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BRADLEY SETS THE PACE IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Watch out Northern Speed contenders – reigning champion Bradley Dickerson seems to be a man on a mission to retain his title! Having completed all five rounds so far, and with high scores in all of them, the Jedi driver has a lead of more than 100 points.

But it's early days yet and there is plenty of time and opportunity for others to challenge. After the Blyton event, second is held by Eve Whitehead, still keenly campaigning dad's RBS8 while Barry recovers, and Stephen Norton is third in his MGF.

With only one round completed the Longton Sprint and Hillclimb Series has Nick Algar and Darren Jones at the top, both on 109 points, with Phil Nelson just behind.

A CORKING 3.1 MILES SPRINT AT ANGLESEY

There are two exciting developments for competitors to look forwards to at Longton's Anglesey weekend on October 3 and 4. The Saturday round on the National circuit will be a 1.55 miles two-lapper this year, following the format which has now become established by other organisers.

Things get even better on Sunday with a unique two-lap course of the International circuit that brings the Corkscrew into use for the first time for sprint competitors. This gives a total of 3.1 miles of high speed challenges to test drivers and machinery.

The course – which is believed to give the longest sprint held in the UK - is the brainchild of Longton Chairman Graham Malcolm who came up with the idea after hearing frequent comments from drivers who had eyed up the downhill sweeps through the Corkscrew with relish.

The route will start in the new pits (some start-line grip at last?) and follow the exit lane onto the circuit before the banked corner and the usual International course through Church and up the hill to Rocket and Peel. On the first lap it's then downhill to the usual left but now turning immediately right into the Corkscrew rather than continuing along the Tom Pryce straight. The Corkscrew rejoins the usual sprint route at the corner by the new pits entry and the second lap follows the familiar International layout (so long as drivers remember to turn onto the Tom Pryce straight) and finishes after the hairpin.

Continued

FOUR OF THE BEST AT AINTREE

After the chilly and wet start to the championship at Three Sisters, the Aintree sprint on April 25 brought at least a small improvement in the weather with a wet morning gradually giving way to largely dry conditions in the afternoon.

Despite the dodgy weather, a large entry including the Caterham Academy, and some lurid 'offs' Liverpool Motor Club managed to fit in four timed runs

In Class SA, Longton contenders Mark Smith and Colin Duncalfe were out in the MGZR's, with Colin taking third on 66.76 and Marks fifth with 78.22. In 1B Russell Thorpe had to settle for second on 53.13, with Keith Minshull fourth on 53.90 and Peter Gates sixth on 56.61.

The usual battle between the Honda S2000 duo of Roger Fish and Martin Rowe saw honours in Class 1D go to Roger with a best of 53.53 with Martin half a second behind, a wide margin by their standards! Victory in 1G went to the Lotus Elise of Rob Holt with 57.99.

In the smaller roadgoing kit car class Andy Taylor in his Caterham had to settle for second on 54.24 as did Nigel Fox (49.04) in the larger class, with Sean Bourn fourth on 52.93.

The popular and competitive Class 3B saw a win for Andy Larton on 50.54, followed by Richard Hargreaves with 51.86 in his MkII Escort and John Moxham third with 52.10. Tim Burrill took fifth on 56.67 with William Jarman just behind on 56.93 and Robert Smith seventh with 57.81.

David Welton was alone in Class 3E and recorded 56.28 in his TVR Tasmin. Robbie Birrell won the Sports Libre class with a new class record of 44.89 in his Radical. Bradley Dickerson took his usual win in the small single seater with a best of 42.82, whilst Eve Whitehead was third in RBS8 on 46.48. Geoff Ward took second in the Formula Fords on 50.21.

FTD went to John Graham in his neat red Gould with 37.94 and a spectacular speed of 160mph over the line.

CHAMPIONSHIP CONTENDERS HEAD FOR THE HILLS

Eight Longton contenders took a trip to the seaside on May 2 and 3 for the first hill climb event in the calendar, at Oliver's Mount in Scarborough.

Stephen Norton in his MGF Trophy took third in the sportscar class on Saturday at 56.58 and stayed in that place on Sunday with a best of 59.39. Andy Taylor won the closely-contested small road-going kit car class on Saturday with 50.90 and clung on to first with 59.22 the following day.

In the under two-litre modprods, Charles Hargreaves in his dated but effective Escort MkII won on Saturday with 47.44 and shared the top spot on Sunday with 50.16. Tim Burrill was fourth on Saturday on 52.15.

Bradley Dickerson led the small single-seaters with 39.97 on Saturday and 42.44 on Sunday. Eve Whitehead was second on Saturday with 43.99. Robert Hewson came in third on Saturday at 45.20 and took second on Sunday, 53.97. Brian Walker was second (43.72) on Saturday in the bigger single-seaters and by a small margin second again on Sunday with 46.28.

Continued

DOUBLE THE FUN AT BLYTON PARK

A new event on the Longton calendar – a one-day two lap sprint at Blyton Park – took place in chilly but dry conditions on May 15. As expected, this was a long and challenging venue with some of the the featureless flat 'spot the cones, guess where it goes next' characteristics of a temporary airfield circuit, despite the excellent tarmac and permanent nature of the place.

Overall, there was a fairly small entry of fewer than 80, bulked out by Caterham Academy contestants. Despite that the organisers, the Minicross Drivers Association, were only able to offer two practice and two timed runs to the competitors who had made the long haul to Lincolnshire.

For a time it looked like current Longton Champion Bradley Dickerson was going to pull off an impressive giant-killing act in his diminutive Jedi. But he was eventually dethroned from the top of the time sheets by the mighty Gould of John Graham who clocked 117.58 seconds on his final run. Bradley's best was a still-impressive 119.99, despite brake problems.

Staying with the single seaters, Eve Whitehead's best was 135.98 with class competitor Robert Hewson on 140.75. Geoff Ward in his Formula Ford spent the day getting lost in the link section between laps one and two and only recorded one time – 151.20.

The saloon car contingent was led by Andy Larton with a best of 147.75 with John Moxham on 153.65, Tim Burrill, 163.20, and Louise Claxton on 177.29.

Robbie Birrell was out again in his Radical, putting in 132.57. The Lotus Elise of Robert Holt recorded 182.94, whilst Stephen Norton's best in his MGF was 166.62.

AND COMING UP NEXT ...

The Northern Speed Championship goes up hill for the next two rounds, at Harewood on June 7 and Barbon the following week. Then it's back on the flat for Aintree on June 27 and Longton's second Three Sisters event on July 5, followed by the single lap Blyton weekend the following week.

It's then worth remembering another new feature of this year's calendar – the return of the 'Three Sisters weekend'. That's made up of Longton's new August 1 date with a Saturday one-lapper followed by the Chester MC/Lancs AC two lapper on the Sunday.

The full Championship calendar is on the next page.

Continued

LONGTON'S NORTHERN SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

10 events from 22 to count

| <u>Date</u> | | | <u>Club</u> | | <u>Venue</u> |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 07 | June | Sunday | BARC (Yorks) | H | Harewood |
| 13 | June | Saturday | Liverpool MC | H | Barbon Manor |
| 27 | June | Saturday | Liverpool MC | S | Aintree |
| 05 | July | Sunday | Longton & DMC | S | Three Sisters (Course 2) |
| 11 | July | Saturday | Westfield SCC | S | Blyton Park |
| 12 | July | Sunday | Westfield SCC | S | Blyton Park |
| 01 | August | Saturday | Longton & DMC | S | Three Sisters (Course 1) |
| 02 | August | Sunday | Chester MC / Lancs AC | S | Three Sisters (2 Lap) |
| 16 | August | Sunday | Auto 66 | H | Oliver's Mount |
| 30 | August | Sunday | BARC (Yorks) | H | Harewood |
| 05 | September | Saturday | Liverpool MC | S | Aintree |
| 12 | September | Saturday | Nottingham SCC | S | Thoresby Park |
| 13 | September | Sunday | Nottingham SCC | S | Thoresby Park |
| 20 | September | Sunday | BARC (Yorks) | H | Harewood |
| 03 | October | Saturday | Longton & DMC | S | Anglesey (National) |
| 04 | October | Sunday | Longton & DMC | S | Anglesey (International) |

LONGTON SPRINT SERIES

3 events from 5 to count

Separate Trophies & Awards!

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|----------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 05 | July | Sunday | | S | Three Sisters |
| 01 | August | Saturday | | S | Three Sisters |
| 03 | October | Saturday | | S | Anglesey (National) |
| 04 | October | Sunday | | S | Anglesey (International) |

FULL REGULATIONS ARE ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE www.longton-dmc.co.uk .



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