

Morgan Sports Car Club Park Ferme Speed Championship

Date: 21st July 2007

Event: Elvington

Weather: Don't ask.....

Jon Baines had clearly caught the Aintree bug – that over-optimistic, chirpy “looks like it's going to clear up soon” outlook clearly at odds with the prevailing conditions!!!

The day started late – 10.45 late, as the organisers at Elvington-on-Sea waited for the tide to go out and leave the course without standing water. Still, it left time for Chris Baines to ransack the family runabout for all available food items....

We walked/swam the new course, originally without the horseshoe due to residents complaints about tyre screech, but by the time the racing started it had been reinstated – clearly the local had gone out for the day, or been appropriately nobbled. With the lack of a couple of the chicanes, establishing bogey times was difficult and after much head scratching, white smoke was eventually seen and the times set.

Seven boats were entered for the Regatta, with John Stevens setting a sub-bogey benchmark in first practice which he continued to better as the day progressed, ending up a deserved winner. Richard Smith was the only other competitor to break bogey to finish second, although we suspect foul play as he used a flailing passenger door as an added air brake, and used it to rearrange some of the course marker cones along the way. In all it was an eventful day for Richard, as he went on to pick up two further awards – The “Best 540 degree pirouette of the day” and the “Heath Robinson award for technical innovation”, the latter for his ram-air-inducted-cooling-system modification (also known as a bit of old pipe lashed under the bonnet to you and me). He was pushed for this award by Paul Clark, but his aluminium heat shield was just too professional a job!!

Back on the track Peter Rafter had his best result of the year to finish fourth, with Simon Baines and Paul Clark battling throughout the day for fastest time, with Simon eventually coming out on top with a FTD of 78.34. Paul Bryan missed out most from the bogey time lottery, with a hard target time, of 83.21, but ran well to finish with a time of 88.75. Brenda and Paul's camper van provided the only refuge from the elements, and Brenda again undertook sterling efforts to compile the scores – I'm sure they would not have been relishing the return 7 hour journey home, so sincere thanks for her efforts.

And yours truly? I was without pit crew as Judy succumbed to dreaded lurgy, although showed her true colours by getting up with me at 5.00am to make my lunch!!! Oh, and like everyone else, my times got better as the day went on, despite a few hairy moments (these seems to be coming more regularly now...) and taking the scenic route after rearranging the course markers at the Horseshoe on second practice. Roll on summer.....

Clive Glass