

Snetterton.

The inaugural 2026 race meeting of the 500 Owners Association was held with the HSCC on April 25th and 26th at Snetterton in Norfolk on the 200 circuit. The sun shone down from a bright blue sky creating near ideal racing conditions.

The weekend started on Friday evening in Troston Hall where Jenny and Simon Hewes hosted a dinner and get together for all the 500 members. Paul Hewes was a long time member of the club and is fondly remembered amongst other things for the parties held at Snetterton race meetings which Jenny has generously continued. The Saturday race was to be held for the Paul Hewes Trophy which had been inaugurated in his memory.

Richard Fuller had done a fantastic job organising the meeting, getting paddock space next to the holding area, scrutineering in the paddock, a rolling start from the paddock and great race times with a midday race on Sunday.

In practice George Shackleton took the pole position closely followed by Alex Wilson and then closely behind him Richard Kelly in his new ex Simon Dedman Mk 10 Cooper.

The first race started early at 5pm in ideal conditions with George storming ahead and taking the lead, Alex had gremlins with his engine which would just not rev out and Brain Joliffe and Simon Hewes had clutch problems. Chas had ignition problems following a change to a coil system. Richard Kelly was in 2nd place being careful to treat his new short stroke engine gently in its first race followed in 3rd place by Andy Raynor in his Cooper Mk 8 and this is how the race finished. Chris Wilson in the earliest car known to the club a 1948 Cooper Mk 2 drove a determined race and finished 5th. Jenny Hewes presented George with the Paul Hewes Trophy and a bottle of Moet which thankfully he did not spray over the crowd ! Team Wilson provided a delicious cake to help celebrate our 80th birthday which was gratefully devoured.

Race 2 was at midday on Sunday. Again Richard Fuller had organised a great rolling start from the paddock which made things very easy. Norfolk time is different to everywhere else as the 5 minute board went up and 2

minutes later everyone was flagged out to start the race ! Alex was still having gremlins with his car and limped into the assembly area. Brian Joliffe decided not to start after a fall in his motorhome. George set off at a blistering pace, soon getting a reasonable lead, leading Andy Raynor who had Richard Fuller hot on his heels. Richard Kelly pulled off leaving Andy and Richard to come in 2nd and 3rd. 4th was Jonathan Morris in the Waye and then Chris Wilson in his Mk 2 Cooper both taking 1st in Class at the finish in their respective classes. George finished 1st with a new 500 lap record [?]. Congratulations to Jim Hunt on his first 500 qualification and completed race.

Georges Nephew Eli and Niece Peyton presented the prize at the finish. Despite some of the trials and tribulations everyone smiled in the sunshine happy with a glorious weekend of racing and looking forward to the next race meeting at Mallory Park on May 23rd/24th.....