



Matthew Ryder was on scintillating form with Gould-Judd at Wiscombe

REMARKABLE RYDER British Championships at Wiscombe Park

**Gould GR59J driver Matthew Ryder
rewrites record book - twice!!**

Words and photos: GEOFF PICKETT

The term 'the aggregation of marginal gains' is now commonly used across many sports having come to prominence in the David Brailsford led Team GB cycling team at the time of the 2012 Olympics and relates to how small improvements in numerous different aspects can accumulate to yield a meaningful improvement in performance. Speed hillclimbing has become one such sport particularly at the elite level of the British Hillclimb Championships with teams and drivers utilising technology such as data logging and traction/launch control to enhance the performance of car along with adjustments to suspension and aerodynamics.

With this approach in mind the performance of twenty-eight-year-old Matthew Ryder was all the more astonishing when during the two days of the Woolbridge Motor Club organised Summer Meeting at Wiscombe Park the Gould GR59 driver broke the outright hill record, originally standing at 32.93 seconds, on two occasions. The fastest twelve drivers qualify for the Championship Run-Offs where points are awarded to the fastest ten and the competition becomes intense, but Ryder who qualified fastest, improved his performance to re-write the record book with a scintillating climb of 32.16 seconds. The extent of the 0.77 second improvement, when the norm is hundredths or sometimes tenths of a second, was recognised by tumultuous applause from the crowd as well as his fellow competitors.



Julian Rinaldi heading for the apex at Sawbench



Rod Thorne transitions from bright sun to shade



Ed Hollier relived former times when he qualified his 1000 cc Force HC for Saturday's Top 12 Run-Off

The driver coach was even more flabbergasted when twenty-four hours later he repeated the feat shaving a further 0.39 of a second to leave the course record at 31.77 and move into second place in the Motorsport UK/British Hillclimb Championship trailing DJ Firestorm driver Alex Summers, who followed home Ryder in both Run Offs and was a mere one hundredth of a second shy of Wallace Menzies' pre-event course record. Summers now leads the series by thirty-one points.

Woolbridge member Olivia Cooper was also amongst the record breakers when she improved on her own Ladies Record which has stood since 2019. The Force TA single-seater pilot reducing the time of her best climb by 0.64 of a second to leave it at 36.49.



Olivia Cooper climbed aboard her Force TA and re-wrote the record book with a new fastest Ladies time of 36.49.

In addition to the outright and ladies records five class records in the national division were improved upon including the Sports Racing and Racing Cars up to 1971 class in which Andy Tippett, driving his immaculate 3.5 litre Repco V8 powered Brabham BT30X, shaved over one second off of his record to leave the new mark at 43.80 seconds.

Wiscombe regulars had the opportunity to join the stars with five broadly defined classes to accommodate Tillicoultry Wiscombe Park Championship contenders. Although awards on the day were determined by using a bogey time for the class in which the car would normally run based upon ASWMC records below we deal simply on actual times.

Amongst those setting the fastest times in five classes was Lyme Regis driver Julian Rinaldi at the wheel of his turbo-charged one-litre Ford Fiesta. The garage proprietor, who is an early leader in the Wiscombe series, posted the second fastest time on both days in the Roadgoing Series Production Car category with a fastest climb of 45.36 seconds but had to give best to the four-wheel-drive Audi A3 Quattro of Anthony Wright. In a similar situation was Geoff Blake as he challenged Paul Reynolds in his rapid 1585 cc Caterham Seven for honours in the Modified Series Production division. Blake, at the wheel of the two-litre Vauxhall powered Westfield SEi he shares with his father



Tin Top Run-Off qualifier Jonathan Williamson



Derek Kessell went up against three Skoda Fabia R5s



One of seven new class records fell to Richard Price



Alice Cooper shared Corsa with brother Archie

Graham, finished second fastest on each day with a best ascent of 41.27 seconds compared to the Dulverton driver's quickest climb of 38.63 seconds.

The pace in the Roadgoing Specialist Production class was unsurprisingly set by five-time Wiscombe champion Ian Ingleheart in his Vauxhall engine Westfield SEi with 39.76 ascent. Fastest driver in the Sports Racing and Racing Cars up to 1971 class, was Rod Thorne with his Triumph TR8. The Frampton Garage owner set his best time on his final visit to the 915 metre-long course with a climb of 40.32 seconds.

Mike and Tom Williams were the Racing Car class in their MWR Storm with taking the honours with a best time across the weekend of 38.63.



The 1020 cc Hillman Imp of Mark Maynard



A rare sight at Wiscombe these days - a Mallock



Two Tin Top Top Ten Run-Off wins for six-time British Champion Scott Moran in rally spec Skoda Fabia R5

Full results of the Woolbridge National and Interclub events plus Run-Offs are available at www.swtimekeeping.co.uk/times-from-2024



What a machine. The SBR Chrono of Simon Bainbridge was originally constructed for circuit sprints and appears to be a big car for the Wiscombe track but the driver took second (to Scott Moran) in Sunday Tin Top Run-Off