

Gurston Down 18th June 2023

Championship round 4

This was the first of two hillclimbs at Gurston Down in 2023. There were originally 8 entrants, but the long -range forecast of heavy rain dissuaded Vic and Frazer Deane from travelling down from Towcester. As it happened the weather was near perfect, and the rain arrived as we were returning from our final runs.



Practice

As there were few issues amongst the entire field the Clerk of the Course offered 3rd Practice Runs to those wishing to have a 3rd run before lunch. Stuart, who was suffering from vibration issues and Fin declined, but the rest of the 500's did have another run and all four improved their times! Prior to that there were a few small issues. Richard had a problem with his rear left brake, John had a plug lead fall off on his second practice run and Stuart's vibration issues caused a failure on his timing strut, shook his tank loose and resulted in one of his Oddie connectors going missing somewhere on the hill.

Timed Runs

Unfortunately, Richard had a clutch failure before his first timed run and despite requesting a run in a subsequent batch only got one timed run. Other than that, it was a very competitive afternoon session with just over a second separating the top 5. Both Mackintoshes broke 42 seconds with Max steadily improving through his five runs, only his speed through the final climb kept him behind dad Fin. John Dent, who had

performed excellently on the Saturday, gained a creditable third place. Richard was fourth just pipping Alistair by a 10th of a second.

Results

		Run 1	Run 2	Best
Fin Mackintosh	Cooper Mk X1 Norton	42.67	41.33	41.33
Max Mackintosh	Cooper Mk VI JAP	42.58	41.95	41.95
John Dent	Cooper Mk VIII JAP	43.41	42.29	42.29
Richard Robarts	Cooper Mk XI JAP	NR	42.32	42.32
Alistair Dent	Hornet JAP	43.30	42.43	42.43
Stuart Barnes	Smith Mk III JAP	50.00	48.00	48.00

Words: Stuart Barnes

