

2016 Hill Climb Championship Rounds 7 & 8

Loton Park

For the last of the Championship double header week-ends a low entry of five 500's was bolstered by two entries in the third round of the Wally Cuff Trophy for FJs and V-twins.

Saturday 27 August

Championship contenders Nick Reynolds and Fin Mackintosh were looking to renew their battle of last year, stalwart John Dent likes the Loton hill, Steve Lawrence always goes well there and this was to be Mike Lawrence's final outing. Jan Nycz had left home well before the first sparrow to ensure arrival on time.

For the week-end, organisers 'Hagley and District' had allocated an ideal paddock location for the 500's; more of that please!

Although P1 was dry and the class was running in Batch 6, everyone arrived at the holding area agreeing that the surface lacked grip. Then the expected rain arrived on schedule for a wet P2 which made the track even more difficult to negotiate.

With a full entry the organisers wisely decided on a short lunch break for the marshals before timed runs started at 1.15.

Splitting the two Reynolds' Coopers from the rest was Phoebe with then little to chose between Fin, Steve and John. However, with the prospect of no further rain, the final results would clearly hang on T2.

On a by now dry track, Nick stamped his ability in retaining momentum to 'produce the necessary when necessary' and pull out 1.6 secs over Fin with Steve another second down in the 500's. In the 'b' class, a loosening exhaust tappet retaining nut on Charles's V twin resulted in noticeable power loss with Phoebe taking 2nd in the amalgamated class.

Saturday Results

(Record: John Brough, Cooper Mk.5. 63.35 - 22.07.00)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	66.66	76.45	71.55	65.89	65.89
2	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	70.95	80.85	75.36	67.53	67.53
3	Steve Lawrence	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	72.44	96.55	75.84	68.53	68.53
4	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	72.90	86.68	79.13	69.23	69.23
5	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	71.42	81.02	75.27	69.69	69.69

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Phoebe Rolt	Elva FJ 200 Ford	74.92	81.86	72.94	66.10	66.10
2	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.7 JAP	66.90	87.21	70.84	66.94	66.94

Sunday 28 August

Down to five in the class, both practice sessions were dry and without mishap except for John's Mk.8 which 'just stopped all by itself' while ascending the straight on P1. A check of fuel and spark revealed nothing untoward so the earth coil wire was disconnected and P2 was completed without further problem.

After the lunch break the skies turned greyer and the cloud built up but the class was underway as the first spits of rain fell. It was again Nick who lead Fin – both drivers equally improving on their previous day's best by 1.3 secs while John Dent's run

came to nought with a lack of fuel. In the 'b' class, Charles managed a 2 sec improvement over Saturday's best with Pheobe a tad slower than the day before. Then the predicted heavy showers arrived and everyone realised that the hill would not dry before the final run which would thus be little more than a 'fun run'.

Sunday Results:

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	66.17	65.19	64.70	76.65	64.70
2	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	68.61	67.46	66.31	80.66	66.31
3	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	-	69.71	-	79.06	79.06

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.7 JAP	64.93	64.52	64.96	77.57	64.96
2	Phoebe Rolt	Elva FJ 200 Ford	68.81	68.89	66.25	-	66.25

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