

Despite a roll Kieran Baxter claimed the final win of the season



BRAVO BAXTER

July 4X4 Trial Simons Quarry

Sunday July 21st 2024

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

The final event of the Woolbridge Motor Club 2023-2024 four-wheel-drive trials season featured eight tests in a quarry which is a regular venue for off-road trials. However, the sections which awaited competitors were all new and completely different to those used on previous events. The organisers also made drivers aware that parts of these sections were going to need some nerve but undeterred Kieran Baxter took his Suzuki Jeep to overall victory.

Chris Tite and his V8 Range Rover powered special, which utilises a cut-down Land Rover chassis, is usually in the mix for overall honours but on the fifth section a differential failure sidelined the Cerne Abbas driver.

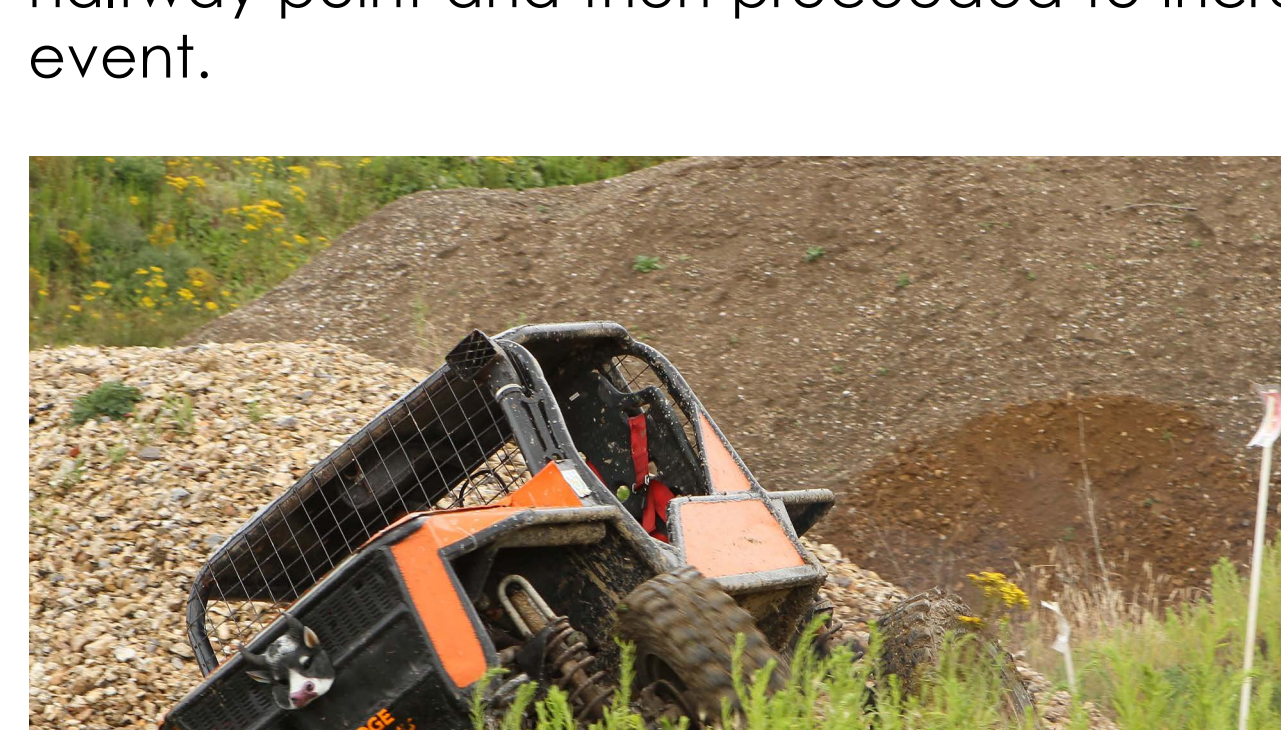


Dave Clayton working his Land Rover hard

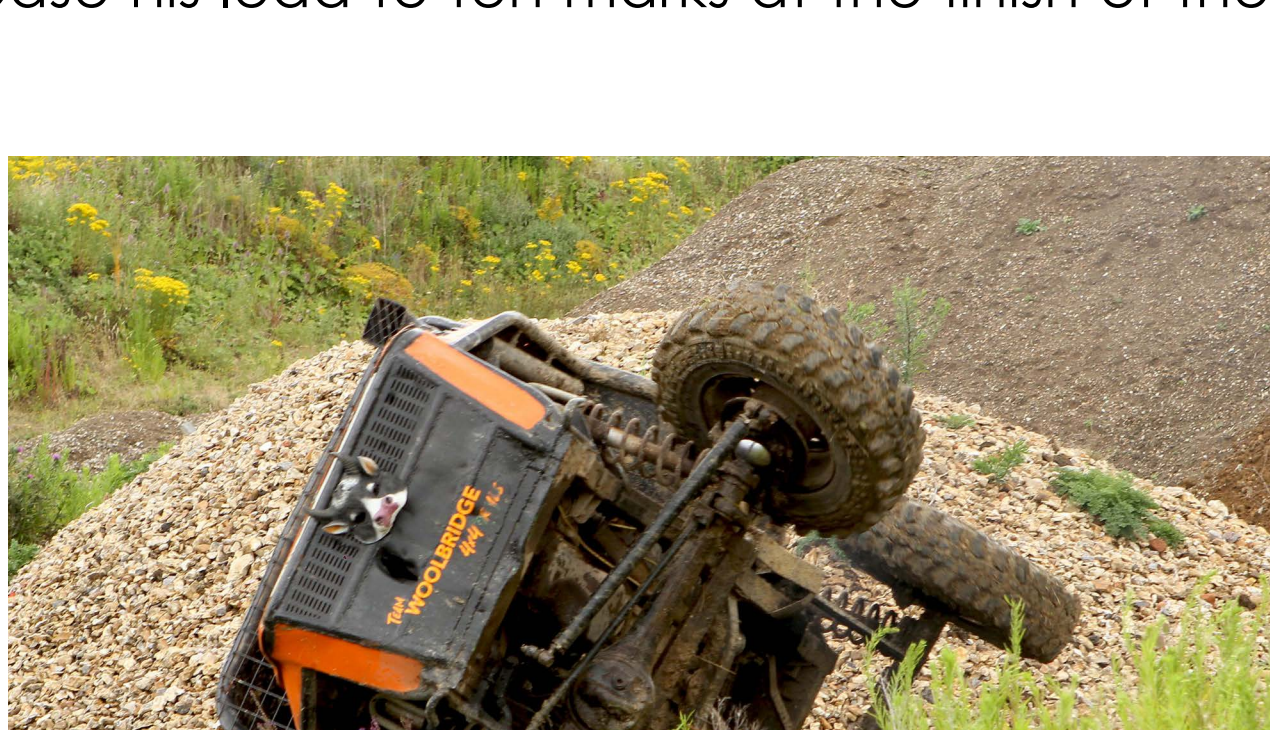


Graeme Wills reaches for the sky

Unfortunately, retirement from the event also embraced other members of the family when two sections later Chris' father John and his daughter Darcy were forced to retire from the event. With the demise of Chris Tite the battle for Class One honours was fought out by Toby Cameron and Simon Baxter with the latter hindering his chances by rolling his 2.5 litre turbo diesel powered machine on its side and opening the door of opportunity to Cameron who had built an advantage of six points with his modified Land Rover at the halfway point and then proceeded to increase his lead to ten marks at the finish of the event.



All in a days trialling. Leaning a bit here Simon



No coming back at this stage



Simon Baxter comes to rest



Kieran Baxter climbs from his Suzuki after roll



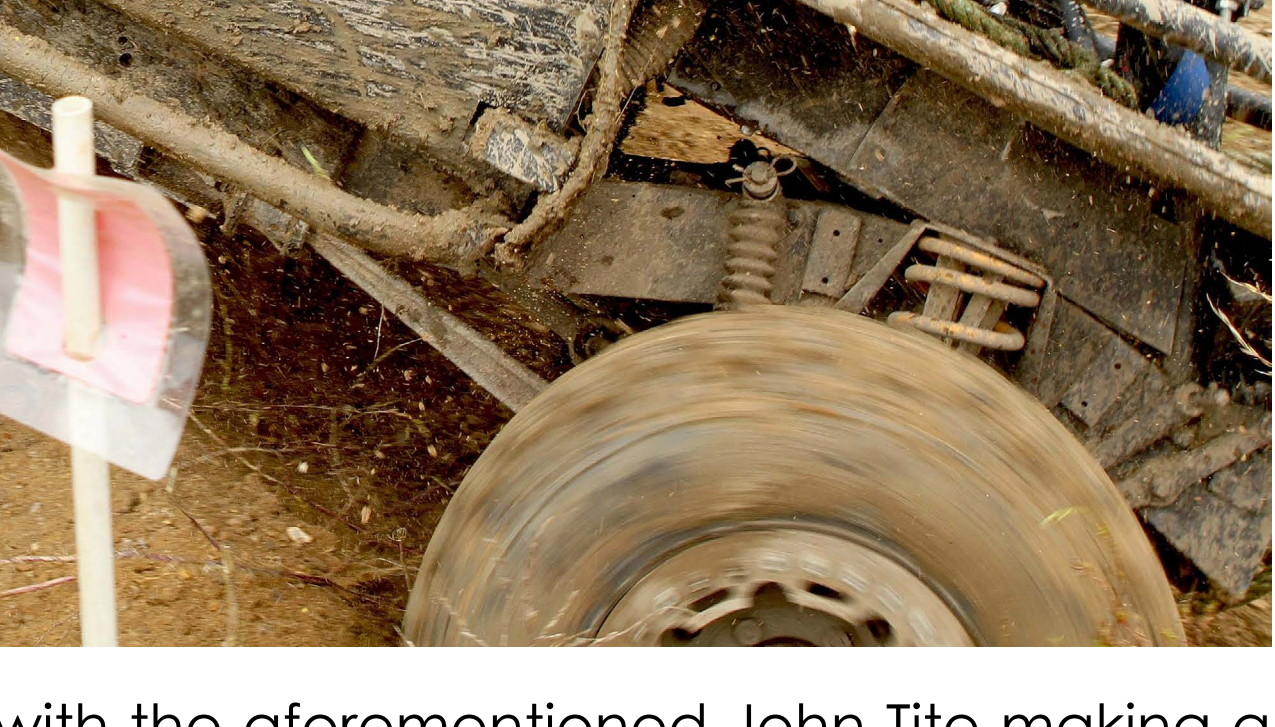
Graeme Wills in the thick of it - battling for class honours

The Class 2 battle comprised of nine drivers with the aforementioned John Tite making a cracking start by cleaning the first two sections but the battle at the sharp end of the division, which features Caged Buggies with engines of less than two litres capacity, was to be contested by Graeme Wills and Darren Evans with the latter edging ahead until just before halfway when he incurred ten penalties allowing the Blandford builder into a single-point lead.

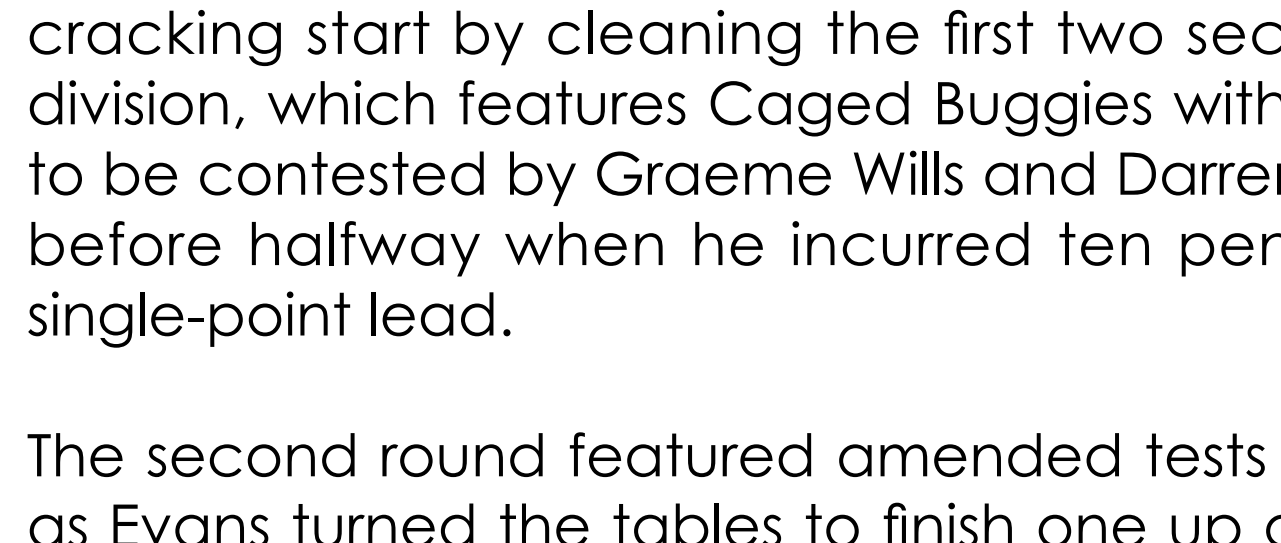
The second round featured amended tests and therefore added pressure on the drivers as Evans turned the tables to finish one up on Wills which meant the duo tied on forty-six penalties across the whole event and thus shared the class victory. The battle for class honours could not have been closer and for those who hung onto the coat-tails of the leading duo the contest was equally fierce with Dave Butterfield and John Tite also enjoying an intense encounter with the former taking an early lead which he maintained throughout the morning and the afternoon but Kirby, with his new mount (replacing the Frankinjeep) which features Land Rover Discovery chassis and engine with Defender body panels, closed the deficit to two points at the close of play.



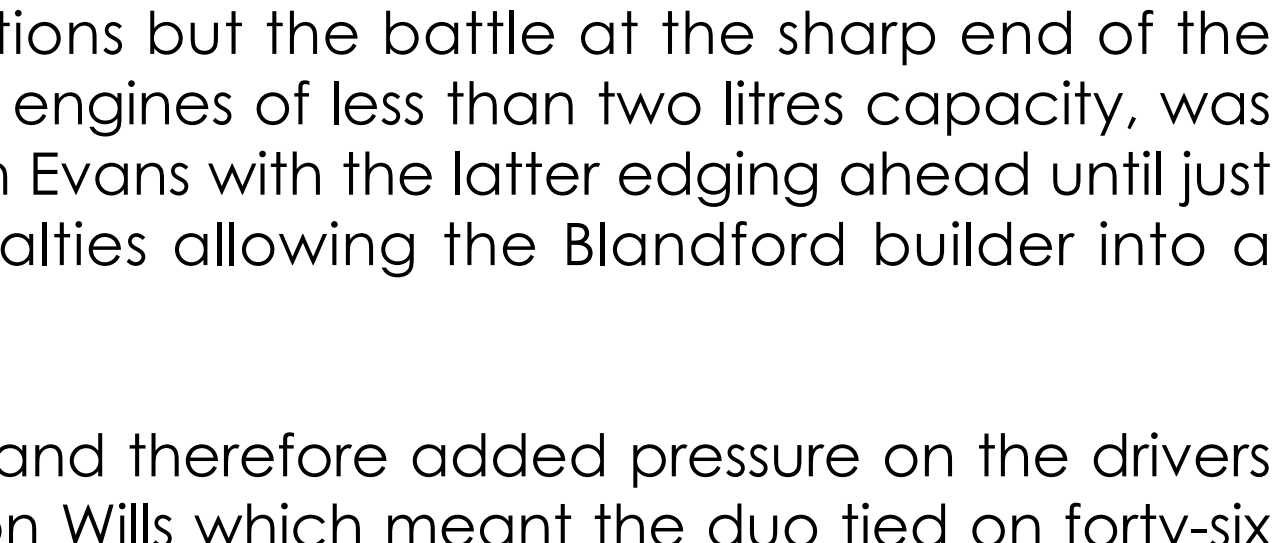
Is John Kirby cursing as he closes in on marker post?



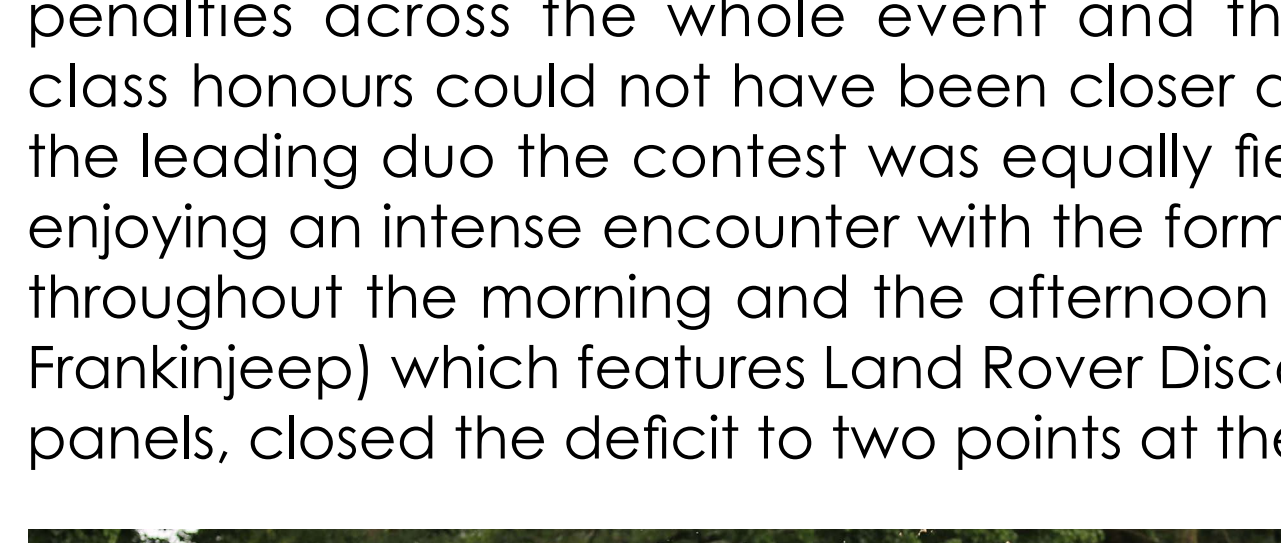
Class 1 win for Toby Cameron



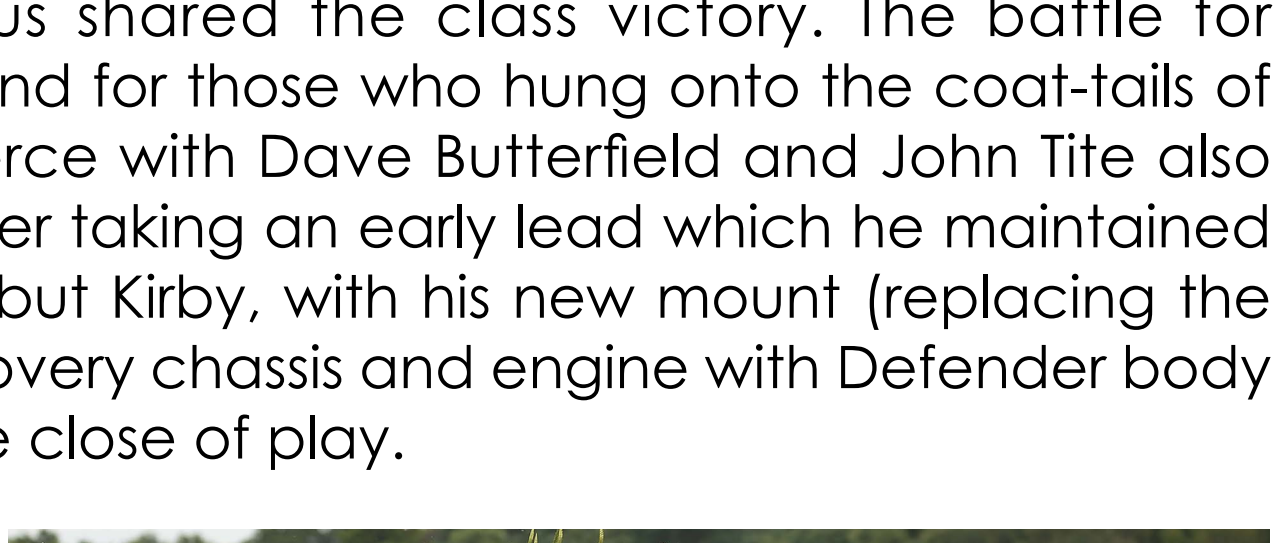
Not the best day for the Tite family. Darcy on first test



First equal in Class 2a - Darren Evans



Dave Butterfield coming down to earth



Retirement for John Tite after strong start

After a strong start, just like John Tite cleaning the first two sections, the fortunes of Kieran Baxter, and for that matter his father Simon who was competing in Class 1, were hampered by rolling their machines but fortunately Kieran did not lose points to the rest of the field as a result and, although he was on the only entry in the over two-litre division of Caged Buggies, the Bridport driver climbed well through the day to take the overall win just three points ahead of the duelling Wills and Evans.



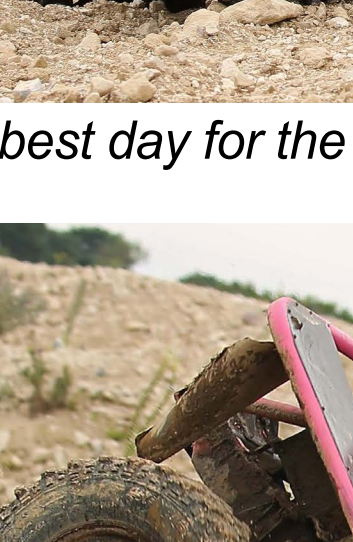
A differential failure sidelined Chris Tite



Greg Danks brought Daihatsu to the season finale



Ben Crook finished sixth down on co-driver John Kirby



4 X 4 TRIAL SIMONS QUARRY

Sunday July 21st 2024



DRIVER	RUN 1				RUN 2				Sub Total	Grand Position Total	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		Handicap Points	Total

Class 1															
1	Toby Cameron	5	1	7	8	17	4	7	7	9	31	44	Handicap Points	5	49
2	Simon Baxter	1	0	10	8	23	10	5	7	9	27	54	Handicap Points	5	59
3	Chris Tite	0	0	2	1	3	5	Retired			5	8	Handicap Points		

Class 2a															
4	John Tite	0	0	6	8	14	4	9	Retired		13	27			
5	Dave Butterfield	4	0	8	6	18	5	9	7	9	30	48	Handicap Points	5	48 2nd Class
6	John Kirby	6	0	10	6	22	6	6	7	9	28	50	Handicap Points	5	50 3rd Class
7	Darcy Tite	7	8	0	10	25	9	9	Retired		18	43			
8	Greg Danks	10	8	8	10	36	9	8	8	10	35	71			71
9	Ben Crook	8	3	6	10	27	5	8	7	9	29	56			56
10	Graeme Wills	7	2	8	6	23	5	2	7	9	23	46			46 1st Class
11	Darren Evans	6	0	8	10	24	4	2	7	9	22	46			46 1st Class
12	Dave Clayton	10	1	10	10	31	5	8	7	9	29	60			60

Class 2b															
13	Kieran Baxter	0	0	6	8	14	4	9	7	9	29	43			43 1st Overall