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**BLYTON
BONANZA!
THRILLING BSC
RUN OFFS
AND A GREAT
WEEKEND
FOR CLUB
COMPETITORS**



Father's days Colin Calder was fastest on both circuits

Photographs courtesy of Anthony Mitchell Photography. For more pictures visit his website at www.amm-photography.co.uk

Longton was once again hosting the British Sprint Championship as the club made its only visit to Blyton Park this year, on May 18 and 19. Although it's not a favourite with drivers, the tricky Eastern circuit was used on Saturday to give variety over the weekend.

The day began with a cold track offering little grip for the first, and only, practice followed by a light rain shower resulting in a greasy surface for the first timed run. These two factors possibly contributed to a slow start with a series of incidents and breakdowns, especially amongst the National A runners.

But by the time a slightly late lunch break was taken everyone had two timed runs in the bag. The Top 12 run offs started off the afternoon providing awe and entertainment for those watching from the limited viewing area. The sight of the powerful machinery creeping (relatively!) through the tight opening corner sequence was compensated for by the high speed and late-braking spectacle of the final section.

Continued

The rest of the afternoon turned into a typical Longton, clubby, event with a slickly organised series of runs for the 'ordinary' mortals vying for local championship points. The same format was used on Sunday and provided a good compromise to cater for all involved.

Amongst the highlights for Longton drivers in the Nat B section of the event was Glyn Sketchley who took FTD on Saturday with 64.80 in his Force, knocking nearly two seconds off his previous class record. Running through the classes, Gordon Peters and his Fiat 500 were alone in SA where he recorded 90.57. Also solo were Shereif Megid in SC with a best of 82.79 and John Wadsworth (90.80) in SD.

In the small roadgoing saloons Andrew Rollason's Ford Ka was second with 90.01. Their bigger bretheren saw Richard Forber's Clio narrowly pushed to second at 79.56, followed by Joe Halliwell (81.69), Peter Brown (83.71) and David Careless (87.55). Colin Duncalf's Mini was up against larger-engined opposition in 1C and had to settle for third with 86.80.



Tony Smiley in his Westfield Mega



The Type R Honda Integra of Peter Brown



Bob Bellerby in the rear-engined Sylva Riot



John Loudon enjoying his single-seat experience

British Sprint Championship contender Alan Mugglestone – who has also been named as the new circuit manager at Blyton - was also driving the 'family' Mazda MX5 in 1D and won the class with a best of 78.35. Son Nic was a respectful third at 81.17 followed by Stephen Norton's MG F Trophy (87.48) with James French sixth (89.77) and Stuart Mather seventh (92.0). David Exton was the only 1E runner and recorded 84.51 in his Nissan 350Z.

There was a tight battle for victory in 1F with Robbie Birrell taking the win by three-hundredths, at 76.43 in his Lotus Exige. Steve Wilson's Elise S2 was fourth (81.78). The smaller roadgoing kit class went to Daniel Hollis at 75.25 in his Caterham, with John Clarke third (81.34). The bigger engine class was won by Chris Bennet (78.96) followed by Sean Bourn (80.11), Mike West (82.82) and Anthony Brown (87.03).

Continued

The Toyota Vitz car-share battle in 3A went to Debbie Cooper with 98.45 followed by Daryl Bentley (98.59). John Moxham and his Peugeot had 3B to himself and he put in a best of 83.03. In 3C, the win went to Rob Loftus (70.55). Derek Hodder was pushed down to second in 3G with 70.33 followed by car-sharer Garry Bunn (71.37).

The rapid bike-engined modified kits attracted a strong entry which was topped by Matt Turner on 68.73 with Terry Everall second (70.31). Fourth went to Bob Bellerby (71.95) followed by Andrew Steel (72.50), Tony Smiley (76.38) and Stephen Everall (87.49). Geoff Ward won the Formula Ford class at 76.10 with Nigel Fox at 80.70. The classic roadgoing class was won by the Alfa Berlina of Philip Stader at 83.70.

British Sprint Championship / Nat A

The Top 12 run offs were a nail-biting affair with Heather Calder setting the early pace in both runs, only to be beaten by father Colin who was running last. His winning time in the Gould GR55 was 58.43 seconds and Heather finished up on 59.78. Nick Algar put in an impressive final run to take fourth in the DJ Firehawk with 60.84, whilst John Graham was having a day to forget and ended up tenth with 66.09. Alan Mugglestone made it into the run-offs in his Raw Fulcrum and finished 12th with 66.74. Amongst the other Nat As, John Loudon won his class in his Force HC with 67.98.



Robbie Birrell and his Lotus Exige



The Westfield Blade of Stephen Everall



The three-wheeled Peugeot of John Moxham



Nick Algar was going well in the DJ Firehawk

Continued



Private property? Alan Mugglestone, the new boss of Blyton Park, uses rather more of the real estate opportunities that his son Nic in their shared Mazda MX5

SUNDAY

The day brought slightly warmer weather and a brighter feeling in the paddock as drivers looked forward to the challenge of the popular fast and flowing outer circuit. The same format, of a single practice and two timed runs in the morning, was used but this time things went slightly quicker. Again, the runoffs were held at the start of the afternoon proceedings and then the Nat B drivers were let rip with three more runs.

There were few Sunday-only drivers and in general not many changes to competitors fortunes compared to the previous day. Glyn Sketchley again took the 'B' FTD, with a best of 61.03, despite not venturing out in the afternoon.

SA: Gordon Peters, 1st, 84.07; SC: Shereif Megid, 1st, 74.61; SD: John Wadsworth, 1st, 89.67. 1A: Andrew Rollason, 2nd, 82.92; 1B: Richard Forber, 1st, 73.33, Joe Halliwell, 2nd, 76.28, Peter Brown, 3rd, 76.98, Richard Windmill, 4th, 78.17, David Careless, 5th, 81.31; 1C: Colin Duncalf, 3rd, 90.57; 1D: Alan Mugglestone, 1st, 71.65, Nic Mugglestone, 2nd, 72.71, Stephen Norton, 4th, 83.04, James French, 5th, 83.50, Stuart Mather, 6th, 83.59; 1E: David Exton, 1st, 77.45; 1F: Robbie Birrell, 1st, 69.89, Steve Wilson, 4th, 76.12; 2A: Michael Bellerby, 1st, 71.38, Daniel Hollis, 2nd, 71.72, John Clarke, 4th, 75.20; 2B: Chris Bennet, 1st, 72.51, Sean Bourn, 2nd, 73.36, Mike West, 3rd, 77.21, Anthony Brown, 4th, 79.44; 3B: John Moxham, 1st, 77.36; 3C: Rob Loftus, 1st, 66.06; 3G: Derek Hodder, 2nd, 64.33, Garry Bunn, 3rd, 64.78; 3H: Matt Turner, 1st, 64.38, Terry Everall, 2nd, 65.26, Bob Bellerby, 3rd, 66.50, Tony Smiley, 4th, 78.67, Stephen Everall, 5th, 79.96; 5B: Geoff Ward, 1st, 70.86, Nigel Fox, 2nd, 75.91; 6A: Philip Stader, 1st, 78.86.

British Sprint Championship / Nat A

A delighted Colin Calder won the Top 12 Run Offs, knocking three seconds off his first run to set a best of 51.17. Daughter Heather was also not hanging around and came in a fraction slower at 51.36. Nick Algar completed a good weekend with third at 53.28 whilst John Graham's misery continued with ninth (57.44). Alan Mugglestone just failed to again make the runoffs, but won his class with 61.12, as did John Loudon (60.96).

Continued

LONGTON LATEST

New Vice-Chair Finance update Autosolo investigation

Chris Winstanley has been elected as the new Vice-Chair of LDMC. Chris, known to many for his activities as timekeeper, has already done a great deal of work for the club and Chair Graham Malcolm, said he will be grateful for the help that Chris will provide in the coming years.

Doran Moore, who has been Vice-Chair for many years, stepped down from the post at the club's annual meeting in May. Graham Malcolm thanked him for his contributions, as did the committee. Doran is not disappearing, he remains on the committee and will be continuing as chief paddock marshal.

The cost of Longton's ambitious 2018 activities was revealed at the annual meeting. With Three Sisters under threat before the start of that season the club contracted to run two weekend events at Blyton and then took the last-minute decision to support the Wigan venue with three events when it was saved. With two Anglesey weekends also on offer, entries predictably suffered and the club endured a hefty financial loss, which was paid for from reserves.

The good news is that both LDMC's events so far this year have seen increasing support and covered their costs and the club is rebuilding the depleted reserves. The bonuses are that we retained sprinting at the revitalised Three Sisters circuit and have built up a strong relationship with the exciting Blyton course, as well as seeing the early Anglesey event become an established date in the calendar.

An interesting possibility for the future is that the club is investigating the idea of putting on an autosolo event. The committee felt that this popular and low-cost form of motorsport deserved support and could also attract more new entrants to the sport.

Event report

AINTREE

April 27

A round of the LDMC Northern Speed Championship

Storm Hannah swept across Aintree bringing challenging conditions for drivers and absolute misery for the heroic marshals stationed on the exposed circuit. It was the gale-force wind gusts, rather than the wet track, that caused most difficulties for competitors, especially the cross wind that caught cars at the exit of Beechers.

Surprisingly, there were no major incidents and, with a relatively small entry caused by the departure of the Caterham Academy and the hardy marshals toughing it out, Liverpool MC managed to offer four timed runs before an early finish. However, having got a timed run in before lunch, many drivers sat out the afternoon when conditions were mostly worse before a slight improvement at the end of the day's proceedings.

Continued

Running through the results, highlights for Longton drivers starts with Class SA where Gordon Peters in a Fiat 500 Sport set a best time of 64.37. In SC Sherief Megid took second with 57.27 in his Renault Clio. Martin Rowe was out in his Peugeot 106 Rallye in 1A and took victory at 58.94, with Andrew Rollason's Ford Ka taking third (68.62) followed by Peter Houghton's Morris Mini on 68.82.

Russell Thorpe and his Renault 5 Turbo took third in 1B with 56.36 whilst further down the order Stephen Norton in his MG ZR set 61.38 with Ian Trigg's Peugeot 206 putting in a best of 62.37. Mark Livesey in his Audi A4 Quattro was the sole LDMC representative in 1C, setting a time of 64.68.

The battle of Honda and Mazda sportscars saw victory go to the consistently quick Roger Fish in his S2000 with 56.63 with Stuart Mather on 64.31 and Michael Tindale's MX5 on 66.01. In the over 2000cc sports class, the turbo MX5 of Tom Bourn set 63.30 with car-sharer James Bourn on 65.50. Robbie Birrell in his sporty-looking Lotus Exige romped to victory in 1F at 54.61 followed by the Lotus 111S of Robert Holt on 62.59.

The smaller engine road kit class went to the Westfield of Martin Walker with 59.60 followed by Daniel Hollis with 60.88 in a Caterham. John Moxham was alone in 3B and plugged away at the afternoon runs to record a best of 56.81. Class 3E also managed only one competitor, David Welton in his TVR, who also persevered to put in a best of 63.26 on the final run.

Chris Griffiths won the car-engined modified kit class with an impressive 51.54 in his 2.5 litre Westfield. Second went to Mark Davenport in a Sylva with 56.72. Harry Moody won the class in the bike-engined kits with 54.03 followed by Chris Boyd on 55.75.

FTD, at 49.32, went to Stuart Bickley in his one-litre Jedi followed by Daniel Williams's 598cc version on 51.33. The Brogden father and son team were forced to go home early after young Tomos explored the scenery before either recorded a time.

The well-supported Formula Ford class went to Geoff Ward in his Swift with 56.33, followed by the Van Diemen of FF-newcomer Nigel Fox on 58.41. The FF2000 Royale of Jonathan Baines took the classic racing car class with 54.27 and Bill Campion was second in the TVR class with 61.05.

Event report

CURBOROUGH

A round of the LDMC Northern Speed Championship

April 14

Only one Longton championship contender travelled to the Midlands for the Curborough 'figure of eight' sprint run by MAC. The Mazda of Michael Tindale was up against a host of other MX5s and a smattering of Lotuses in the roadgoing sports class and put in a best of 76.59.

Continued

Event report

ANGLESEY

April 6 and 7

A round of the LDMC Northern Speed Championship and Speed Series

Longton's early season-opener at Anglesey attracted a substantial entry backed up by the British Sprint Championship contenders. Thanks to slick organisation and well-behaved competitors there were five timed runs for the National B runners on Saturday along with the Top 12 runs offs for the Nat As.

The review of Longton drivers starts with Class SD which was won by John Wadsworth at 69.83 in his Mazda MX5. In a busy Class 1B Joe Halliwell took fifth (65.11), followed by Peter Brown (65.49). Stephen Norton (69.12) was ninth followed by David Careless (69.37) and Duncan Burrow (70.15).

Martin Rowe's Honda S2000 took victory in 1D with a best of 62.04 with Anthony Brown fifth (67.11) and James French seventh (72.92). Class 1E saw MX5 sharers Thomas Bourn in first (67.60) and James Bourn second (69.62). The Lotus class, 1F, went to Robbie Birrell's Exige on 59.04 with Steve Wilson's Elise S2 third with 64.71.

In 2A, second went to Mathew Craven at 66.27 followed by his car-sharer, Christopher Craven (67.54). Darryl Bentley in the little Toyota Viz narrowly took victory in 3A with 75.36 from Debbie Cooper on 75.65. In 3C Robert Loftus took the win with 57.19 and in 3G first went to Chris Griffiths (53.88).

Terry Everall romped to victory in 53.51 in his Westfield Megablade, the second fastest time of the day in the Bs. The honour of FTD went to the smallest engined car in the field – the 598cc Jedi of Daniel Williams, who put in a best of 52.94.

The Formula Fords saw circuit-racer Phil Nelson make one of his occasional returns to sprinting in His pretty Hawke and take the win at 58.94 followed by Nigel Fox (62.26). William Champion was making a solo appearance in the TVR class and set a new record of 65.99.

British Sprint Championship/Nat A: Cumbrian Gould driver John Graham won the Top 12 Run Offs with 45.95. Nick Algar's DJ Firehawk was fourth at 46.62. John Loudon seemed to be getting on well with his new single-seater Force and won his class (51.42).

Sunday saw the action move to the International circuit and, with few hitches, there was time to offer up to six runs for 'B' competitors as well the Top 12 runs. In many cases the class results stayed the same as Saturday.

SA: John Wadsworth, 1st, 118.49; 1B: Peter Brown, 4th, 105.08, Joe Halliwell, 5th, 107.70, Stephen Norton, 6th, 112.03, David Careless, 7th, 112.82, Colin Duncalf, 115.00. 1D: Martin Rowe, 1st, 103.98, Anthony Brown, 5th, 113.22, James French, 6th, 117.41. 1E: Thomas Bourn, 1st, 110.30, James Bourn, 2nd, 112.50. 1F: Robbie Birrell, 1st, 96.78, Steve Wilson, 2nd, 104.58. 3C: Robert Loftus, 1st, 93.00. 3G: Chris Griffiths, 1st, 89.46. 3H: Terry Everall, 1st, 89.79, Tony Smiley, 2nd, 96.19. FTD and the win in 5A again went to the little Jedi of Daniel Williams at 87.29. 5B: Phil Nelson, 1st, 97.38, Nigel Fox, 2nd, 102.56; TVA: William Champion, 1st, 111.42.

British Sprint Championship/Nat A: John Graham again won the Run Offs at 76.34 with Nick Algar third (77.01) and John Loudon again won his class, with 85.5.

Continued

LONGTON NORTHERN SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

23 rounds, best 9 to count

June 8	LMC	Barbon
June 15	LDMC	Three Sisters (2 laps)
June 29	LMC	Aintree
July 13	WSCC	Blyton
July 14	WSCC	Blyton
July 20	Mid Cheshire	Scammonden
July 28	MAC	Shelsley Walsh
August 4	LDMC	Three Sisters (Course 2)
August 17	PDMC	Scammonden
August 25	BARC (Yorks)	Harewood
August 31	BARC (Midlands)	Three Sisters
September 1	LDMC	Three Sisters (2 laps)
September 7	LMC	Aintree
September 14	BARC (Yorks)	Harewood
September 15	BARC (Yorks)	Harewood
October 5	LDMC	Anglesey (National)
October 6	LDMC	Anglesey (International)

LONGTON SPEED SERIES 2019

9 rounds, best 5 to count

June 15	LDMC	Three Sisters (2 laps)
August 4	LDMC	Three Sisters (Course 2)
September 1	LDMC	Three Sisters (2 laps)
October 5	LDMC	Anglesey (National)
October 6	LDMC	Anglesey (International)

CHAMPION OF THREE SISTERS: Open to all LDMC members with a Nat B licence or above
Comprises all LDMC Three Sisters events – June 15, August 4, September 1.

