



Yorkshire Centre Report

It's been an "uphill struggle" this season (pun intended). There's no doubting that the economic doom and gloom has been a major issue for event organizers in 2009. Many competitors have kept a very low profile some only venturing forth for a just single foray up the hill (myself included). Spectators too have often been as rare as the proverbial hens teeth despite concerted efforts from all in the Yorkshire Centre to encourage, cajole and at times bribe thrifty Yorkshire men and women into parting with their hard earned brass!

But that's got the doom and gloom out of the way! Yes 2009 has been hard for all concerned, but we hardy northerners thrive on adversity. Some careful planning at the start of the year meant that 2009 OMS Harewood Championship Events offered a bumper package of special attractions to offset the negativity of the climate.

THE OMS 2009 CHAMPIONSHIP

Steve Owen's OMS Race Car manufacturing business backed the Harewood Championship again after having sponsored the "hill" previously back in 2006. There is certainly a synergy between the two organisations - Steve has many customer cars competing at Harewood and being a local he's usually to be found competing at many events whilst offering "hands on" support for OMS-ers. After several years of trying David Sturdy finally took the overall Harewood Championship in his superbly prepared Polo G40 giant killer! In doing so David prevented Karl Jackson and his obscenely rapid 600bhp Evo RS achieving a hat-trick of Hill Crowns. Hillclimb school tutor Richard Spedding was the very worthy winner of the FTD Championship having taken FTD at every meeting bar one! Consistency seems to be the key to achieving in the FTD Championship. Second and third placed John Chacksfield and Richard Pope also replicated their consistent event places in the final standings.

FESTIVAL WEEKENDS

Fun and frolics on offer here for all the family. Two Weekends were organized for the 9/10th May and 6/7th June. Enthusiasts were able to enjoy their motor sport safe in the knowledge that their loved ones were amply catered for with bouncy castles, go-karts, slot car racing and a plethora of other attractions. Our sponsors were also given the opportunity to display their products and services in the Festival Exhibition Area.

MSA CHAMPIONSHIP

As ever the national boys honoured Harewood with their Championship attendance twice in the year in May and July. The main July event, spread across two days saw plenty of action and the tumbling of quite a few records. Scott Moran managed to eclipse the old record for his class while Andrew Griffith's Caterham took the Class

win for up to 1400cc modified production cars setting a new record at 57.32 seconds - almost half a second under the previous record. Other records to fall were in the lower echelons of the single seater classes where Mark Hemingway, Will Hall and Paul Haimes all took their respective class wins and new records.

HILLCLIMB DRIVING SCHOOL

Despite the depressed economy the Harewood School had quite a successful year. Most of the 5 school days were filled to capacity including a very popular Morgan Owners Club Day. A pole was held among school pupils to gain feedback as to how the course could be improved. Many favourable comments were returned including this from renowned motor sport journo and commentator Simon Taylor: "Keep it as it is - it's brilliant". Simon was coached on his day at the school by BARC Yorkshire Chairman and school tutor Tim Wilson. Following his day at the school, Simon drove his HWM Chevrolet from London up to the August Yorkshire Speed Trophy meeting, won his class, then promptly drove all the way back to London. Tim Wilson's tutoring is now in even greater demand!

Simon also related his experiences in a glowing article in the October edition of Classic and Sportscar. Nice publicity for Harewood!



BINGLEY SHOW HILLCLIMB EXHIBIT

15,000 people attend the Bingley Show (near Bradford) every year, making it the largest one day agricultural show in the country. A Harewood exhibit was set up at this year's event to encourage mums as well as dads and kids to come along and enjoy a great family day out Hillclimbing. Reigning Harewood Champion and personality Karl Jackson lent his undoubted people skills as well as his 600 BHP Evo for the day, both of which proved immensely popular especially amongst the younger male (Evo and MaxPower readers) enthusiasts. Joining the new Harewood Hillclimb Spectators Club on the day was one way of keeping in touch with all forthcoming events throughout the remainder of 2009 and all future seasons. Over 120 people signed up to the new venture on the day which helped the team reach one of their PR objectives the other being to publicise the remaining 2009 events and the Driving School. All

in all the day proved to be immensely successful and similar promotional forays are planned by the Marketing Team for the 2010 season.

OUR HAPPY BAND OF BROTHERS – THE MARSHALS

It has been a good year for marshalling although the weather was a little trying at times. There were good turn outs at all meetings by our regulars supplemented by quite a few enthusiastic newcomers. This being the awards season Mike Evans collected the Tim de Doble trophy for his excellent first year as a Post Chief, Martin Drury was awarded the Ronald Hudson Trophy for his work in the paddock supporting the Chief Paddock marshal John Hawthorne who in turn won the annual marshals draw for a place at the Driving School. We noted the absence of our Chief Start Marshal at the September Finals Meeting but as he was on his honeymoon with his new bride Melanie we forgave him this time!

Mike Patckett and Chris Brook two of our established Post Chiefs have been jointly awarded the Philpot Trophy in recognition of obtaining their Clerk of the Course licenses.



THE HAREWOOD WEBSITE

Our brand new website was launched in the second half of the year. Marketing team member Chris Brook's company Integrated Results have created a superb site for the Yorkshire Centre. There are areas dedicated to competitors, spectators, marshals and all concerned in hill climbing at Harewood. The new year should also bring to fruition a state of the art "on line" entries system which will make life so much easier for entrants as well as our entries sec. Jackie Wilson!

So that's about it really. The 2009 season is over and there's only the Awards Dinner to go on 5th December and then we're into 2010.

Despite the ups and downs of 2009 we all had a great time doing what we enjoy "uphill". I hope all other centres had a season as good as ours and may 2010 be even better!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New year to all.

Richard Vaughan

With special thanks to Mike Shorley for his Marshals report.