

2016 Hill Climb Championship Round 9 - Prescott

'An Autumn Classic'

Sunday 2 October

All too soon it seems another season draws to a close, with this year's final round again at Prescott on the Sunday of the BOC's 2 day Championship Finals & American cars week end.

There was a strong entry of 11 drivers, with Richard Grant as an unusual sole non starter, divided into Class a) for up to 500 cc cars and Class b) for over 500 cc cars and FJ's.

For Nick Reynolds and Fin Mackintosh this event would settle the 2016 Championship, whilst Mark Dent was the third member of the Dent family alongside brother Alistair and Dad John. Jan Nycz in his usual immaculate Staride was the sole Norton powered car with Robin Baxter in his Staride and Mark Riley in the Creamer as the other non Cooper entrants. In the over 500 class, Phoebe Rolt was running her usual Elva Ford FJ, Charles Reynolds was in his usual V-twin and 2016 newcomer Ainsley Barwick was in his beautifully presented Cooper Mk.6 with Triumph 650 engine, on his first visit to Prescott.

As last year, the Sunday was warm and sunny although everyone considered the P1 runs offered little grip following the rain of the previous day. Mark Riley's oft stated 'no prizes for practice' was backed up by rally-man Fin and the Dent family views of 'no hero's for that, just glad to get to the top'.

Despite the large entry at the meeting, P2 came around surprisingly quickly and was completed just after mid-day. A much improved surface provided far more grip on this second run although the times showed the swing axle Starides and Creamer struggling for grip over the first 64ft. Fin had a big moment into the left hander after the Esses, dropping a couple of seconds, while Max, Ains and Mark Dent continued learning the intricacies of Prescott. At the front Nick was a couple of seconds ahead of the field headed by Alistair, Mark Riley and John Dent.

In the b) class, Phoebe Rolt's Elva developed cooling problems on her 2nd run and Ains in the Triumph engined Cooper Mk6 managed to chop an enormous 4 secs of his P1 time.

So into the first timed runs as the penultimate batch of the meeting, Fin was the first car away followed by Alex Duce who overshot the exit of Ettores to bring out the 'reds' giving Robin Baxter a re-run. With the undamaged Cooper Mk.5 towed away, it was Nick who headed the field in the Mk.9 clearly ahead of Mark Riley, Fin and Alistair all within .06 secs of each other. Next up was Jan chased by Dents senior and junior.

Following 'tea and cakes' for all drivers and helpers to mark the end of the year, everyone bar Fin (0.15 faster) and Mark Riley (0.06 faster) was slower on their second runs, so the order stood with Nick taking the club's Hill Climb Championship and Fin the John Parker Trophy.

In the b) class Charles in the Mk.6 V-twin managed to just (by 0.03 secs!) stay in front of the fast charging newly tyred Elva of Phoebe Rolt's with Ains Barwick developing the car for next season with hopefully a 500 engine installed.

Results:

Class a) Up to 500cc

(Current record - John Brough 52.19 01.06.03)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	55.57	52.79	52.69	53.24	52.69
2	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	58.46	55.31	54.72	54.57	54.57
3	Mark Riley	Creamer JAP	57.62	55.58	54.66	54.60	54.60
4	Alistair Dent	Hornet F3 JAP	56.21	54.80	54.71	54.95	54.71
5	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	60.53	57.50	55.95	56.64	55.95
6	Mark Dent	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	59.40	57.34	56.52	58.20	56.52
7	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	59.61	57.06	56.61	57.65	56.61
8	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	61.65	60.56	58.85	58.98	58.85
9	Robin Baxter	Staride F3 JAP	68.15	61.43	61.57	62.85	61.57
N/c	Alex Duce	Cooper Mk.5	61.59	59.88	F	-	-

Class b) Over 500cc & FJ's

(Current record - Charles Reynolds 51.33 30.07.16)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.VII JAP	55.49	52.80	51.94	52.36	51.94
2	Phoebe Rolt	Elva Mk.FJ 200 Ford	56.61	59.77	52.10	51.97	51.97
3	Ainsley Barwick	Cooper Mk.VI Triumph	65.48	61.76	60.74	62.04	60.74