

## Gurston Down Sunday 17 April 22

A lovely day greeted the nine drivers to beautiful Wiltshire for the opening round of our speed championship. It was nice to be back, and with our biggest entry for six years.



*John Dent leaves the start*

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We were scheduled for the first couple of batches so first practice was over shortly after 09.00, with no problems and everyone just re-acquainting themselves with the hill. Second practice confirmed that competition would be close as chunks of time fell away and the day warmed up. Mark Riley showed that he had lost none of his touch after quite a few years out, holding a small advantage over John and Alistair. Russell had a moment at Karousel but did make it to the finish, albeit very slowly.

Competition runs got underway at 13.00 with gains across the board. Mark was the only one to dip under 42 seconds, but behind him three drivers were covered by little more than a tenth, so all was set for the final attempts mid-afternoon.

Under perfect conditions each driver left the line with commitment and when the dust settled the results were incredibly close. Even though Fin also managed to dip under 42, he could not quite match Mark's first run. Up until the last sector John had also been on course to challenge for the lead but when the exhaust detached at the manifold he lost power slowing him dramatically.

In the Elva, Mark H found over a second and a half on his final run but Russell finally

managed to pull it all together through Karousel and Ashes and get well below 40 seconds.

We all hope this is the fore-runner to a great year of competition in the dry and times as closely matched as these..

<b>Results</b>		<b>Run 1</b>	<b>Run 2</b>	<b>Best</b>
Mark Riley	Cooper Mk IX JAP	<b>41.92</b>	42.00	<b>41.92</b>
Fin Mackintosh	Cooper Mk XI Norton	42.64	<b>41.96</b>	<b>41.96</b>
Alistair Dent	Hornet JAP	<b>42.53</b>	43.38	<b>42.53</b>
John Dent	Cooper MK VIII JAP	<b>42.55</b>	44.58	<b>42.55</b>
Richard Roberts	Cooper Mk XI JAP	43.50	<b>42.92</b>	<b>42.92</b>
Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk VI JAP	<b>44.52</b>	44.53	<b>44.52</b>
Stuart Barnes	Iota P1 01 JAP	51.72	<b>51.70</b>	<b>51.70</b>

### **Twins and Juniors**

Russell Haynes	Elva 200	41.79	<b>39.01</b>	<b>39.01</b>
Mark Haynes	Elva 200	41.67	<b>40.15</b>	<b>40.15</b>



*Russell Haynes at Bunnies Leap*

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*Mark Riley rounds Ashes*

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