

2018 Speed Championship – Round 6 Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 29 July

Although run under the Nostalgia banner Sunday at Shelsley was a separate meeting from Saturday. The rain and cloud from the previous day persisted overnight, so the hill was wet and slippery on arrival.

Whilst most competitors had been accepted by the organisers for both days, for Mike Doodeman, this was to be his first competition appearance in a 500. Unfortunately Steve Lawrence was absent while in the Dent camp, Alistair was to take over John's Mk.8 for the first time, leaving John to run his newly completed V-twin. Overnight Mark Dent had changed the Mk.6's engine, the Mackintosh's had cleaned off the car and Stuart Barnes continued adjusting the Iota's gearbox and change linkage.

Under the persistent rain, the first problem would be getting the cars off the line. Alistair was facing a steep learning curve in the first 'curved tube' Cooper he had driven, whilst Mark found the new engine a big improvement with no missing. With Fin, Jan and Alistair in the 48's, some 8 secs slower than the first runs of Saturday, the conditions were not 500 friendly, the first 64 ft. times in particular telling the story. Andy Raynor suffered the only major concern with gearbox cover bolts working loose.

With the event already looking like it was going to go into extra time, P2 saw improvements for all. Most managed to find another 4 to 5 secs, with Mike Wood finding some 8 secs as did Mark Dent to rocket himself to head the class and thus also overtake brother Alistair.

Over lunch the weather looked like it would improve but as the break came to an end, another shower moved in. Fin's 44 sec climb indicated there was still dubious grip. Alistair had learnt quickly and posted a class leading 43 secs, followed by both Fin and brother Mark in the 44's with everyone else just glad to get to the top. Meanwhile, Mike Doodeman looked as if he'd have to skip T1, however, the MAC organising team assured him a run at the end of the next batch, just as the track was finally drying out. But as he joined the queue, there followed a series of reds caused by oil at top Ess, further delaying his run although finally he got away to a dry track.

So, if the weather could continue to improve for the final run, the result would surely hang on that. But then after two further long delays and the clock already past 4.30, the tannoy announced there would be no second runs and the meeting was abandoned. The 500 Driver of the day Award went to Alistair for comprehensively taking the class in a new car.

Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Current record: Steve Lawrence – 37.35 on 18.08.02)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1
1	Alistair Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	48.85	45.47	43.34
2	Finlay Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	48.40	45.10	44.27
3	Mark Dent	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	51.31	43.48	44.33

4	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	48.82	45.76	46.03
5	Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	50.17	47.20	47.28
6	Vic Deane	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	52.44	47.65	47.61
7	Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk.6 JAP	59.86	50.39	48.67
8	Mike Doodeman	Cooper Mk.9 Triumph	62.12	54.53	50.84
9	Mike Wood	Iota CB2 JAP	59.04	51.45	52.07
10	Stuart Barnes	Iota JAP	59.37	57.41	53.72
N/S	Steve Lawrence	Cooper Mk.9 JAP			

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