

May Open Meeting

James Kerr

A bright and breezy morning dawned at Stockton Farm, a little cooler than most expected but dry nonetheless.

A 125+ entry were gathered for this the 2nd meeting of the 2012 season. It was also the 2nd round of both our Overall and FTD championships to be contested by those registered competitors in the regular Harewood classes. Classes which were today bolstered by members from both the Longton and District MC and the Westfield Sports Car Club for who the event was also a round their respective championships.

After a mornings practice which passed without major incident and sustenance from our new (and really rather good) catering facilities there was the briefest shower of rain, however by the time the first batch were called to the hill it was drying to nothing.

Those first away were the members of the Pirelli Ferrari Hillclimb Championship, an extremely civilised affair for Gentleman (and Lady) racers who must keep their cars as standard and drive them to and from events. The scoring within this championship is marque based handicapping and even though John Marshall had the good grace to explain it to me I think I would still need to refer to their regs to fully get to grips with it, however being simple Yorkshire folk we merely provide them with the scratch results and they get the slide rules out. So, on scratch, kudos goes to Richard Prior for the win in his 355, from Keith Andersons 360 and Andrew Holman in another 355.

It was standing room only in 1b with 20 entries in what always proves to be a very well supported class, lots of new Japanese sportscars in attendance, some cleaner than others (Martin!) and the beginnings of what could be a class within a class – S2000s. At the sharp end the Honda Integras of Hollis and Blakeston were just 0.01 apart with David claiming the bottom step of the podium, Mike Geen took second spot in the Karl Jackson scaring Integra whilst Harewoods resident lanky curmudgeon took the win and the class record.

Paul Anderson took another class 1c win in his Evo from Peter Sherratt in his pristine 944S2.

The hard charging Henry Moorhouse slid his Westfield to the top step in the up to 1700cc kit car class; Michael Bellerby gave chase in the Striker.

With young master Green not present (seemingly taking a partial sabbatical this season) the over 1700cc kit cars looked to be wide open, I'll bet the regulars of the last few seasons were rubbing their hands together until they saw a certain Mr Hoyle back in the paddock, those unaware of his talents were soon in no doubt as he was on the pace from the word go and took the class by well over a second from WSCC runner Richard Kerr with the ever improving Richard Paterson in 3rd.

Barber to the stars "Bernie" Bosworth proved she was a cut above the rest by lowering the "Lotus Aluminiums" class record on consecutive runs on her way to the win, Ben Lovell had to settle for 2nd place on this occasion after his victory in the previous round whilst Chris Brooks lowered his PB and is definitely knocking on the door with a solid 3rd place.

Meanwhile our current Overall Champion Mr Darley maintains he is still shaking his 3c car down, but to the casual observer he certainly looks as committed as ever and the car appears even stronger than before, back to back titles for the Banana Man? – I wouldn't bet against it.

The up to 1700cc Mod Kit class was heavily subscribed by the WSCC and two of their number occupied the lower steps of the podium, leaving the top spot for Longton runner Robert Bailey. Meanwhile a (very) long journey south paid off for the Mutch/Jolly combo in their impressive Dax, Mike Jolly finished 3rd on 59.19

whilst Les Much took the win and broke the record by 0.05, the adrenalin was hopefully enough to see them both home safely!

We were missing some of the usual suspects from Sports Libre which meant only free (geddit?) competitors across both the big and little classes took to the hill, a good close fight in the under two litre fell to Les P, pursued by John Mackenzie - getting in some cheeky practice for the Sunday National round.

The other really popular class for the day was the up to 1100cc racing cars with 18 drivers in total, proof that a shared car can be a quick car as Richard Vaughan lowered his PB and took 3rd with 57.68 (son Matt seems to be quickly getting the hang of things too in 6th), Fergus Duncan finished 2nd although a little way shy of the dominant class winner and Harewood regular Graham Smith.

Constructor Husband and Wife combo "the Owens" took the top spots in the up to 1600cc class and Steves 52.83 was good enough for 2nd FTD.

Not content with getting to grips with the exceedingly rapid supercharged DJ Firehawk, Alex "sweet tooth" Summers seems to be constantly in need of a sugar rush, our correspondent counted no less than 10 Smarties stuck to the young lads dashboard (I blame the parents!). Morgan Jenkins needed no such distractions as he took the class win and 3rd FTD with 53.75.

Four over 2ltr runners rounded out the programme with Oliver Tomlin taking the class and FTD win with a 52.31 that would hopefully give him some momentum for the British Hillclimb Championship round the following day.

I'm pretty sure that Mr Herbert will be along with some words on that event soon, in the meantime I look forward to seeing you all soon.