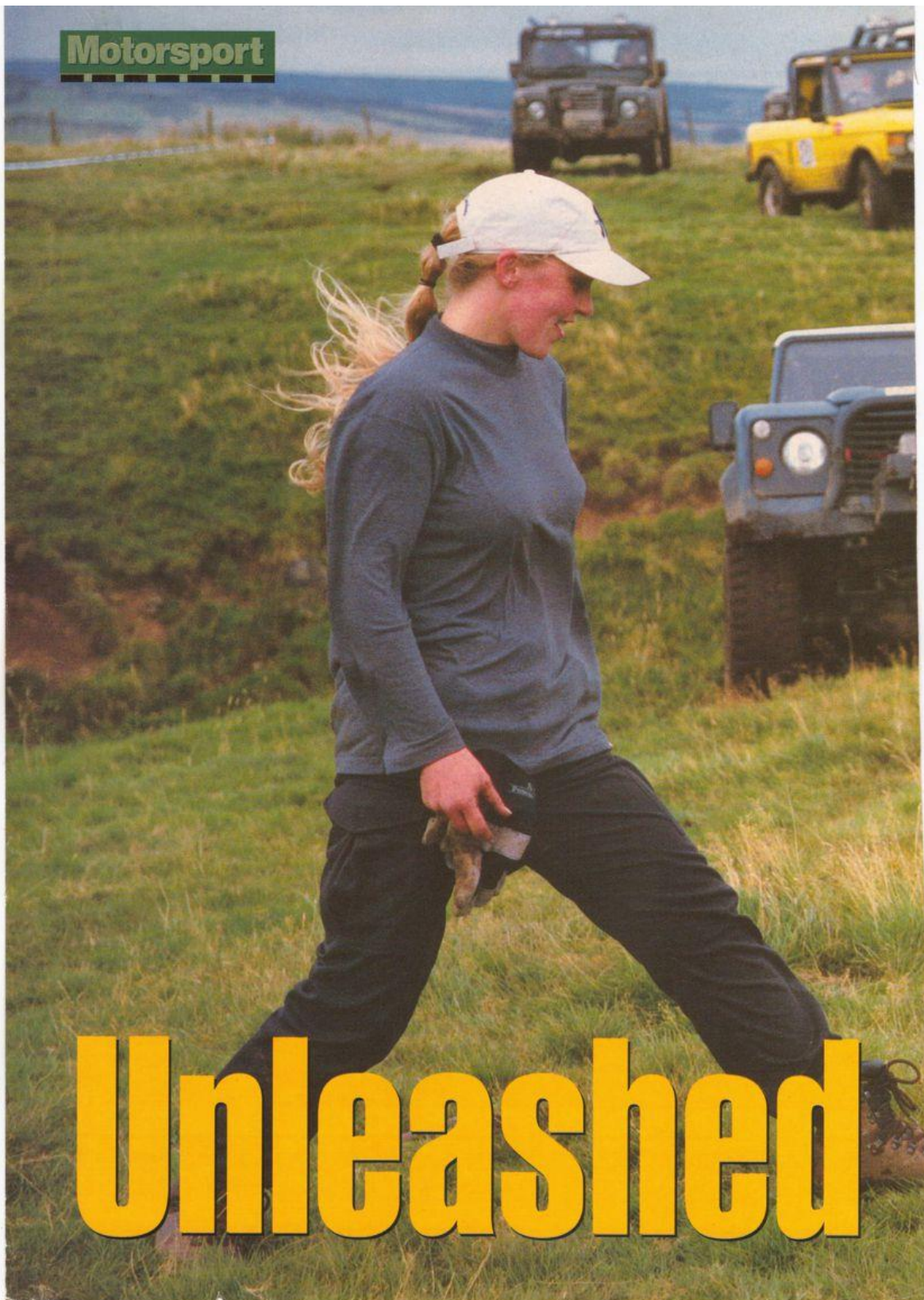


Motorsport

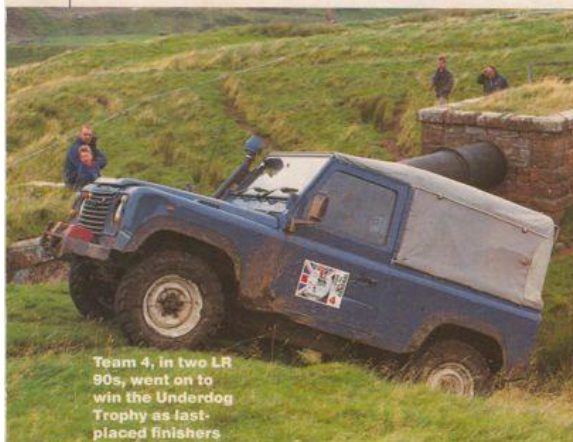


Unleashed



Cathy Wilson and Fiona Johnstone, seen here driving in a ground anchor, partnered Paul Wilson and Robert Whamend in the LR 90 Tdi and the RR pick-up seen in the background

The Bulldog Trophy always brings out the best in competitors, and this year was no exception. We find out what really happened
Text: Brian Hartley Pictures: Garry Stuart



Team 4, in two LR 90s, went on to win the Underdog Trophy as fast-placed finishers



Spectators on hand to offer 'advice'



US muscle makes light work of mud

There are as many different views of the Bulldog Trophy as there are entrants. So what better way to look at it than through the eyes of those who took part? (And names have *not* been changed to protect the innocent or the guilty.) Of all the tasks the 13 teams of two 4x4s faced that weekend, writing down their post-event opinions was perhaps the hardest. So take yourself back to September, as they did battle among the embers of the millennium and the dying days of summer at Drumclog near Strathaven.

The Underdogs' Story Andy Godward, Team

It's not easy coming last. The effort required to win this trophy cannot be underestimated; planning our event took many months. It all paid off. We arrived with four team members, of which two were nursing injuries. One vehicle had a rear diff howling like a banshee, the other had a winch mounted so low we were licensed to dredge. And the fact that we were camping ensured that we were well and truly worn out by Sunday morning.

Both vehicles were low enough on fuel to ensure that at least one engine would stop without warning on a steep climb/win. The

final winning tactic was to shun a Sunday section in favour of lunch – a crushing blow to other 'Underdog' pretenders. Like I say, winning isn't easy!

The event was excellent, our fellow entrants were of the usual high standard, and the winners really deserved to win. We deserved not to, but next year it's someone else's turn to follow in our tracks. But don't forget – plan ahead.

A well-organised weekend. Any chance of pudding on the menu next time?

The Dynamics of Off-Road

Lee Bond, Team 12

This year's Bulldog was as dynamic as ever, each task being more challenging than the last. Although there were only 13 teams, competition was tough. On Saturday, the event began

in earnest and tension was high. We didn't have very long to wait, as the briefing was soon over – then the event began with the firing of a low-flying rocket!

The terrain on the first section was moorland consisting of steep inclines punctuated with stream crossings and bogs. The heavier motors submitted to the bogs, especially our team's 90. It got stuck in a bottomless gloop just below the grass. It seemed that only Divine Intervention

could extract us, (yes, us – I was navigator). Enter Divine Intervention in the form of Roland Czerny and his Jeep; big tyres, big engine (big driver!), small weight = ideal combination. Nonetheless, given the quality of the rest of the field, that first 'stuck' was to be decisive in the overall position of Team 12, last year's Bulldog winners.

After a hearty meal in the marquee, the night section began at 8pm. The task was to find lights that could only be seen from certain



Team 9 in action

FINAL RESULTS

Bulldog Trophy

Winners	C. Fawcett/N. Parkes (LR 90)
	R. Fawcett/C. Elsworth (LR 90)
Specials 1st	S. Buck/M. Cook (LR 90)
	P. Codd/M. Lewis (LR 90)
2nd	S. Barras/P. Smart (Ibex)
	N. Redpath/S. Maddison (Ibex)
Standards 1st	P. Turner/M. Sutton (Frontera)
	S. Finney/S. Rose (LR hybrid)
2nd	A. Mosley/I. Birdsall (Discovery)
	P. Wells/P. Crosby (LR 110)
Underdogs	J. Robson/A. Morgan (LR 90)
	A. Godward/R. Hinchcliffe (LR 90)



Devon 4x4 competitor gets to grips with stream crossing

compass headings. Further complications arose with two lights each above the other, which when seen vertically showed the correct route, based on the way pilots navigated into harbour (or so Brian said). Once found, these lines had to be travelled to discover two punches. These sort of night-time tasks bring out the best or the worst in a person. Owing to my close allegiance to my team members, I have decided not to expose the traits displayed that night!

Bright Spark

Some bright spark (Mark Sutton) thought he would wind Brian up by claiming the night section was just too easy to find. That apparently sparked said Redcoat to saddle up a quad, venture out in the dark and stormy conditions of the early hours of Sunday morning and, as he said, 'ratchet it up a notch'. So Sunday was tough: lots of winching up and down, and that was only to acquire the punches!



Navigation is a crucial skill on this event

Finding sections was extremely challenging, with map references and an aerial photo with pin pricks through it. We were beset with parts falling off the Land Rover. We were near the bottom, so we decided to try for the Underdog Trophy. Alas we failed even in this endeavour, and were pipped to the last position. A well-run weekend.

Reflections of a Dog Chaser, Gerry Writer, Team 6

With a Government totally committed to banning dogs from chasing foxes, it can

only be a matter of time before they hear of 4x4s going cross-country to capture a Bulldog and bring

the political correction hammer into play again. This year's event was the best yet (and I've been to them all), and I actually got to the finish line.

This year's winning teams displayed not only the Bulldog spirit of tenacity and courage, but demonstrated what teamwork is all about. It was all too tempting to become a spectator when the leading teams were about. They found the fastest routes in little or no time, and demonstrated just why they deserved to lead the field. A great event.



Land Rovers lead the way