

2017 Speed Championship Round 5 – Harewood

‘Yorkshire attracts more 500’s’

Saturday 3 June

Year on year the number of 500’s entered for the northern round of our Championship increases. At 1.44 kms, with an array of corners, the hill is on an escarpment with the paddock at the finish and a steep run down to the start line which proves ideal for bumping 500’s.

As seasoned 500 exponent Nigel Ashman commented on this his first visit with son Charlie, ‘what a great hill which takes some learning!’ They were joined by Fin and Max Mackintosh in car sharing mode, ‘local’ Richard Grant a mere 40 minutes from home, Nick Reynolds who always enjoys driving the hill, Andy Raynor who is certainly squeezing in the events this year plus Stuart Barnes who had trailed the lot all the way from Salisbury!

As a round of the Cuff Trophy, the V-twin Cooper Mk.6 of Tom Cowley joined V-twin regular Charles Reynolds and the beautiful FJ Cooper of Jeremy Bouckley.

Practice

After overnight rain, the track proved slippery and, as expected, Nick Reynolds was able to use his previous knowledge to go 5 secs clear of ‘the two dads’, Nigel Ashman and Fin Mackintosh – both of whom managed to record identical times on P1. Not far behind were Max and the others all learning the course. Richard Grant however suffered a slipping clutch on the Kiehn’s Burman box while Fin tried to resolve a grabbing front brake. Stuart Barnes attempted repairs also had the misfortune to stall on the line in P2. The Reynolds’ Cooper Mk.9 was starting to suffer fuel starvation on exiting long corners, although that wasn’t apparent from the times!

In the Cuff Trophy class, Charles Reynolds was able to stay ahead of Tom Cowley and Jeremy Bouckley who was also on a steep learning curve, managing to keep at bay a double driven Alta Jaguar which was also entered in the class.

Timed runs

Following lunch it was Nick who flew out of the trap to go under his own record and break the 69 sec barrier, followed by Richard, now with a sorted clutch, Fin and Nigel, the latter collecting a lurid moment out of the deceptive Farmhouse Bend so dropping to 4th. Max, Andy and Charlie Ashman, who was suffering the effects of badly twisting his foot when manoeuvring the car in the paddock, were next up.

The 2nd runs told a similar story with Nick going ¼ sec quicker again, Richard approaching the 71 second barrier, Fin and Nigel.

In the V-t/FJ class, Charles made an awful start off the line in T1 to go slower than in practice although redeemed the situation on T2 to take the class ahead of an ever faster Tom Cowley while Jeremy Bouckley took chunks off his time on each outing as he learnt the course.

Often at Harewood there is the opportunity for a third timed run, but this was not to be on this occasion. The Driver of the Day award went to Richard Grant for overcoming his clutch problems to go second and nearing 71 secs in the process.

Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Previous record: Nick Reynolds 70.25 on 30.08.15)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	71.20	69.68	69.95	69.73	69.73
2	Richard Grant	Kiehn Special JAP	82.68	85.35	72.51	72.07	72.07
3	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	76.73	73.66	73.38	72.47	72.47
4	Nigel Ashman	Cooper Mk.9 Norton	76.73	74.19	74.90	73.11	73.11
5	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	78.76	76.52	77.87	74.64	74.64
6	Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	83.12	79.99	78.30	77.80	77.80
7	Charlie Ashman	Cooper Mk.9 Norton	91.26	82.96	79.57	82.10	79.57
8	Stuart Barnes	Iota JAP	102.0	85.35	101.9	96.04	96.04

Over 500cc & FJ's

(Current record: Charles Reynolds 69.72 on 05.06.16)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.VII JAP	72.88	70.83	72.09	69.69	69.69
2	Tom Cowley	Cooper Mk.VI JAP	76.22	74.34	73.33	71.54	71.54
3	Jeremy Bouckley	Cooper T59 FJ	80.60	78.39	75.98	74.80	74.80

Sunday 4 June

On the following day, 3 drivers stayed on for the non Championship invitation event, run again by the super efficient BARC Yorkshire Centre. The class was won by Richard Grant who continued his string of PB's to record a most creditable 71.32, ahead of the ever improving Max Mackintosh on 73.61 and Charles Reynolds on 73.50. Of special note was that the first timed run was completed before lunch and the third times run by 3.30 pm for the 500's.

A full report will appear in the next issue of 'The 500'.