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A WET AND SLIPPERY START TO AUGUST FOR COMPETITORS AT THREE SISTERS

FTD – and, unusually, Best Novice – went to Tim Carter in his Subaru Impreza

Second fastest was Bradley Dickerson in his Jedi who stuck to slicks all day!

Report and pictures by DENISE MOORE

A damp Three Sisters track from overnight rain and a weather forecast that looked decidedly dodgy later in the day was not very auspicious for the first day of August, however the sun was shining early on and the course was drying out nicely by the time first practice started. Barring a few wiggles everybody ran smoothly and it seemed as though things were settling down for a good day's competition. Then came second practice and the wiggles became 'moments' for some of the drivers.

Louise Claxton in the Peugeot 106 Rally mistimed the entrance into Luna and took a quick trip over the dirt before regaining the track and just a few moments later Eve Whitehead in the RBS8 did exactly the same thing, at the same place, throwing up pebbles and mowing the grass before getting back on line! Geoff Beddard in the Marlin 5X retired.

Continued ……

By the time the first timed run started light rain had begun to fall and, as there had been a couple of timing issues holding up proceedings, the track was getting progressively slicker which showed in the timings. Dominic Wilson in the Renault 182 Clio Sport went through the entrance to Luna virtually sideways but managed to hold onto it –just! Tim Carter in the blue Subaru Impreza did likewise. Colin Kendall in the Terrapin Mk1 had a DNF as did Peter Jones in his Jedi Mk IV.

With the rain coming down heavily and the track now thoroughly wet, times continued to get slower (mostly) but almost all cars went out. Eve Whitehead had a DNF after spinning out going uphill on the Valley hairpin bend.

Although still raining after lunch, the weather slowly improved, at least for a while, but again some drivers were struggling with the conditions. Robin Haslam in his yellow MG F Trophy 160 could not slow down enough to take the Valley hairpin and ended up over the kerb and onto the grass narrowly missing the coned off area. David Welton in his TVR Tasmin also missed the bend but this time ran backwards over the kerb! Chris Thomas came through the same bend in his Talbot Sunbeam on the wet kerb and slewed sideways so far that he was almost pointing at the Marshals post! Colin Kendall had another moment on the same spot, ending up sideways but continuing after only a brief stop.

The weather briefly improved enough for parts of the track to start drying out (and the sun to put in a belated appearance) which only served to tempt a few drivers into trying for faster times not realising just how wet some parts of the track still were. Luke Rogers in the Mazda RX8, Dominic Wilson in his Renault Clio Sport and Charlotte Brigham Brindle in the Ford Capri all had DNF's and Nigel Fox in the Caterham 7 had a head-to-head meeting with the hay bales at the hairpin bend but sorted himself and continued onward.

Some people were thriving in the damp conditions, Geoff Ward in the Swift SC93F was positively flying, nearly 2 seconds ahead of his nearest rival although even he had a moment at the hairpin that was catching so many people out!

Alas, the sunshine didn't last and the heavens opened again. Although there were seven timed runs in total, by the time of the last run there were only a few hardcore drivers out on the course practising their skills in the wet and the meeting was called to an end at 4pm probably much to the relief of some very soggy marshals.

Altogether there were 61 runners on the day and in spite of everything, three new class records were set in classes SA, SB and 1F. There were very few close battles for position although John Earley and Mike Thornton in Class 1B ended up with exactly the same time of 58.09 seconds to tie for third place.

CLASS WINNERS SA: Colin Duncalf, 61.88; SB: Luke Rogers, 59.75; 1B: Alex Thornton, 55.47; 1C: Alan Sawyer, 57.80; 1D: Roger Fish, 57.29; 1E: Gordon Peters, 57.62; 1F: Rob Holt, 63.22; 2A: Martin Walker, 61.54; 2B: Nigel Fox, 58.02; 3A: Deborah Cooper, 64.91; 3B: Charles Hargreaves, 54.31; 3C: Tim Carter, 51.79; 3E: David Welton, 76.89; 4B: James Davies, 55.37; 5A: Bradley Dickerson, 52.91; 5B: Geoff Ward, 56.90; 5C: Peter Jones, 57.49; 5D: James Wilkinson, 53.22; TVA (TVR Class A): Mike Roe, 56.05; TVB (TVR Class B): David Barraclough, 58.20.
FTD: Tim Carter, 51.79; Best LDMC: Bradley Dickerson, 52.91; Best Lady: Eve Whitehead, 56.62; Best Novice: Tim Carter.

Continued ……

Luke Rogers in his Mazda MX8

The Subaru Impreza of Alan Sawyer

Roger Fish, hood down, in his Honda S2000

Deborah Cooper in her nifty little Toyota Vitz

Martin Walker in his Westfield SEiW

The impressive Nissan 350Z GT of Gordon Peters

The MG ZR of Colin Duncalf

James Wilkinson's Reynard Vauxhall Lotus

Continued ……

AND WHEN IT RAINS AT THREE SISTERS THERE IS VERY LITTLE GRIP ....

Kerb crawlers .... Robin Haslam in his MG F Trophy and David Welton in his TVR Tasmin

Going for a spin .... Chris Thomas in his Talbot Sunbeam and Colin Kendall's Terrapin

Hiding? Nigel Fox in his Caterham 7

Sliding: Geoff Ward's Swift SC93F

Continued ……

TWO DAYS OF FUN IN JULY AROUND THE SWEEPING CURVES OF BLYTON

The fairly quiet speed event month of July was enlivened for many competitors with a long, but easy and worthwhile, trip to the empty acres of Lincolnshire and the sprint weekend at the exciting Blyton Park venue on July 11 and 12.

There was a big entry for this increasingly popular event but the Westfield Sports Car Club handled things efficiently with three timed runs on Saturday, although a slightly more relaxed approach on Sunday – along with a rain shower and some incidents - saw only two runs after practice.

For those who relish high-speed sweeping bends and a smooth and grippy surface Blyton is paradise. Throw in a couple of tricky 'chicanes' and a tight finishing corner and there is also plenty of variety – with no hairpin to the delight of many!

FTD on both days, with a new course record of 56.02 seconds on Sunday, went to Nick Algar in his 1340cc supercharged DJ Firehawk, who recorded 143.8mph through the speed trap – even more impressive when you consider the heavy braking for the tight chicane that follows that point!

Saturday
A brief review of Longton competitors (usual apologies if the Editor has missed you) kicks off with Russell Thorpe who took the win in class 1B with 77.72 in his venerable Renault 5 Turbo. Second went to Andy Wright (80.58) with Heather Wright fourth on 84.34 in their shared Peugeot 306 Rallye.

The Honda S2000 playmates of Roger Fish and Martin Rowe dominated 1D, with Roger taking victory on 75.15 and Martin just over half a second behind. Stephen Norton wound up fourth in his MG F Trophy (83.89). Class 2C saw Andrew McKay take eigth (78.71) and Stephen Nicholson tenth (80.30).

Sean Bourn's Cyclone was struggling with the 7-based competitors in class 2D and finished fifth on 75.50. The win in 3B went to Tim Burrill in his Peugeot 205 GTI (79.31) with Tim Nicholson third (86.36). Terry Everall had to settle for third on 66.30 in 3K.

Longton's reigning champion, Bradley Dickerson, scooped up the win in the small single seaters at 60.04 seconds – the third fastest time of the day in the little 999cc Jedi. Eve Whitehead was fourth with 67.26 in RBS8. Geoff Ward in his Swift SC93F managed to not get lost on the one-lap Blyton course and won the Formula Ford class (71.17). Nick Algar was in a class of his own in the bigger single seaters taking the win at 56.91. Brian Walker's Brytec came in third (68.35).

Sunday
A brief flurry of rain made things difficult for second practice but fortunately the storm passed over and the track was dry, or drying, as timed runs started after lunch. Russell Thorpe again won his class with 77.36, followed by Andy Wright (79.43) and Heather (81.79).

Roger Fish (75.34) again beat Martin Rowe, but by a narrower margin, (75.47) and Stephen Norton took fourth (82.71). Stephen Nicholson's Tiger Avon was eigth in 2C (77.52). Sean Bourn had to settle for fith again in his class with a best of 74.51. In class 3B Tim Nicholson's Peugeot 205 came second (83.17).

Continued ……

Class 3K saw Terry Everall improve to take second on 65.52. In the small single seaters Bradley Dickerson was out in hayfever-sufferer's Dan Mason's car but still took the win with a more 'modest' 63.02 with Eve Whitehead fifth on 67.40. Geoff Ward (72.01) again led in the Formula Fords, although by a far smaller margin. In the bigger single seaters Nick Algar beat his Saturday best to take victory with an impressive 56.02, with Brian Walker fourth (66.79).

OLIVER'S MOUNT, AUGUST 16: Unfortunately, the results are not yet available online.

MOTOR SPORT NEWS IN THE NORTH WEST

Jim Bebby, remembered with affection by many

Many will know the sad news that popular Liverpool Motor Club stalwart Jim Bebby died recently at 80. He is remembered with particular affection by the Bulletin Editor for his kindness in visiting me in Aintree Hospital after being taken ill at an Aintree meeting, and then driving me home.

For hundreds of others he will be remembered as the smiling face that greeted competitors at Aintree in his role of Secretary of the Meeting. In later years he continued to play an active role as LMC's Vice-President. The Editor, and I'm sure everyone else who knew him, extend our sympathy to Jim's wife Sylvia, son Geoff and daughter Annette.

John Graham takes Top 12 wins in British Sprint Championship

Longton Motor Club member and competitor John Graham is making his mark on the national speed scene in his immaculate and impressive red 2.8 Gould-NME GR55B which he rolls out for many Longton rounds.

The Windermere farmer took his maiden win in the SBD MSA British Sprint Championship in the Top 12 Run Offs at Pembrey on May 31. The next time out, at Anglesey on June 13, he took his second win by a large margin. Another Longton member, Nick Algar, was third that day in his 1.3S DJ Firehawk, the only forced induction car to make the run offs. The following day John won comfortably again and was only a few tenths off the outright circuit record.

It was then to Knockhill on July 25 when John came third, troubled by a gear change problem. With that glitch fixed he took another victory on the following day. It appears that at Kirkistown he only did the first day on August 8 (hope not a major problem?) and it looks like he finished second and went to fifth in the British Sprint Championship standings.

If you're reading this guys – apologies to Nick if I've missed more good performances. And to both, how about dropping me an email after events to say how things are going? The Editor is sure other Longton members would be interested in your progress.

Thoresby Park championship rounds cancelled

Competitors should know by now that the Thoresby Park rounds on September 12 and 13 have been cancellled by NSCC. It appears mining subsidence had affected the venue. The Longton's Northern Speed Championship will therefore become the best 10 out of 18 rounds, as per championship reg 1.6.14.

Date for your diaries - Longton's annual dinner

The season is drawing to a close, so an early alert for LDMC's annual dinner and awards evening. It will be at Barton Grange, as usual, on Saturday, January 16, 2016. More details in future Bulletins.

Continued ……

FUTURE LONGTON NORTHERN SPEED EVENTS

(10 events from 18 to count)

Date			Club		Venue
30	August	Sunday	BARC (Yorks)	H	Harewood
05	September	Saturday	Liverpool MC	S	Aintree
20	September	Sunday	BARC (Yorks)	H	Harewood
03	October	Saturday	Longton & DMC	S	Anglesey (National)
04	October	Sunday	Longton & DMC	S	Anglesey (International)

FUTURE LONGTON SPRINT SERIES EVENTS

(3 *events from 5 to count)*

Separate Trophies & Awards!

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*** .

ANWCC Association of North Western Car Clubs

RECOGNISED CLUB MSA RECOGNISED CLUB

ENDS