

DHUSTONE TRIAL

Volkswagen Owners Club's mid-summer party is not renowned for its smooth sophistication. It is intended as a frolic in the sunshine and is held high in the Clee Hills where the gradients in a disused quarry are sufficient to provide a severe test even in the driest conditions. Somehow this club seems to be able to programme on its computer exactly what its preferences are concerning the weather. When snow is wanted for the Clee Hills trial, then sure enough the snow comes. When sunshine is required to bake the contestants, then, as if by magic, it comes too.

June 2nd was in the middle of those three hot days we may be asked to remember as 'Summer 85' and yet high in the hills there was a brisk breeze to moderate the temperature.

Although the meeting attracted a small entry, no one minded since the financial budget is not hard to balance and it created an opportunity for many dual entries. Indeed although 21 starters are listed, only 13 cars could be found on the hills. Neil Stanley, for example, shared one of the VW Bradbury Specials with Bob Horton and Andrew Gilbert and Steven Bates, competing in their first trial, borrowed a Beetle from the President of the Thirsty Thursday Club. Barbara Selkirk and Peter Wilson shared Simon Woodalls Buggy which gave the opportunity for Simon to pilot Andy Curtis' big Beetle. Richard Penhale arrived with his old Cannon which is powered by a 1500 cc engine and which showed signs of having recently been made road legal. He was welcomed too but since he couldn't produce a recent MOT certificate, his results were not to feature in the awards list. Richard and Kate Taylor accepted this suggestion in the right spirit and proceeded to enjoy the event all the more.

Despite the dry conditions, the first couple of sections contained lots of mud. Section 1, the Swamp, trapped everyone (except Richard Penhale) in the 7 and 8 region. The good humoured antics were being watched by keen PCT officials who couldn't understand why everyone was determined to enjoy themselves and why no one troubled to cheat by straddling the markers!

For this fun meeting, the organisers had devised their own classes and sent class 3 to attempt to climb the Riverbed. Then came The Link which cut up badly during the day and saw Barbara Selkirk/Wendy Heath take off vertically like a Harrier Jump Jet on a NATO exercise. Section 5 was followed by an old favourite called Rockslide which required circumnavigation of an outcrop of rock which threatened to demolish (but didn't) any wayward competitor. For Short and Steep, it was necessary to complete a right hand turn before applying maximum power but some over anxious contenders didn't make it. Andy Curtis, who did make it, climbed well until confronted by the Section Ends board when he erred the wrong way and collected a 1.

Bedlam has lost much of its sting but caught Keith Bradbury/Andy Ordridge who turned up in a Hillman Imp. 'Serves him right' said the large congregation of VW members.

The second and third rounds of the nine sections included a few changes. The mud holes on the early sections had extended and led to the omission of these tests but elsewhere restart lines were added and there was no let up. Short and Steep caused most penalties. The last section at Mini Litton included a cross camber restart which caught many of the experts.

When the results were announced they proved very little but this was not intended to be a day to prove anything. Except perhaps that a puncture repairer could make a small fortune on next years event.....

Name	Class	Round 1									Round 2									Round 3									Tot	Spl Test	Position	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			O/A	Cls
3 Steve Bates	1	7	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	3	-	-	7	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	-	6	38	15.5	5	2				
4 Mike Gatvin	1	7	-	10	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	6	48	15.1	12	3				
6 Andrew Gilbert	1	8	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	1	1	2	-	-	4	-	5	36	13.2	4	1					
8 Keith Bradbury	1	7	-	-	-	-	8	3	1	-	-	10	2	-	7	8	3	-	-	3	-	6	-	8	7	3	6	90	21.0	18	4	
13 Ian Watkins	1	8	-	9	-	-	4	8	-	-	RETIRED									12.4												
1 Jack Edney	2	8	-	7	-	-	4	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	6	42	13.1	9	3			
2 Terry Mattin	2	7	-	9	RETIRED					-	-	-	-	2	-	4	8	1	-	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	53	12.3	14	4		
11 Ben Higgins	2	7	4	10	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	27	11.5	3	1		
17 Graham Marshall	2	7	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	6	17	10.5	1	-			
19 Andy Curtis	2	7	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	3	-	6	39	10.9	6	2		
20 Simon Woodall	2	9	-	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
21 Nick Pyle	2	NON STARTER																														
5 Alan Garbutt	3	NON STARTER																														
7 Bob Horton	3	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	39	11.8	7	2		
9 Neil Stanley	3	7	10	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	-	5	4	1	-	-	55	14.1	16	8		
10 Peter Tanks	3	8	10	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	12	2	5	4	-	-	-	53	13.2	15	7		
12 Phillip Farr	3	7	9	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	5	-	-	-	6	46	13.9	11	5		
14 Peter Wilson	3	7	7	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	-	1	-	5	-	6	45	12.5	10	4		
15 Barbara Selkirk	3	7	10	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	-	5	-	-	-	-	40	12.8	8	3		
16 Paul Fairbanks	3	8	11	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	3	-	-	-	49	11.9	13	6		
18 Mac Hazlewood	3	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	11.8	2	1		
22 Mark Smith	3	10	11	10	2	-	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	4	4	-	6	72	11.5	17	9		
23 Richard Penhale	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	11.2	-	-		
Awards		1st O/A									Andy Curtis																					
		1st in Class									Andrew Gilbert, Graham Marshall, Mac Hazlewood																					
		2nd in Class									Simon Woodall, Bob Horton																					