

Morgan Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2007

Event Report

Aintree – 30th June

Weather – Wet, Wet, Wet

A waterlogged Aintree - the scene of Stirling Moss' historic British Grand Prix victory, greeted a field of 12 Morgans, with no promise of any improvement in the weather.

1st practice runs were mainly a recce for the standing water although Carena Carden was already suffering misfiring, assumed to be due to the excessive water ingress.

Meanwhile the Wilmslow Whippet – aka John Stephens and Richard Smith, were already split by hundredths of a second, leaving the rest in their “wake”.

The 2nd practice runs brought improvements for most runners as the rain continued to fall, so at least track conditions remained constant, or so we thought!

With the 1st timed runs already leaving the line, there was still time for Sue Tisdall to hand around the Chocolate Brownies before we prepared for our go.

In true Speedmog style as we approached the starting line, the rain increased from steady to torrential. Those towards the back of the group reported being faced with limited visibility and a rapidly flooding track, so much so that Phil Tisdall was clearly seen to be struggling to keep the car in a straight line due to aquaplaning.

Over lunch the organisers positioned cones around the flooded areas of the track but we still managed another 2 timed runs during the afternoon with everyone's times improving with each run.

John Stephens and Richard Smith were never more than a second apart all day with John finally gaining the upper hand, meanwhile Brian Lee managed to pip yours truly on the 3rd run by 2 hundredths of a second to gain 3rd place with Phil Tisdall and Chris Bailey in close pursuit.

A distinct lack of “offs” by all competitors, coupled with the organisational efficiency of the Liverpool Motor Club provided the compensation of a 4th run, although the times would not be included in the results.

Carena Carden, experiencing her first visit to Aintree, coupled with her first event in the wet, had set herself a target of 70 seconds during the day and on her 4th and final run, she was clearly pleased with a time of 68.74 seconds, apparently the screams of joy could be heard from the spectator areas as she slowed for the paddock!

Simon Baines