

Yorkshire Centre

As I sit here putting pen to paper, or should I say words onto screen, the sun is shining and I'm quickly reminded how lucky we've been so far this season with the weather – especially compared to recent years.

Since the last issue of Startline a number of events at Harewood Speed Hillclimb have been and gone, and now, after what seems like an age, we're just about ready to fire up those engines once again. When we last parted ways we were just about to embark on a double header here at Harewood, with the Classic and Vintage meeting and Jim Thomson Trophy next on the calendar.

Saturday 4th June paved the way towards a step back in time, with many different vehicles from 'back in the day' demonstrating their ability up the Hill. An entry list of 142 Classic and Vintage machines spent the day entertaining the crowds, and as the day concluded it was Jolyon Harrison who secured the fastest time of the day. The Harewood Championship had been put on a hold during the Classic and Vintage event, however in no time at all it was time for day two of our June event, as the cars rolled in for the Jim Thomson Trophy meeting and round three of the Harewood Championship.

Sunday 5th June welcomed an entry of 150 cars. Many of our regulars returned to do battle up the Hill, and after a good day of top action it was Peter Newton who fired his race car to the fastest time of the day.

As Round three of the Harewood Championship came to a close the title chase had tipped towards Simon Green and his KT Green Westfield, however Henry Moorhouse was right on his tail.

The 2nd-3rd July was the scene of a British Hillclimb Championship double event. Saturday was dedicated to the practice runs while Sunday saw the timed runs decide who would enhance their championship title bid. Scott Moran secured the fastest time in the Top 12 Run-Off back in May at our BARC Yorkshire Centre, and with a championship lead to support him he was eager to repeat his feat in July.

Sunday saw Moran Junior top the times in both Top 12 Run-Off sessions, with a 50.12 second time in the first session, followed by a 49.68 second time in the afternoon session. Father Roger Moran and Trevor Willis were right on his tail each time, as the championship weaves its way towards the season end.

Since July the Hill has been enjoying some silence, but with the first of the August meetings fast approaching it's about to get exciting once again. Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August are dedicated to another two meetings, with the Yorkshire Speed Hillclimb leading towards the Montague Burton venture.

An interesting array of cars including road going Mini's, Mazda's, and Mitsubishi Evo's, accompanied by Westfields, Caterhams and Karl Jackson's popular Ariel Atom will be in the midst of preparation as we speak for the Yorkshire Speed event.

As the Yorkshire Speed Hillclimb comes to a close Saturday evening all attentions will soon switch to Sunday's Montague Burton meeting, with another round of the Harewood Championship in the offing. A bumper entry list of 140 cars is currently on board, with some exciting machinery thrown into the mix. An abundance of varying Caterham machinery looks set to tackle the Hill, however with stiff competition it will be a thrilling sight to see who tops the times. Sunday also plays host to a number of classic cars, with an assortment of Austin Healeys eager to contest the Hill.

There is more action towards the end of August here at Harewood Hillclimb, with the Bank Holiday weekend playing host to the Summer Championship. After the Summer Championship there are just two more events, to decide who will walk away with the 2011 Harewood Championship crown. The championship has seen a thrilling fight this year, with Simon Green heading into rounds four and five on top, however Henry Moorhouse isn't far behind. As we head into the closing stages of the 2011 championship Moorhouse and others in hot pursuit will be keen to steal away Green's advantage, which in turn gives us an exciting ending to the season.

In other news the July British Championship meeting was a good day for the venue in other ways. Saturday 2nd July was the official opening of the brand new paddock office. The permanent office building has been well received so far, and we expect it to be a successful venture for years to come.

Well that's it for now from us here at Harewood Speed Hillclimb, but we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

May the sun always shine on you, wherever you are marshalling, racing or spectating.

Leanne Fahy



Karl Jackson in his Ariel Atom



Simon Green