

HAREWOOD SPEED HILLCLIMB DRIVING SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM

Peter Herbert

Twenty four plucky students arrived at Stockton Farm on Thursday 12 July to undergo instruction from Simon Clark, Richard Spedding, Mike Geen, James Kerr and Peter Herbert.

Chairman Clark, now holder of this illustrious office within the BARC national committee, has retired from sitting in the scary seat of school pupils' weapons of choice, so it fell to his four henchmen to perform this dubious yet important role.

Participants' cars ranged from the usual Caterham types to Max Barraclough's 1925 3 litre Bentley, a magnificent machine that has been in the Barraclough family for 40 years.

After a brief class room session in the Harewood barn, the course walk took place, followed by the first instructor accompanied runs.

A 2 litre Ford Duratec motor in a kit car weighing under 500 kg is a predictably lively prospect, an experience not lost on a petrified Peter Herbert. What Brice Bozier had failed to mention was the supercharger beneath the bonnet of his brother Oss' GTS Panther, so when it chimed in up Quarry Straight, releasing 300 bhp to the rear wheels, Mr Herbert could only close his eyes and pray.

This tail of a power the weight ratio ride of 600 bhp per ton much amused young Spedding until Jon Ward had a big moment at Willow, and almost caused a Caterham Recticil interface with Richard on board.

Otherwise everyone was generally well behaved, with Harewood regulars Michael Bellerby – Sylva Striker, and Vic Lord – Lotus Elise seeking guidance as to how to better their monthly rivals; Paul Weston – Porsche Boxster thoroughly enjoying his first venture onto a track, given to him as a birthday present; former competitor Peter Neal – VW Golf R32 seriously contemplating a return: and Midland hot shoe Simon Jenks – Caterham RSR limbering up for a forthcoming Harewood meeting.

Amazingly, in a lull within what seems one of the wettest Julys on record, the school was blessed with a perfect day, and plenty of runs and fun were had by all.

The experience is now enhanced by in - car cameras provided, in addition to the usual video of proceedings, by Ian Maddison. Among those to take up this offer was Chairman Clark who, in an Isadora Duncan moment, wafted up the hill in his open Jaguar XK with cameras strapped to the bodywork.

Driver of the day was Brian Hobbs – TVR Chimera, followed by Simon Jenks and fellow Caterham pilote Richard Palmer.

Do join us at the next school. You won't be disappointed.