

2017 Speed Championship – Round 12 Curborough Saturday 30 September

‘Nick Reynolds secures 3rd Championship’

As every racer knows, airfields can be amongst the bleakest of places and on the last day of September the former aircraft storage area attached to RAF Litchfield was indeed a wet and slippery corner of England.

It was a ‘non circuit’ welcome to locals both Andy and John Turner and also to young Jonathan Lawrence making his first ever appearance with the family Cooper and under the watchful eye of Steve and Andy Lawrence. Otherwise there were familiar faces with the Mackintosh’s who, like Nick Reynolds and Jan Nycz, would make a motorsport week-end by combining Curborough with Prescott the next day. Squeezing in a last minute entry was Marcus Black in his original ‘investment car’ Mk.7 V-twin. Unfortunately Richard Grant had had to scratch due to work pressure but this was one of the biggest Curborough 500 entries for some years.

Practice

With a start procedure arranged by the helpful BARC marshalling team the predicted rain arrived to ensure a glistening track with virtually no grip anywhere, and puddles off line. Mike Wood managed a gyration resulting in ‘all 4 off’, although he was credited with a time. For the first of several times during the day Fin and Max, who were double driving the Mk.6, got soaked through while waiting in the start zone. John Turner meanwhile discovered a lack of brakes was down to a cracked pipe. For the second practice runs the rain had eased off and the track started to be dry in places...but nobody was sure where! As times came down, Andy Turner managed a well held overshoot /spin with too much rear braking. Meanwhile, John T. wasn’t able to get the engine to fire up when called to the track. A dead magneto was diagnosed resulting in the Mk.9 being pushed onto its trailer and John negotiating a car swap with the organisers. Jonathan Lawrence, amidst lots of family advice was now able to extend the Cooper a little harder as he learnt about vintage handling and engine vibration. Over lunch the rain had eased and although no sun appeared, there was sufficient wind to further dry much of the track. With more rain forecast from 3 pm, this could become a ‘one run affair’.

Timed runs

Intent on claiming another record, Nick was able to find fair grip, albeit “with too much wheelspin off the line”, and go under 70 secs lopping 1 ½ secs off his own 4 year old record. Chasing hard were Andy T and Fin who managed to stay ahead of Max while Jan became the filling in a Mackintosh sandwich. Next up came young Jonathan, slowly getting used to the car, gears and circuit and who pulled ahead of Mike Wood’s lota. Finally John T managed a run in the white Mk.6 where he found everything was different from his Mk.9. Up there too was Marcus black getting quicker and quicker in his V-twin which sounded glorious with no silencers. By mid afternoon the next band of rain clouds appeared so those who stayed on were doing so just for the ‘enjoyment’. John Turner thought there was no point in using Andy’s car, Jan was conscious of his 4.30 am reveille and the prospect of an

even earlier one the next day for Prescott, Marcus had his next day flight to contemplate and Mike Wood thought he could be of more use with camera rather than a steering wheel in hand.

Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Previous record: Nick Reynolds – 69.92 on 10.08.13)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	86.03	74.78	68.41	89.93	68.41
2	Andrew Turner	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	86.15	79.28	70.37	95.55	70.37
3	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	89.10	78.66	71.59	88.08	71.59
4	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	90.56	79.36	71.87	-	71.87
5	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	94.67	76.87	72.41	92.51	72.41
6	Jonathan Lawrence	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	97.46	83.79	76.58	96.38	76.58
7	Mike Wood	Iota CB2 JAP	133.65	87.28	77.49	-	77.49
8	John Turner	Cooper Mk 9 Norton	94.56	-	79.31	-	79.31

Over 500cc

(Current record: Charles Reynolds -70.15 on 09.08.14)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
	Marcus Black	Cooper Mk.7 JAP	91.32	75.17	72.01	-	72.01

Words: Charles Reynolds
