

## **Tamar Trial 2023 (in memory of Pete Cooper)**

Probably the wettest ground conditions we've had in a long time for the Tamar made everything that bit harder to climb (and set up) this year. However, the weather on the day was ideal and we hoped you all enjoyed the route, sections, and scenery on offer.

The solos saw a 3-way tie on 17 marks for 1<sup>st</sup> overall when the scores were all totted up. John Reeves was rewarded for a long trip down with the Dunheved Cup, just piping riding mate Kevin Miller and Tristan Barnicoat on combined observed test times.

The solo only section at Ladye Park we thought would be a real stopper and so it proved, marks ranging from a 3 (well done Eldon Jackson) to a 12. I believe it's legal status for vehicles is under threat, so it was good to make use of it. The second bike only section at the end of the trial, proved trickier than intended really with a tree down across the top of where we probably would have routed the section.

The slippery grass bank at Tanks' Terror was as hard as it's ever been on a bike with the wetter weather and only saw one clear (John Luckett – who unfortunately retired later). Nonetheless, every section (apart from Ladye Park) was cleared by at least one solo. The new sections in the woods were tricky but cleanable, perhaps a little harsh in a couple of places on the Class A bikes, great to see them out and we will have some tweaks in mind for them in the future to ease things in a few places. Their scores were tight though, Neil Browne winning the class on test times.

Steve Urell & Julie Williams had a great trial on their outfit to finish in 6<sup>th</sup> place overall and win the Bude & District Cup. Mark Wills also with a long trip down, claimed class B1, Eldon Jackson B3 and the 4 riders together in Class X saw an award for James Stevens. Matt Tilley won the Dunheved Trophy as the quickest bike on the observed tests.

In the cars, the first Class 8 overall winner since 2015, congratulations to Jack Selwood on winning the Tamar Trophy dropping just 7 marks all day, it was the lightweight specials that overcame their restarts and suited the wet conditions the best with Dean Partington making the trip from Derbyshire for 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the John Dell Cup on 12.

The morning classic lanes ran smoothly and gave everyone the opportunity to keep a low score intact before section 8, Tanks Terror. As wet as it's been here before for us and began a run of taking marks.

The sections in the woods within a stones throw of the Tamar were all completely new to us so we didn't know what to expect score wise on the new ground. The bottom of The Twister looked fairly innocuous when setting up but claimed quite a few, there are several routes in here so there is definitely scope to get more competitors up to the lower numbers here (which is what we want). The Quarry seemed to work well (a bit easy for Class 8 without a restart). The Slates dug out a bit too much at the bottom for the later numbers, again there are other tracks in here so for future years this will be tweaked and made better if used. The Firs probably worked the best of this group, a smooth steep climb and the majority got a 6 or better with just one clear. Keith Sanders and Matt Facey both had very good runs on this group of hills in their class 5's dropping just a handful of points. Think a few cars missed an arrow or two on the way out in the maize of tracks by the exit gate.

Angel Steps, far more favourable these days for the non-restarters but only a handful made it up from their respective restarts. Park Impossible to finish the day was in its best form for many years. Phil Thomas completed a storming afternoon run in fathers Melos to be the only car to see the top.

James Shallcross had another cracking Tamar result in his front wheel drive Peugeot to retain the Club Cup, Keith Sanders couldn't retain the Tamar Trophy, but another excellent run saw him be the best non-Class 8, 5<sup>th</sup> overall and the Saloon Cup. Roger Hancock with 4<sup>th</sup> overall won the coveted Pete Cooper Trophy and other tight battles saw Class Wins awarded to Phil Thomas, Henry Hoggart and Phil Parker.

Huge thanks to you all for entering and of course to all the marshals and landowners.

***Nigel Cowling, Simon Riddle, Andrew Rippon, Jan Cooper & the whole of the organising team***