

Morgan Sports Car Club Parc Ferme Speed Championship

Curborough Sprint

16th September 2007

CLUB SPRINT HALTED BY BEAR-ON-TRACK INCIDENT!

The Annual Club Sprint ground to an unprecedented halt yesterday when marshals at the hairpin hurried to put out a red flag when a body was seen on the track after Nigel Hyphen-Hyphen exited the notorious two-apex bend. Marshal Jim Richardson was immediately on the radio to report the incident with "Post three here, there's a teddy bear on the track" while marshal Lord Unstone gingerly removed the lifeless body from the cold tarmac. * Afterwards, Marshal Jim was reported to say "Well, erm, like, erm, we thought, hey, oh my gawd," and later when the track was declared bear-free and safe: "we are trained to cope with major incidents like this"

The event had got off to a fine start with a bbq at Paul and Audrey Clarkes the previous evening. Thanks for a great evening. It was also a good event for Mogtalkers: well-known names on Mogtalk meeting face to face often for the first time.

A field of around 40 Mogs, plus a dozen three wheelers were in fine form, and with ideal sprinting weather, the day got off to a good start. A few of the drivers were new to sprinting, a few had returned after years in the wilderness, and those who had turned out to support, spectate, and work for the day, were to be very well entertained. Unlike so many of the Speed events around the country, we had no major incidents, only a couple of harmless spins, and no major mechanical events to spoil anyone's day. So no delays, two practice runs and one timed before lunch, two timed runs after lunch, and a bonus head-to-head with all the class winners competing for the new Parc Ferme Challenge Cup. Being centrally placed, Curborough attracted drivers from all over the country, and it was good to have Colin McLatchie with us from Edinburgh, plus those like Tim Ayres Neil Stocker and Paul Bryan from way down south. Even Tim & Jane Hill had travelled back from France to be with us! For some, Curborough is the only event on the sporting calendar in which they take part. Granville and Christopher Martin took to the track with race borrowed race suits, and the commentary heard at one of the marshals posts was on the lines of "Smithy's race suit is faster than Simon's". We don't know who won the overall prize though.

Some of the three wheelers are tremendously exciting to watch, and as for taking part: ask Jane Hill, who passengered! Some use only two wheels on corners!

Andrew Potter from the race series was a welcome addition to the sprint day, after his race at Castle Combe the day before. He was joined by Tony Lees, who'd likewise been at Castle Combe, but for the sprint was in his Series 1, to 'abuse it.' This guy really knows how to drive a car: I think we might have discovered the true identity of The Stig! Dave Frow (another racer) used his practice laps to get back into the swing of sprinting, and to test the grass, so to speak.

What I did learn though, is that a car goes faster when it is driven by your son. Lawrence Hobden is a prime example of this, and I personally think he should be banned from Mog events! One set of tyres: two events? They might grow up and leave home, but you still have to pay out!

Phil Egg's old racer was there with its new pilot Dave Simpson, looking good with its new blue paint and at last, proper-shaped back wings.

Fastest car on the track was Mike Hall in his ultra fast modsports Mog shod with slicks the width of steamroller wheels. Very impressive to watch. And hear!

As far as we track marshals were concerned: it was a quiet day, though thoroughly enjoyable. As a (former) competitor myself, it was good to be able to put something back, perhaps this should be a consideration for next year. There was a lot of hard work behind the scenes, both before the day, and on the day, and great credit goes to those who made it possible: Phil Egg, plus paddock crew, startline officials, time keepers, commentators, but most of all: the drivers.

As I was at the far end of the circuit, I couldn't hear the commentary, or see the times put up, so I will let the accompanying results sheet speak for itself. And I didn't have a pen at the Pot Handing-Out Ceremony.

- It was later admitted that it was not a teddy bear that had been evicted from Hyphen-Hypen's Stickermobile, but a string-backed driving glove that had seen better days and simply wanted to depart from its miserable existence in style.

Richard Smith