

Harewood Open Meeting —by John Moxham

As we trundled west to east – passing through a huge deluge in Preston – I thought “please let it be dry by play time” - AND it was! Very, very windy and “fresh” but dry – just.

The tempting starter on today's menu was 16 mouth-watering Ferraris. No matter what your allegiance is, to see them in the Paddock at the top of the Hill always looks good. The first three finished within a second of each other with the 348GTC of Nick Taylor taking the honours in 66.22.

22 Road-going saloons filled class 1B with Mark Teale's Peugeot 206GTI and Richard Vale's Polo G40 battling all day long. Mark eventually got the honours with a 67.10 – less than 2/10ths shy of the class record. Harewood instructor and general mentor James Kerr stayed closely in touch for 3rd place with a 67.88.

It was left to the two road-modified kit classes to provide the hardy crowd with two class records. In class 2A Henry Moorhouse took a further 0.32 off his April record to claim victory from the Striker of Michael Bellerby.

2B gave us the second record, this time from Simon Green in the KT Green sponsored Duratec Westfield although he was chased all day by the Ariel Atom of Karl Jackson - both drivers dispatching the visiting Westfields with ease. The change in tyre regulations last year for these two classes really suits the committed driving style of these two winners – both definite 2011 championship contenders.

John Graham took a day off from “the dark side” - that's slicks, wings, Dallara and sprinting – to dominate his class in his 2 Eleven although chased hard this time by Lytham St. Annes driver David Ormerod Jnr. and Sarah “the crimper” Bosworth a very close third despite her practice off at Chippies.

In the bigger mod-prod class the Scooby of Steve Darley came within 0.13 seconds of Simon Bainbridge's 7 year old record - expected to fall later in the season!

Classes 3F and 3G were the domain of the Westfield championship contenders. Mark Anson was never headed in his orange Megablade in the smaller class, whilst Terry Everall and Chris Hulatt battled for the over 1700 class honours with the ebullient Mr. Everall the victor.

Amongst the open-wheelers no records were broken but not surprisingly FTD came from this group. Jonathan Goodyear's DJ Firehawk taking the overall award some 2 seconds ahead of Mark Coley's 2.5litre Cosworth V6 Gould GR55 – both drivers running in preparation for Sunday's British Championship visit.

A few timing issues, a fair share of lengthy delays with “offs” but still 3 timed runs – and it stayed dry – just!! All in all a pretty good play time!!!!