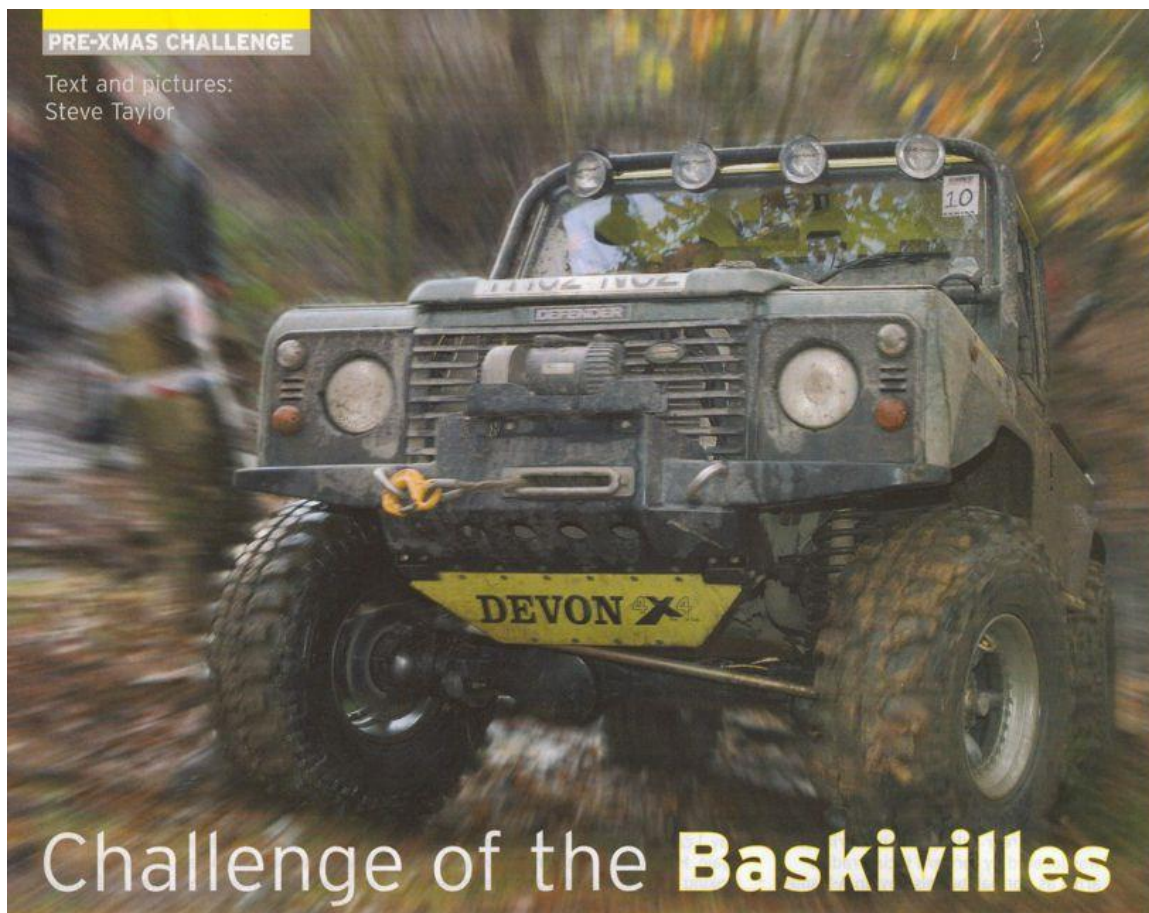


## PRE-XMAS CHALLENGE

Text and pictures:  
Steve Taylor



# Challenge of the Baskivilles

**W**ith Tony Baskill backing a winter event aimed at reintroducing more of a relaxed, social feel to challenge weekends, early December saw the renowned site at Tong in West Yorkshire host a virtuoso display of off-roading under the guidance of

Club Off Road's Brian Hartley. Ladies and gentlemen, introducing... The Challenge of the Baskivilles.

Ten teams, twenty vehicles and forty competitors, all versus a devilish combination of Tong and Hartley. Imagine a level of difficulty every bit as sadistic as Brian's Bulldog Challenge,

but arranged to provide opportunities for spectators and competitors alike to watch and mingle. The banter may at times have been inspired, even if sometimes the driving was not. Some people did set out to take the social side to the limit, however... well, after a suitably Yorkshire-themed evening meal, and

**↓** Andy Cook and Martin Green, despite having a vehicle with more satellite bandwidth than a small town, are brought to a halt by failed winch solenoids. Possibly, this will lead to co-drivers always leaving the vehicle with a lump hammer in future



**↓** John Jennings' diary entry for the weekend of the event may well read something like: 'off to Tong today - make sure I'm wearing a jacket with a brightly coloured collar, so that when I sink they can see where not to drive'





## RESULTS

- 1 Karl Frost/Doug Dransfield  
LR 90/LR 90  
**620pts**
- 2 Steve Lloyd/Bob Seaman  
RR special/LR 90  
**608pts**
- 3 Paul Wightman/Jim Marsden  
LR hybrid/LR 90  
**584pts**

**1** Thinking it was time to pay tribute to John Travolta (circa Saturday night Fever), Fiona Richardson tries to slide across the pond on her knees. Unfortunately, this is only achievable in a white suit



**2** Rod Ellwood's V8 90 has seen a little life. Downhill is definitely an easier option for it these days, but in fairness while he resorted to using his winch after failing the climb from this hole, Simon Buck planned to winch up from the start



**3** R11 Bex has had a hard life over the last few years. The poor 6.2-litre GMC diesel is getting decidedly tired, but the brakes are still strong enough to stall this brute and bring it to a halt when the steering locks up on a transit section



apparently a nursing college in on its Christmas do, wouldn't you?

And at the end, one last surprise. The winner's reward, voted for by his peers... well, it could only be the task of organising a repeat for 2006. Step forward Karl Frost and Doug Dransfield - we'll see you next December!

**4** Having shown that Yorkshire bitter is no match for the awesome power of Devon Scrumpy, Matt Cook elects to save wear and tear to Simon Buck's 8274 by competing under the Crufts Protocol and taking the 90 for a walk. This will surely mean the 8274 being replaced by the retracting dog lead as the device of choice for competitive self-recovery



**5** Mr Needham has decided that if he falls in, all that will be left visible are his legs. So when laying out his wardrobe, he has decided on the most colourful pair of moto-cross trousers he can lay his hands on. To further demonstrate his mastery of the competitive use of electro-hydraulic string, he has replaced Tony Baskil and the G-Wagen with a cloud

