

2017 Speed Championship – Round 13 Prescott Sunday 1 October

‘A slippery affair’

The Autumn Classic and its American theme at the iconic Prescott venue was the final round of our Speed Championship. Ten singles and three twins assembled on a morning that had dawned grey a muddy paddock and a course that was wet from overnight rain.

Practice

As this was the second of two days of competition, the start line had a lot of rubber remaining so wheel-spin was much in evidence. Most cars made it to the top but Ewan Cameron failed and had to follow on after some quick carb' adjustments. Alistair similarly had to follow on a few minutes later after a fuel pipe had come adrift. For Ainsley's Triumph twin, fuel, or rather lack of, pulled him up short of semi-circle. Uncharacteristically, Steve Lawrence stalled his car as he launched, thus delivering a 'fail'.

As the morning wore on, the course continued to dry, although parts were still damp especially under the trees. Second practice times were consequently better although Ainsley was again frustrated when the fuel pump failed totally just after Bridge, bringing his day to a close.

Timed Runs

Over lunch the hill saw lots of other entertainment, and coupled with some sunshine, the conditions improved leading to significantly better times. Competition was fierce as the first six were covered by little more than a second and everyone dipped under 60 seconds. Back in the paddock, Nick was grateful that a slight misfire at Ettores had not persisted and Fin reported leaving the line in second, which undoubtedly cost him fourth place from a charging Ewan. Jan was pleased to be in second, his best ever placing on the hill. In the battle of the twins, Charles led the way but Simon was fast re-learning the course, despite having ignition battery failure as he went to start in the paddock, delaying him a few minutes.

To mark the end of the season and help pass away the time until the final run, everyone enjoyed tea and cakes under Team Reynolds gazebo whilst at the same time watching the clouds begin to gather. Unfortunately a little light rain began to fall just as our class began, and this combined with the large amounts of rubber left from more demo burnouts, meant many struggled for grip at launch and conditions on the hill deteriorated as each took his turn for the final competitive run of the year.

Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Current record: Nick Reynolds – 51.91 on 28.05.17)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	65.79	61.40	55.69	57.34	55.69

2	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	68.24	62.42	56.08	65.01	56.08
3	Mark Riley	Creamer JAP	65.09	63.75	56.11	58.14	56.11
4	Ewan Cameron	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	64.27	61.84	56.70	58.14	56.70
5	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	63.86	61.82	56.71	58.41	56.71
6	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	64.71	63.11	56.80	61.03	56.80
7	Steve Lawrence	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	-	69.80	57.18	-	57.18
8	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	70.37	64.41	58.25	59.52	58.25
9	Alistair Dent	Hornet JAP	65.36	70.08	59.69	-	59.69
10	Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	70.53	64.07	59.77	61.55	59.77

Over 500cc

(Current record: Charles Reynolds – 51.46 on 28.05.17)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.7 JAP	66.26	61.15	54.69	59.40	54.69
2	Simon Brown	Cooper Mk.4 JAP	64.37	62.40	56.91	60.39	56.91
-	Ainsley Barwick	Cooper Mk.6 Triumph	-	-	-	-	-

Words: Mike Wood
