

Morgan Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2007

Event Report

Harewood, 3rd June 2007

Harewood is the longest hillclimb in the Country and with the promise of good weather the 15 Mog racers were looking forward to a good day's competition. However, Joe Phillips faced the prospect of not being allowed to compete, as his car did not have the regulation headrest fitted; Norman Wheat was persuaded to arrive early complete with tools, plywood and assorted bits, to manufacture a suitable arrangement. With Joe's expertise in padding and upholstery, the finished product was declared fit for purpose.

First practice brought comments from many of us at a surprising lack of grip but maestro Tim Hill led the way, being closest to his target time. John Stephens complained that his new 1A tyres were going to take some getting used to; Lord Unstone had his characteristic grass cutting excursion (blaming his new brakes) and Philip Tisdall had his first spin of the day. It was going to be an eventful day! Second practice saw improvements by all (except Paul Bryan, collecting his first cone of the day). Karena, on her first ever Harewood event, improved her time by over 7 seconds and was starting to enjoy herself and Jane Hill improved so much that she dreamed of the prospect of actually beating husband Tim. In the big engine classes, Tim Ayres put himself ahead of Simon Baines, both of them chasing a seemingly impossible target time.

The weather continued to improve and with the promise of three timed runs, the competition was fierce. Paul Bryan collected another cone and then suffered a complete loss of power when an important part of his throttle linkage simply vanished. He was eventually allowed to continue up the hill on engine tickover, to great applause as he crossed the finish line at 4 mph. Nigel L L suffered a loss of oil pressure and with deja vu of his last engine blow up under identical circumstances, decided to retire for the day. Philip had his second spectacular spin on the blind brow of Country Corner and Paul Clarke controlled his powerful roadster well, to post his best time of the day.

John Stephens finally mastered his new tyres and equalled his target time, beating Norman Wheat into second place by a mere one hundredth of a second. Tim Hill, desperately trying to keep ahead of the ever improving Jane, was the only driver to improve on every run and gained a well earned third place.

Norman Wheat