc-1800 cc Road Going Series Production runners in his Lotus Elise S2 posting a best time of 57.39 seconds whilst Michael Sutton powered his Toyota Corolla T Sport to two second place finishes with a best time of 48.48 seconds during the drier Sunday runs.

The aforementioned Ellis took double honours in the over 2600 cc capacity split of Road Going Series Production Cars with his father Nick claiming a brace of seconds ahead of Yeovil avionics engineer Simon Neve who captured third on both days at the wheel of his Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 6 RS.

Another to finish in the third slot was Weymouth's Steve Chaloner who hustled his diminutive one litre engined Citroen C1 to the top of the nine hundred and fifteen metre course in 52.62 seconds in the Modified Limited Production category.



Derek Kessell blitzed the opposition in the Downton Motor Club class with his 1360 cc spaceframe chassised Maguire Mini

Club members Colin Richardson and Chris Toon enjoyed a battle at the sharp end of the Modified Limited Production Car class during the Saturday meeting. The former secured the class win with his 1900 ccc Peugeot 205 GTi with a best time of 51.39 seconds against the 51.93 of the Renault Clio Cup 182 driver.

Geoff Blake, also from Weymouth, trailed the reigning Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Park Champion Paul Reynolds during the Saturday morning runs but was granted a re-run in the Vauxhall powered Westfield SEiW he shares with his father Graham in the Modified Specialist Production Car class. The second opportunity enabled him to better his adversary's time of 46.74 seconds with ascent of 45.62. Graham took third with a best climb of 50.87 seconds. The two-litre Dunnell powered SEi of Peter Ede followed Reynolds home on the Sunday but Peter was ecstatic having powered off the startline to the first timing split in under two seconds. Watch out Menzies and co!! Differential problems sidelined the Blake's Westfield from the second day so Geoff shared the driving duties with his sister Debbie in her John Cooper Works Mini Cooper S. Getting accustomed to the front wheel drive machine saw some less than optimum lines particularly at the Martini hairpin at the top of the course.

The Rally Car class entertained as always with Martin Dover taking his Honda Civic Type R to third on the first day of competition whilst fellow Poole driver Andrew Phillips took the runner-up slot in his two litre Peugeot 205 a mere three hundredths of a second off of the winning Darian T90 with Tim Porter at the wheel. The following day practice did not go so well for Andrew who made a trip up the escape road at Martini but recovered well in the afternoon to take the class honours defeating Porter by seven tenths of a second. This time third place was taken by the 2.5 litre Millington powered Ford Escort Mk2 of Kevin Rault.

Unable to play with the rally cars due to a roll cage which does not satisfy the latest rally car regulations Mark Linforth took his Ford Escort Mk1 to two Sports Libre over 1800 cc wins.



Two podiums for Mitsubishi Evo6 RS of Simon Neve

Andrew Phillips recovered to take Rally Car win



Steven Hepworth hauls his Ford Cortina around Martini



A third place finish for Kevin Rault in Rally Car class

The Classic Marques class saw seventeen entries with such machines as Morgan, Jaguar E Type, Porsche Cayman and TVR. Due to the diversity of the specification of the different cars results were computed utilising a handicap/equalisation through which came Dorchester BMW Z4 driver Alan Davies who claimed third place in the Sunday event whilst Gordon Pearce had achieved the same result with his Porsche Cayman the previous day.



Different driving styles for Geoff Blake - normal mount the Westfield SEiW and his sister's Mini Cooper S JCW



No time to appreciate the bluebells! Alan Davies powers his BMW Z4 through Martini



Full results of the Woolbridge April Modifieds are available at [www.swtimekeeping.co.uk/times-from-2024](http://www.swtimekeeping.co.uk/times-from-2024)



Having led the 2023 Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Park Championship but then lost out at the season's end Julian Rinaldi started his 2024 campaign in third place after the Woolbridge weekend