

Lean machine: Nick Cooper and partner on the CCV trial



## BASKERVILLE CHALLENGE WYE & WELSH LRC

# LET'S GO HOUND AGAIN!

The Wye Valley's Baskerville Challenge has Russ Brown straining at the leash

**I**f the name 'Baskerville Challenge' conjures up images of scary, snarling canines with a poor attitude, that's no coincidence. This annual challenge is set in the grounds of Baskerville Hall in Clyro, Powys, former residence of Sir Thomas Baskerville. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a regular house guest, using it as inspiration for his Sherlock Holmes novel 'The Hounds of...'

The scariest thing about the Wye and Welsh Land Rover Club's Baskerville Challenge is the tightness of some of the gates on the trials course. Yet while competition is fierce, the Baskerville is a very sociable way to spend an August Bank Holiday. If your club is a competitive member of the Association of Land Rover Clubs and you haven't sampled it yet, we can't recommend it highly enough.

The format of the event, now in its 24th year, is a fundamentally scaled-down copy of the ALRC National Rally. On the Saturday there's a CCV (cross-country vehicle) trial and on Sunday an RTV (road-taxed vehicle) trial.

But instead of the event culminating in a high-speed comp safari there's a time trial – in essence a 'tame' RTV driven as fast as you dare. There was also a tyro trial running at various times over the three days for younger and/or less experienced drivers.

The 2012 event was dogged (sorry!) by foul weather that turned trials sections into a quagmire, but this year's fine summer resulted in perfect conditions for the 60 competitors in each of the conventional trials and the dozen who took on the time trial.

Some of the trials sections were brilliant – a real credit to the designers. The RTV sections in particular were proper brain teasers. The time trial was a new event for me, but I have to say

that, from a spectator's perspective, I prefer it to a comp safari – sections are short so you don't have to walk miles for the action. Also, from a competitor viewpoint, having just one vehicle on a section at any given time leads to some brilliant banter among competitors.

Among the prizes handed out were the two perpetual trophies. The Gavin Shaw Memorial Trophy for the overall winner of the time trial went to Mike Smerdon from Cornwall & Devon LRC. The Baskerville Challenge Trophy (awarded to the best six nominated drives for a club in any combination of the three main disciplines) was won by Wiltshire LRC's Team Two. I'm betting Team One have endured some stick...

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A flying finish on the Timed Trial for Jon Aldridge



A tight CCVT one-gate caught several teams out



Not an outdoor rave but a marshals' briefing

No worries\* for this 90 on the RTV (NB hakuna matata = no worries in Swahili)

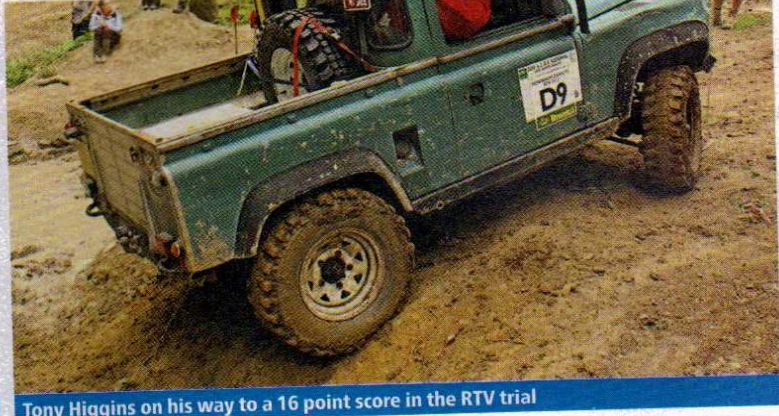


Keith Edwins takes directions from daughter, Fliss: 'I'd be lost without her'

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The adrenalin was pumping at the start of time trial section two



Tony Higgins on his way to a 16 point score in the RTV trial