

# Beam Breaker

## Wiscombe Park Newsletter

July 2023

*Dear spectator*  
*Welcome to Beam Breaker!*

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the mid point of our season - but what a treat we have to look forward to - the visit of the British Hillclimb Championship on the 29th and 30th July. This season is shaping up to be another classic. As I am writing this, three times British Champion, Wallace Menzies, has a narrow lead of 28 points over new "young gun" Matt Ryder. Six times Champion, Scott Moran, is in third place - just two points behind! Runner up for the last three seasons, 2015 Champion and Wiscombe Hill Record holder Alex Summers, has had a frustrating season so far with mechanical gremlins, but his season is now getting back on track.

We can look forward to two spectacular days of speed hillclimbing - a Run Off on both Saturday and Sunday.

Ticket sales are now live from our web site  
[www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events)

*Wiscombe Park*

e-mail : [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)



## 2023 calendar

29th & 30th July	British Championship
2nd & 3rd September	Five Clubs
9th September	MG Car Club
10th September	NHCA Arnold Gimblett Speed Hillclimb (all bike event)
23rd/24th September	Wiscombe Manor Farm



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# BRITISH HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON UPDATE



The British Hillclimb Championship was first held in 1947 and the inaugural Champion was the great racing driver Raymond Mays in an ERA R4D.

Speed hillclimbing has been used as the testing ground for many innovations over the years and has attracted some very clever designers as well as fast and highly skilled drivers.

The current Championship contenders are driving cars that are utilising some advanced aerodynamics, very similar to those employed in F1 design. Just look at the front wing of the Gould GR59M of triple British Champion Wallace Menzies – it is a work of art in carbon fibre.

Speed hillclimbing is not all about outright speed – a driver's precision is tested to the limit on a 1000 yard track that is just twelve foot wide. The amount of torque developed by the engine is very important to push the chassis out of the tight hairpins (particularly Martini at Wiscombe).

Top speed? Well depending on gearing, the cars that we will see in the Top 12 Run Off will hit a maximum speed of 130mph on the Castle Straight – the drivers will then be jumping on the brakes and lining the car up for the sharp left hand, uphill hairpin, of Martini for the short burst of power across the finish line - those final, vital tenths of a second.

The outright hill record is 32.94s set by Alex Summers in his DJ Firestorm at last season's British Championship meeting. Alex's car is powered by an ex Indycar 2.7L Cosworth XD engine.

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# BRITISH HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 Championship is finely balanced. As at the beginning of July, after the Harewood meeting, the top 5 are:

- |                                                   |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Wallace Menzies - Gould GR59M/Cosworth XD 3.3L | 147pts |
| 2. Matthew Ryder - Gould GR59BJ/Judd DB4 4.0L     | 119pts |
| 3. Scott Moran - Gould GR59/ Judd DB4 4.0L        | 117pts |
| 4. Alex Summers - DJ Firestorm/Cosworth XD 2.7L   | 99pts  |
| 5. Sean Gould - Gould GR59BJ/Judd DB4 4.0L        | 84pts  |

Can Wallace Menzies win a straight fourth British title? Will Matt Ryder – in only his second season in a large capacity single seater – spoil his party? Or will six times British Champion Scott Moran make it title number seven? You cannot discount the fearless 2015 Champion, Alex Summers, who uses the smallest engine of the front runners.

Alex is not only fast, he is a very clever engineer – a development engineer at Aston Martin Lagonda – he has just designed and built his own single seater race car. And don't overlook Sean Gould – his father David, founded Gould Racing and is the constructor of the Gould chassis which have won 21 of the last 24 British Championships. Sean's car is usually the test bed for updates before they are fitted to their customers cars. Sean shares the GR59BJ with Matt Ryder.

For those of you new to speed hillclimbing, the drivers fastest times are used to decide who then qualifies for a Top 12 Run Off. twelve qualifiers then have an additional run to decide the final placings.

Only the ten fastest drivers score points towards the British Championship – allocated on the basis of 10 points down to 1.

To follow all the latest news on the British Hillclimb Championship, please visit the web site [www.britishhillclimb.co.uk](http://www.britishhillclimb.co.uk)

**[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)**

## Sport



Ed Hollier - Force 1K - fastest time on Sunday Image: Nigel Cole



Kieran Stevens - Citroen C2 Furti - making his Wiscombe Park debut Image: Nigel Cole

# Green flag for new season



Rod Thorne - Pilbeam MP43 - Fastest time on Saturday Image: Nigel Cole

By **Tim Herbert**  
e timherbert@newsquest.co.uk

THE new motorsport season got underway at Wiscombe Park last weekend with the two-day Woolbridge Motor Club Spring meeting. The venue, a few miles from Hanilton, is commencing its 65th season.

On Saturday, it was Dorset motor engineer, Rod Thorne who topped the times in his Pilbeam MP43. The ex British Championship winning sports racer chassis now powered by a mighty 4 Litre Rover V16 was quite a handful on the tortuous 1000 yard course.

Ed was hotly pursued by Wiscombe specialist Ed Hollier - Force 1K - and Tom Williams MWR Storm - a self-built car designed by his father Mike with whom he shares the car. Ed and Tom were less than a second behind Rod.

On Sunday, Ed Hollier

completed a great start to his season by setting the fastest time - two seconds quicker than his Saturday best. Again, it was extremely competitive for the top three places with Andrew Forsyth - OMS CF04 - and Tony Wiltshire - Ralt RT34 - just a second behind Ed's time.

Outside of the top three, the conditions suited the many four wheel drive Subaru Impreza's and Mitsubishi Evo's.

The event hosted the first two rounds of the Wiscombe Park Tillicoultry Quarries Championship. With two Class wins from the weekend, Axminster garage owner, Julian Rinaldi Ford Fiesta - is the early Championship leader.

Julian is currently also leading the ASWMC Championship too. Filling second place is Matt Vann - Audi TT - and James Nash - Caterham Roadsport - in third place. Both Matt and James also won their respective classes on both days.



Matt Vann - Audi TT - Second place Wiscombe Championship Image: Nigel Cole

It was very pleasing to see some racing drivers making their debuts at Wiscombe. Downton MC member, Kieran Stevens, competed on Saturday in his Citroen C2 Furti - he is only just 17 and yet to pass his driving test!

Competing in the Classic Marques Speed Challenge was Fraser McKay in his Scimitar 881, and Lucy Cocks who shared a Renault Clio Cup 172 with her fa-

ther, Martin. They encountered mechanical issues in Saturday practice, prompting an unplanned drive to Exeter to purchase parts so that they could compete on Sunday.

Racing resumes on a newly laid track with the Torbay MC and Wildlife Autosport meetings on May 13 & 14, followed by the 500 Owners Association and Vintage Sports-Car Club event on May 20 & 21.



Julian Rinaldi - Ford Fiesta - leading Wiscombe Championship Image: Nigel Cole

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# Fast times on the new track

## Motorsport

WISCOMBE Park's second race weekend of the season saw the Honiton venue host Torbay Motor Club on Saturday, and Taunton and Burnham-on-Sea Motor Club's joint event - the Wildlife Autosport - on Sunday.

This was the first meeting after the whole 1000 yard course was recently resurfaced and, after cautious runs in practice on Saturday, the verdict from the competitors was that the new race track specification surface was a winner.



Andrew Forsyth - OMS CF04. Image: Nigel Cole

It was a memorable day for Dorset-based Andrew Forsyth who set the fastest time of the day (FTD). It may have been different. Phil Montgomery Smith was chasing hard, but on his final run, he had a big moment with his single seater race car hitting the earth bank bordering the course. Fortunately, although shaken, Phil was OK, and he had to rely on his earlier time, still enough to finish second. Ed Hollier finished in third place just over 7 tenths of a second separating the top 3!

And records were broken - Axminster garage owner, Julian Rinaldi driving a Ford Fiesta set a new ASWMC record 45.75s. Julian won his Class on both days and still leads the Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Park Championship.

After the incredible times set on Saturday, it was more of the same on Sunday, although with an overcast sky, the times were a little down.

The man in form was Andrew

Forsyth completing a weekend double with FTD again. This time, Ed Hollier chased him home in second. Third place was filled by Newton Abbot resident Tony Wiltshire in his Ralt RT34.

Torbay Motor Club's Martyn Glover Mitsubishi Evo 4RS set 3 new Personal Best times making the most of the new track.

There were bikes as well as cars competing at the weekend - members of the NHCA visiting Wiscombe for the first time this season.

Tom Short returned to the hills on his KTM after a sabbatical from the sport and proved that he has not lost any of his speed or bravery! He took FTD on both days, although 2022 NHCA Champion Paul Jeffery from North Devon was very close in second place. Tommy Hodges took third place on both days.

The next action at Wiscombe Park is the British Championships on July 29 and 30.



Ed Hollier - Force HC. Image: Nigel Cole

## Torbay hillclimbers speeding to motorsport success

**Members of Torbay Motor Club took to the newly re-surfaced Wiscombe Park speed hillclimb course near Honiton under sunny skies, writes NIGEL COLE.**

This is an annual event for the club and replaced the famous climb at Oddicombe, Torquay which was held continuously, twice a year, from 1961 until 2003.

When the drivers undertook their first morning practice run, no one knew how their tyres would react to the new surface, and how much grip there would be.

The initial worries were soon dismissed and the race track specification tarmac offered amazing grip. The drivers were all very excited with the potential to set new personal best times and records on the tortuous 1,000 yard course.

There were 30 Torbay MC members competing in a wide variety of cars. They were joined by members of other motor clubs from across the South West - a field of 130 competitors and a further 40 riders on motor bikes.

With all drivers and riders completing four timed runs - one practice and three event runs - it



Jon Langmead's Lotus Elise

was a very hectic day for competitors and organisers!

One of the most fiercely competitive classes for Torbay MC members was A2 for road going cars. It was golf professional Jon Langmead who came out on top in his Lotus Elise.

This season, Jon is competing in the national British Hillclimb Cup Championship, which will take him to venues all over the UK.

Jon was chased home by James

Hudson, also competing in the national BHC Championship, in his Golf GTI, just 1.5 seconds behind.

Another Torbay member celebrating a Class win was Steve Hill in his Caterham Superlight R400 - winning Class B2 for specialist production cars. It was a closely fought class - just one second separated the top three drivers!

In Class C2, there was a Torbay MC and family battle going on.



Jan Yeo in his Legends '34 Ford Coupe

Neil Tuckey took the Class win in his Ford Fiesta, but less than three tenths of a second behind was brother Shaun Tuckey in his Ford Ka. Torbay MC members Andy Stoddart - Vauxhall Nova - and Gordon Iles - Vauxhall Corsa - finished third and fourth.

When it comes to spectacular driving, then Jan Yeo driving his Legends '34 Ford Coupe is mesmerising as he slides his diminutive car around the narrow

course and tight hairpins of Wiscombe Park with accurate precision. Powered by a 1250cc Yamaha motorbike engine, the car is both agile and extremely powerful - it is an exciting combination which took Jan to the top of the times in Class D1.

As well as speed hillclimbs and sprints, Torbay MC organise various other motorsport events - for further details their activities, visit [www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk](http://www.torbaymotorclub.co.uk)

**Thank you to Tim Herbert at Archant Group for the coverage in the Midweek Herald, Exmouth Journal, North Devon Gazette, Torbay News and Highlander**

[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

# Vintage car event dazzles

The latest action from Wiscombe Park

THE latest racing action at Honiton's Wiscombe Park turned the clock back to motorsport's earliest years.

The 500 Owners Association event saw a large field of 500cc single seat racing cars take to the hill. These cars were the starting point for racing drivers in the late 1940s through the 50s and 60s. Great names like Stirling Moss owe their careers to these small, agile cars powered by rear mounted JAP motorcycle engines.



David Morris. Image: Nigel Cole.

Alongside these 500cc cars, there was a very varied field that included a selection of contemporary cars, motorbikes and sidecars.

In the 500 OA Class, Tom Waterfield - Cooper Mk9 - was the fastest with a time of 47.24s. On two wheels, North Devon rider Paul Jeffery on his KTM SMR topped the times on 41.76s. In the Class for contemporary cars, Andrew Forsyth in his OMS CF04 claimed Fastest Time of the Day 36.44s.

It was then the turn of the Chipping Norton based Vintage Sports-Car Club to take over the venue. Formed in 1934, the VSCC are one of the world's largest and most prestigious car clubs. Eligible cars are those built between 1900 and 1960, with the majority of competitors racing cars from the 1930's. The earliest car competing was the Talbot 25/50 of Robert Frankcom from 1913, while great names like ERA, Bugatti, Riley, Frazer Nash, and Austin

7, were all represented.

The award for the Fastest Time of the Day went to Ian Baxter in his 1937 Alta 61 LS, with a time of 45.58s. Fastest Young Driver - Hamish Cameron-Eveleigh - Cooper/JAP Mk8 47.42s and Fastest Vintage - Patrick Blakeney-Edwards - Frazer Nash Super Sports 48.17s.

For the large crowd lining the banks at Wiscombe Park on Sunday in glorious sunshine, there was a very rare opportunity to see an ERA in action. Arguably one of the most famous names in British motorsport, the cars were built in the 1930's. However, only 19 cars now exist, and they are extremely valuable. Devon resident and car collector Martin Morris purchased ERA 11B in 1962 it has been in the family ever since, and is now raced by Martin's son, David, who has owned the car since 2006.

The next action at Wiscombe Park is the British Championships on July 29 and 30.



Tom Waterfield - Cooper Mk9. Image: Nigel Cole.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2023



We are looking forward to receiving your entries - open to all amateur photographers - full Terms & Conditions are on our web site - get clicking away and send your photo's to

[wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)

Our 2022 winning photo's from Toby Bishop (top) and Archie Cooper (bottom)

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THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

# Wiscombe Park Club Package

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

## Wiscombe Park

SPEED HILLCLIMB

British Championship



Sunday  
30th July 2023



We look forward to welcoming  
the members of the  
Porsche Owners Club -  
Region 15



THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

## Wiscombe Park

SPEED HILLCLIMB

British Championship



Sunday  
30th July 2023



We look forward to welcoming  
the members of the  
The Independent Porsche  
Enthusiasts Club - Region 15



For our BHC event we will have "Stuttgart Sunday" as we welcome the members of the Porsche Owners Club and The Independent Porsche Enthusiasts Club to Wiscombe Park.

If you are a member of a car or owner's club, please drop us an e-mail at [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com) and we will send you full details of our Club Package



**Great Wiscombe Cake Off**  
On BHC Saturday, we will be selling cake in the paddock from noon with all proceeds going to Westcountry Rescue

[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

## Latest news

### Damien Bradley - Time attack!



Damien Bradley will be competing in his 2.4L turbo charged Subaru Legacy at the BHC event - this very rapid car develops in excess of 700bhp! He will be attempting to set a new "tin top" Wiscombe record - currently held by Colin Satchell in a Peugeot 106 - 40.35s is the time to beat.

### Alex Summers - new car - the AFS P4t

We are very pleased to announce that Alex Summers will be bringing his new car - the self designed and built AFS P4t - to Wiscombe Park. Launched earlier this year, it has been designed to have better proportions for female racing drivers. It is likely that Alex's wife, Debbie, will race the car.



© alex\_summers\_hillclimb - Instagram

### Do you want to compete in speed hillclimbing?

We have a very informative Getting Started Guide on our web site which you can download [www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

If you have any questions, or require guidance, drop us an e-mail - [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)

[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

# Wiscombe Park Championship 2023

# TILlicOUNTRY QUARRIES

The first four rounds of the 2023 Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Championship have been completed following the recent Torbay MC and Wildlife Autosport events. And it is still Julian Rinaldi topping the table. However, the chasing pack are not far behind him – including our 2022 Champion Ian Ingleheart - who is now getting to grips with the new Vauxhall Red Top powering his Westfield SE and he is in second place. Ed Hollier has had some good results in his Force H/C and is in third place. Julian had a particularly memorable day at the Torbay MC event – his time of 45.75s in the Ford Fiesta was a new ASWMC record – congratulations! The full table is now available to view on our web site – Championship page.

## Top 6 after Round 4

1. Julian Rinaldi – Ford Fiesta	57.75pts
2. Ian Ingleheart – Westfield SE	56.52pts
3. Ed Hollier - Force H/C	55.76pts
4. James Nash – Caterham Roadsport	55.71pts
5. Matt Vann – Audi TT	55.64pts
6. Tim Porter – Darrian T90	55.40pts



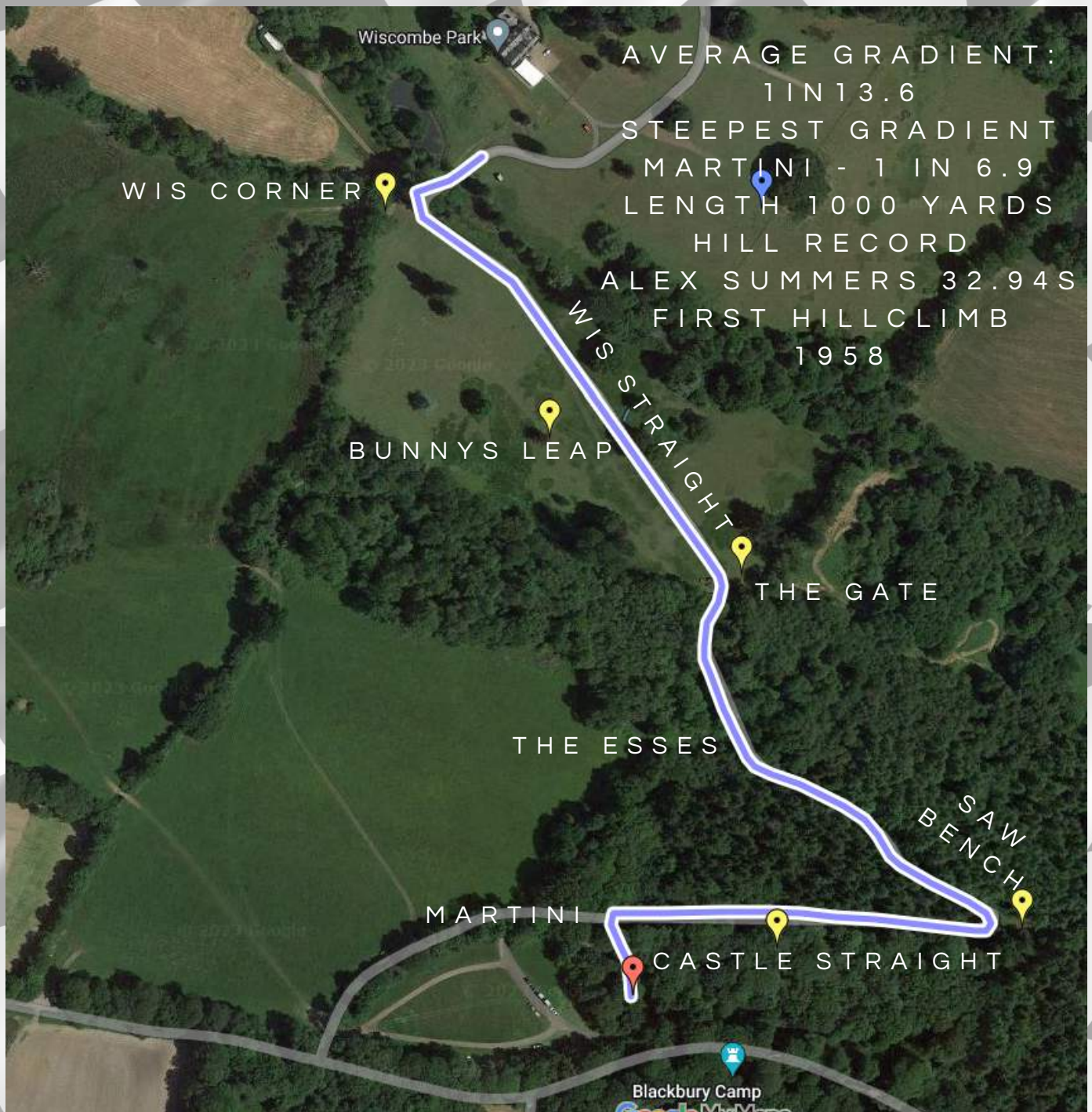
JULIAN RINALDI



IAN INGLEHEART

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# Wiscombe Park Facts and Figures



**Wiscombe Park has been holding rounds of the British Hillclimb Championship since 1962.**

**The driver with the most Championship points from competing at Wiscombe is quadruple British Champion Roy Lane. Between 1967 and 2003, Roy totalled 371 points, scoring on 49 occasions.**

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THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

# Wiscombe awarded the Norrie Galbraith Shield

## Motorsport

# National award for Wiscombe Park

WHEN Wiscombe Park hosted Rounds 23 and 24 of the 2022 British Hillclimb Championship on July 30 and 31, it was celebrating the 60th Anniversary of hosting a round of the UK's premier speed hillclimbing competition – the Championship itself celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Last week, all the competitors and organisers gathered at the Best Western Plus Manor Hotel near Solihull for the British Hillclimb Championship Awards Dinner to see the new British Champion, Wallace Menzies, presented with his trophy.

For Scottish businessman Wallace, it was the completion of a high speed hat trick – he was also crowned Champion in 2019 and 2021. The Championship was not held in 2020 because of Covid.

Of course, it is not just the Champion receiving his reward a number of other prizes are presented to Class winners, individuals and organisations involved in the Championship, recognising their achievements as well.

The South-West and Wiscombe Park regulars were well represented.

The 2021 Tillicoultry Quarries Wiscombe Park Champion, Rod Eyles (Alfa Romeo 4C), Jonathan Williamson (Porsche 911 Carrera

and Paul Haines (Gould GR59 Suzuki) all won their Class. And one of the rising young talents of speed hillclimbing, Plymouth-based 17 year-old Alex Coles, was crowned the BHC Cup Champion.

And it was a very special night for Wiscombe Park together with Woolbridge Motor Club who organised July's meeting – they were presented with the prestigious Norrie Galbraith Shield awarded to the venue and motor club judged to have hosted the best British Championship Round there were 30 Rounds held at 10 venues.

Wiscombe Ltd MD, Peter Isaac, and Woolbridge MC Chairwoman, Sarah Forsyth, accepted the Award, which was presented by Norrie Galbraith's daughter, Hazel.

The award is named in honour of Norman "Norrie" Galbraith, a triple Scottish Hillclimb Champion, who sadly lost his life in an accident in 1982 whilst making a promotional film for Scottish Television to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Doune Hillclimb.

The 2023 season gets under way at Wiscombe Park on April 22 and 23 with the Woolbridge MC Spring Meeting. For all the latest news please visit the website [www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk) and Facebook page.



British Hillclimb Championship Awards Dinner 2022 – from the left: Hazel Galbraith, Sarah Forsyth and Peter Isaac

**The year started in the best possible way - our 2022 British Championship event organised by Woolbridge Motor Club was awarded the Norrie Galbraith Shield - voted the best Championship event by the organisers. This achievement makes us very proud and a big "thank you" to all the volunteers - we could not do it without you!**

## Marshal volunteers

Do you want to get involved in motorsport? if you would like to volunteer as a marshal, please drop an e-mail to [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)



[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

# Roy Lane



Roy Lane became a legend of British hillclimbing in a career spanning over three decades. He lifted the title four times - back-to-back Championships in 1975 and '76 in the unique McRae Chevrolet GM1, and further titles in 1992 (Pilbeam MP58/08) and 1996 (Pilbeam MP58/09). Not only a very fast driver - he won 90 British Championship rounds - he was also a very clever engineer. He will also be remembered for the "one off" March 2-4-0 "six wheeler" that he took to a maiden victory at Wiscombe Park in April 1979. His silver cars promoting long time sponsor Steel King were always immaculately presented. Roy was the Chief Instructor at Prescott. Sadly Roy passed away in 2009.

PHOTOS: JACK DAVIDSON ©  
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