

2018 Speed Championship – Round 5 Shelsley Walsh

Saturday 28 July

The two day Nostalgia meeting was heavily oversubscribed by up to 50 hopefuls on each day so there were cuts in all classes and split days of running for some. The Championship regulars were boosted by Mark Dent, young charger Jonathan Lawrence and John Greenwood.

After early morning rain, the track was largely dry by the time of P1. Shelsley maestro Fin Mackintosh headed the times with son Max only marginally slower and evergreen John Dent on 40 secs. Steve Lawrence's 2002 record in the 37's gives an indication of the conditions. Stuart Barnes struggled in 1st gear with a loose gearbox mounting bolt, Jonathan Lawrence was wisely 'just taking it easy' especially under the trees at the Esses. Jan Nycz reckoned he had undergeared the Staride which would affect his times all week-end. John Greenwood suffered clutch-slip coming to a halt after Kennel. He was able to make a 2 hr trip home to collect some new plates and had the whole lot back in working order by lunch.

The threatening rain was there, but the track was dry as Fin completed P2 by going a full second quicker, again followed by Max and John D although Jonathan, Jan and now Vic Deane all went under 42 secs. Mark Dent thought the engine felt flat missing up the hill and a stretched throttle cable on the Lawrence car was sorted, otherwise all was calm as more demonstrations took place over the lunch break.

Running in Batch 1 to allow the driver swap, Fin was delayed by an incident so started just as the rain arrived which dropped him to 3rd some 8 secs off his P2 time. Then the track started to dry as the cars were bump started down the entrance road to the line. Andy Raynor considered this no time for heroics, Mike Wood had a 'lurid wobble' into bottom Ess, Jan was living with the short gearing as best he could, Mark's engine was still misfiring and John Greenwood's clutch was now ok. Then proceeding came to a halt when young Jonathan touched the unforgiving sleepers between the Esses. He was unhurt but a bent wishbone and front end meant no further runs in the car. All of which brought out the red flags which left John D and Vic to run some 15 minutes later on a drying track with both commenting 'there was far more grip than I thought' and both rocketing to the top of the leader board.

For T2, Fin, again in the batch before the 500's seemed to have luck on his side as the track dried out and he took nearly 3 secs off his T1 time. Then as the 500s started the rain arrived again and everyone took it easy in the knowledge T1 times would not be bettered. In fact the track was so slippery that the normally circumspect Max managed an off at Crossing while accelerating in an almost straight line. So another small delay meant Jan, Andy and Mark were able to post slightly improved T2 times. All of which was academic as it had been the vastly experience John Dent who had taken the day.

Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Current record: Steve Lawrence – 37.35 on 18.08.02)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
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1	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	40.78	39.88	42.16	45.87	42.16
2	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	39.78	38.77	46.68	43.90	43.90
3	Vic Deane	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	44.02	41.67	44.73	50.19	44.73
4	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	40.19	39.80	45.54	F	45.54
5	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	42.58	41.02	47.76	47.36	47.36
6	Mark Dent	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	43.90	43.68	48.26	47.40	47.70
7	Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	44.48	43.65	47.72	47.69	47.69
8	Mike Wood	Iota CB2 JAP	45.78	43.05	51.30	53.97	51.30
9	John Greenwood	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	F	-	52.90	55.77	52.90
10	Stuart Barnes	Iota JAP	90.45	53.89	56.73	57.30	56.73
	Jonathan Lawrence	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	42.32	40.35	F		-

A full report will appear in the next edition of "The 500".