

Slip Sliding Suzuki



NO HOLDING HOPPÉ

Champion takes unchallenged win

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

Former British Champion, and current Gold Star national champion with the British Trials and Rally Drivers Association, Mark Hoppé made a significant step towards retaining his Woolbridge Motor Club trials champion title with an emphatic win in difficult conditions at Hogcliff Hill. During the event, the six tests which were each used four times across the day, became extremely greasy which presented the drivers with a distinct challenge despite Clerk of the Course Richard Wilson's continual amendments to the tests in an effort to provide new grass and the opportunity of some traction.

At the wheel of his pocket-sized Suzuki Alto and contesting Class One for two-wheel-drive production cars, made a positive start incurring just seven penalty points after the first round of six tests to lead Andy Webb from Weymouth by a single point but by the end of the second stanza the deficit between the two had ballooned to thirty with Webb and his Toyota Yaris T-Sport unable to match the scores of his adversary which in turn let Ben Joslin (sharing the drive with his work colleague Hoppé) and Bridport driver Gary Morris, at the wheel of his Vauxhall Corsa, to assume second and third places as the event paused for lunch.

Hoppé ripped through the third round of tests dropping just eight marks, twelve less than Morris and without the opposition of the absent recently crowned British Champion Tim Dovey the Sherborne driver was a shoo-in for not only the best in Class One, where he finished forty-six clear of Morris, but also for the overall victory once the index of performance of each competitor had been calculated. Yeovil driver Joslin claimed second in class thirteen points shy of Morris.



Mark Dunkerley joined Mike Dore in Saxo



Alistair Moss checking on progress

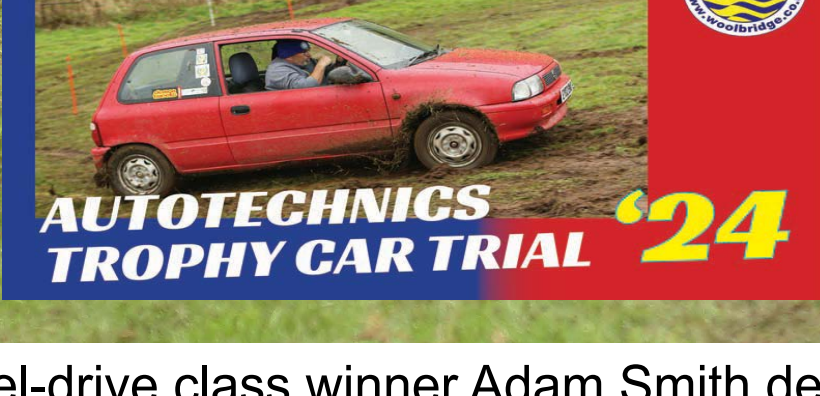


Ben Waterworth claimed the Novice award driving the club's loan Ford Ka.

If the first class had provided a run-away victory Class Two, for front-wheel-drive cars not carrying ballast or fitted with a sump guard, yielded a close battle between south Dorset drivers Chris Briant and John Kirby. Driving instructor Briant took the wheel of one of the Woolbridge club's academy/loan cars, a Ford Ka, whilst Kirby, a retired engineer from Weymouth, claimed his Citroen Saxo. An early advantage was earned by the latter with a five-point lead after the first round but by the halfway stage Briant had reduced the margin to three points. The twelve afternoon tests promised a close battle and the duo delivered. Briant stole back four points to take the lead at the conclusion of the third round and bettered his opponent by two on the final round to claim the class win by three points.

Sharing the drive in the Ka with Briant was Ben Waterworth who definitely benefited from the experience of his coach in the left-hand seat and claimed the Novice Award.

The rear-wheel-drive category was led throughout by Adam Smith from Wool. At the wheel of his Reliant Scimitar, Smith posted the lowest score on the first round dropping just six points to lead the similar car of David Robinson increasing his advantage to twenty-one by halfway and maintaining that margin until the close of play.



View the action on the Woolbridge Motor Sports Youtube channel

Rear-wheel-drive class winner Adam Smith defeated fellow Reliant Scimitar driver David Robinson.



Mike Flack with his Hyundai i10



Mud spreading. Andy Webb and Yaris T Sport



Greasy conditions by Gary Morris is not deterred in his Vauxhall Corsa

RESULTS

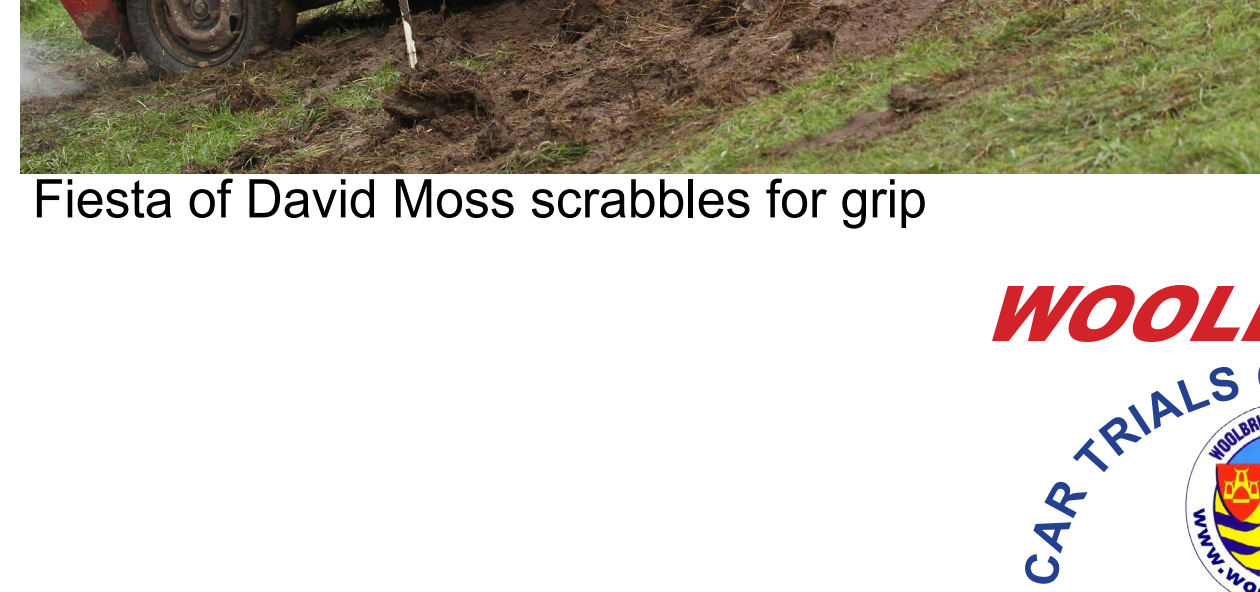
Class	No	Name	Club	Vehicle	IC	TYO	WVCS	Expert	Round 1						Round 2						Total	Cumulative Total	
									REL1	REL2	REL3	REL4	REL5	REL6	REL1	REL2	REL3	REL4	REL5	REL6			
1	101	Mike Flack	Woolbridge	i10	1248	14	X	0	10	5	8	6	2	6	37	11	9	9	9	2	7	47	84
1	102	David Moss	Woolbridge	Fiesta	1295	14	X	0	5	1	6	6	11	29	0	1	0	3	6	7	17	46	
1	103	David Heera	Woolbridge	Polo	1290	14	X	4	1	9	9	6	11	40	11	7	8	10	6	7	49	89	
1	104	Alistair Moss	Woolbridge	Fiesta	1295	14	X	0	1	1	3	6	11	21	9	8	0	9	6	7	39	60	
1	105	Gary Morris	Woolbridge	Corsa	1410	14	X	0	0	0	3	6	10	19	1	1	0	9	6	6	23	42	
1	106	Mark Hoppé	Woolbridge	Saxo	993	12	X	0	0	0	3	2	2	7	0	3	0	3	2	2	8	15	
1	107	Andy Webb	Woolbridge	Yaris T Sport	1510	16	X	0	0	0	3	2	3	20	11	10	9	6	7	43	73		
1	108	Ben Joslin	Woolbridge	Alto	993	12	X	0	0	9	3	1	2	15	1	8	0	3	3	8	23	38	
2	201	Chris Briant	Woolbridge	Ka	1380	14	X	0	0	9	3	6	5	23	9	1	8	3	1	7	29	52	
2	202	John Kirby	Woolbridge	Saxo	1390	14	X	0	1	1	3	2	11	18	9	1	9	7	2	3	31	49	
2	203	Ben Waterworth	Woolbridge	Ka	1380	14	X	11	3	9	7	7	5	42	11	8	9	7	6	7	48	90	
2	204	Mark Dunkerley	Woolbridge	Saxo	1390	14	X	9	7	1	3	5	3	22	11	7	0	3	2	2	36	58	
2	205	Will Lawrence	Woolbridge	Peugeot 206	1510	16	X	11	7	0	3	2	3	20	11	10	9	6	7	43	73		
2	206	Mike Dore	Woolbridge	Saxo	1390	14	X	9	8	8	3	2	2	32	9	7	8	6	6	6	45	77	
3	301	Andrew Waterworth	Woolbridge	MGB	1610	14	X	9	10	10	9	8	7	53	11	9	10	10	6	9	55	108	
3	302	David Robinson	Woolbridge	SS1	1610	14	X	0	1	1	0	3	0	8	12	11	1	0	10	0	3	25	37
3	303	Adam Smith	Woolbridge	SS1	1610	14	X	0	0	0	3	0	3	6	0	1	0	6	0	3	10	16	
3	304	Donal Doyle	Woolbridge	MGB	1610	14	X	9	0	7	4	2	3	25	11	12	7	9	6	3	48	73	
3	305	Ryan Whincop	Woolbridge	SS1	1610	14	X	9	1	8	6	0	10	34	11	6	5	10	0	3	37	71	
6	601	Kevin Downell	Woolbridge	Ibox	1298	Free	X	4	0	0	3	1	12	20	0	0	0	3	0	1	4	24	

Cumulative Total	Name	Round 3						Round 3 Total	Round 4						Cumulative Total	Class Position	Points	Penalty Points	Notes			
		REL1	REL2	REL3	REL4	REL5	REL6		REL1	REL2	REL3	REL4	REL5	REL6								
84	Mike Flack	9	7	5	7	3	9	40	4	8	9	10	3	8	42	128	5	310	0			
46	David Moss	10	7	9	11	2	44	2	2	2	2	11	18	9	1	18	7	2	3	31	49	
89	David Heera	9	8	9	9	3	47	4	3	9	10	8	45	145	8	70	307	0				
42	Mark Hoppé	9	8	5	7	3	40	4	8	9	10	3	9	43	143	8	310	0				
15	Andy Webb	1	2	8	7	2	20	3	1	9	3	3	8	35	67	2	1	0	0	0	1	
45	Mark Hoppé	1	2	8	7	2	20	3	1	9	3	3	8	35	67	2	1	0	0	0	1	
36	Ben Joslin	9	2	8	7	2	31	5	7	9	10	2	4	36	112	4	310	0				
77	Will Lawrence	9	1	7	4	2	28	1	1	8	10	2	8	31	100	3	310	0				
49	Chris Briant	7	7	0	5	1	26	2	7	8	9	2	8	39	119	1	310	0				
52	John Kirby	9	8	0	9	1	32	2	7	9	10	2	9	38	119	2	310	0				
90	Ben Waterworth	10	8	9	9	4	48	4	8	9	10	3	9	43	181	6	310	0				
58	Mark Dunkerley	11	8	5	3	2	37	4	8	7	10	2	8	39	134	3	310	0				
73	Will Lawrence	12	9	8	3	2	41	4	10	7	9	2	9	41	185	4	310	0				
77	Mike Dore	9	8	9	8	1	36	6	8	8	9	2	9	42	185	5	310	0				
108	Andrew Waterworth	11	10	9	10	3	43	11	10	10	11	8	10	58	219	5	310	0				
36	David Robinson	11	8	7	6	2	34	2	1	9	10	2	9	35	106	2	310	0				
73	Adam Smith	11	10	8	7	0	34	3	8	9	10	0	8	37	87	1	310	0				
71	Ryan Whincop	11	9	7	7	2	44	6	7	9	12	2	8	44	161	4	310	0				
71	Ryan Whincop	11	9	9	3	2	37	2	7	9	10	10	8	45	184	3	310	0				
24	Kevin Downell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

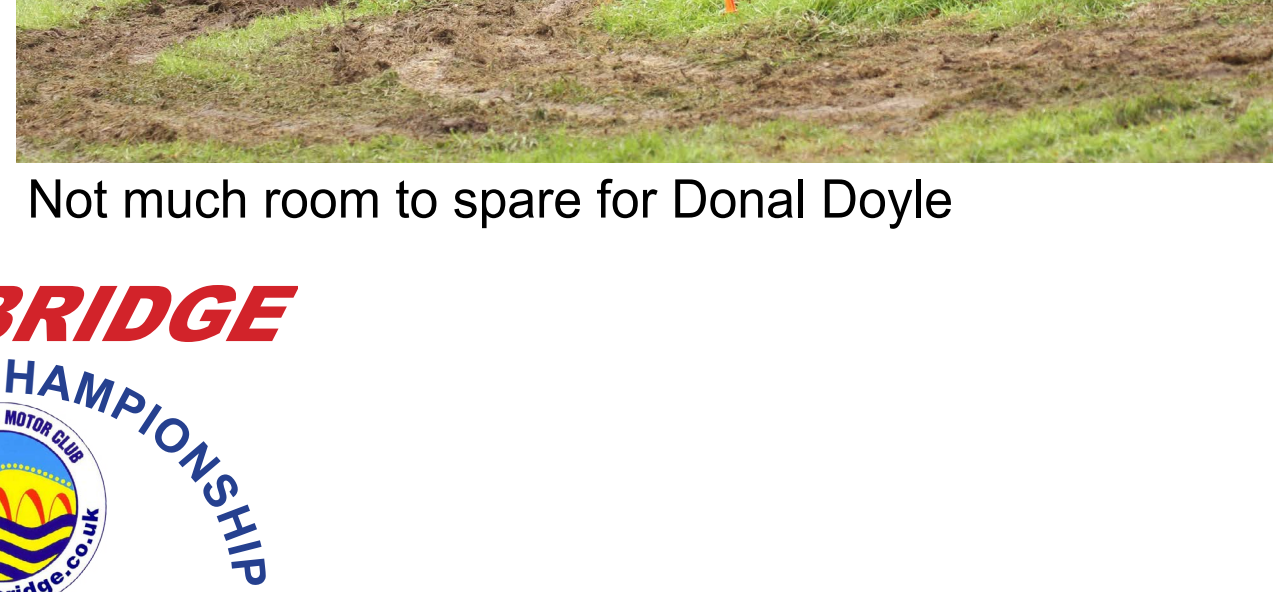
LET'S GO TRIALLING TOGETHER IN 2025

Next Car Trial

Maurice Crabb Memorial Trial, Uploders (east of Bridport) January 12th 2025



Fiesta of David Moss scrabbles for grip



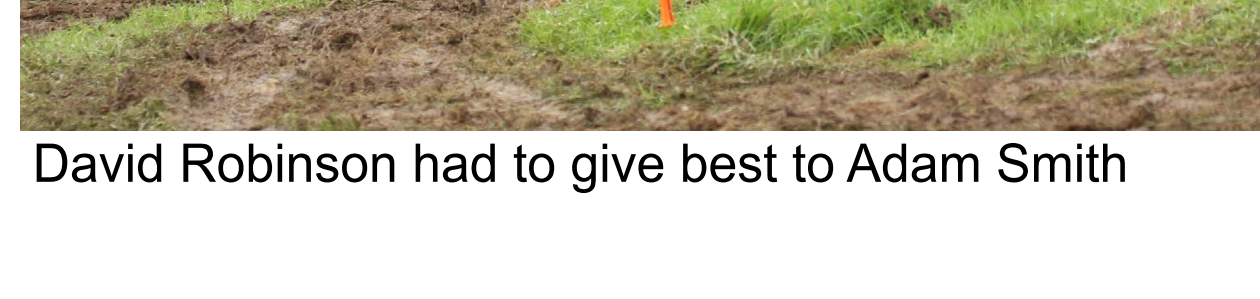
Not much room to spare for Donal Doyle



John Kirby battled long and hard with Chris Briant



Ryan Whincop couldn't match Smith in Scimitar SS1



David Robinson had to give best to Adam Smith



Bicep workout for Mark Hoppé