

Castrol/BARC hillclimb

Lane takes championship

ROY LANE is Castrol/BARC FTD Champion. With a superb display of driving in the 5-litre McRae GM1 he achieved a best time of 44.44s to win the championship by just one point from Chris Cramer in the 2-litre Grunhülle Lager March 74B, who, on both "top five" runs was only 0.09s behind him. Fastest time of the day, however, went to Mike MacDowel in his Brabham BT36X who recorded 41.14s during the dry class runs at Harewood on September 29.

As usual the Yorkshire Centre of BARC was its efficient self, running through the class runs and making full use of the new access track to the start to keep cars on the move and the spectators happy. The saddest part of the whole day was the fact, announced by Mike Dixon, that Castrol, after no less than six years were withdrawing their sponsorship of the BARC series of hill-climbs and concentrating instead on "Team Castrol". Their continued support over the past six years is, however, very much appreciated by all those connected with hill-climbing.

Runner up in this year's championship is Mike Flather in his 998 cc supercharged Aldon Mini Cooper, and he dominated the small Touring Cars class with times

of 49.99s and 49.16s, being well ahead of second place man Terence Tattam in his Cooper with a time of 51.67s.

The middle Touring Cars class saw a fairly predictable win for Nicky Porter who managed a time of 49.12s in his Cooper S and fourth place in the championship. Some way behind in the class was Alun Morgan who climbed the hill in 54.21s just to defeat Howard White by 0.11s – both drivers being in 1328 cc Cooper S cars. An interesting point here is that Nicky Porter has been competing in the same car for no less than 10 years and has consistently been amongst the leaders.

The Team Super Visco Escort RS1600 of Peter Ormerod led the Touring Cars over 1500 cc class

from start to finish, eventually recording a time of 49.33s to finish 1.88s ahead of Allan Forrest in his Escort RS2000. On his second run Forrest displaced Stuart Browne to third place, Browne improving by only 0.70s to finish just 0.11s behind.

Very happy with his eighth place in the championship was Alan Cox, who celebrated by taking the John Brown Motors 1.0 Cooper S to victory in the Special Saloon Cars 1-litre class. His time of 48.78s was just over a second ahead of Patrick Watts in the Watts Furnishers Cooper, these two being split by a Chrysler intruder in the shape of the very rapid Imp of Peter Riley who recorded 49.65s for second place in the class.

Vauxhalls ruled the big Special Saloons class with Mike Newman in his Viva GT coming out on top with a time of 47.51s, just 0.51s ahead of the Guyson Firenza of big Jim Thomson who recorded 48.02s – Jim also finishing in sixth place in the championship. The very hairy and fearsome Ford Capri/Rover V8 of Wayne Wainwright opposite-locked its way up to take third place in the class with a time of 49.06s.

Championship Run-Off

Cars for the Castrol/BARC Top Ten Run-Off were all assembled at

the start when a gigantic clap of thunder announced a sudden torrential rain storm, which finished as suddenly as it started leaving behind a somewhat damp track.

Obviously in these conditions no-one improved although all enjoyed themselves at this, the last round of the season, by happily opposite-locking and sliding their ways up the hill. Only Nicky Porter in his Cooper S managed to beat the bogey time in his class.

However, the Top Five Run-Off was yet to come with the battle between Lane and Cramer on for the last time this season. First to run was Tony Bancroft in the McLaren M10B. A smooth and steady run in 52.91s ended in a half-spin after the finish, Bancroft reversing back into the paddock! A very quick looking run by Richard Shardlow in the Chevron B25 gave him a time of 50.71s. Roy Lane looked very quick up the straight after twitching his way through the farmyard, ending up with a time of 45.30s. Chris Cramer made a gentle start feeding the power of the Grunhülle Lager March on to the track, before shooting up the hill in 45.39s – so close to Lane and certainly within striking distance. Mike MacDowel in his Brabham had run earlier as he changed tyres down at the start rather than risk excessive dust staying on the tyres after the trip down the new access

road, and his time was 45.65s giving him third place in the run-off to date.

The second runs saw Tony Bancroft making a substantial improvement to 46.61s giving him fourth place, whilst Richard Shardlow made another tidy run to record 49.49s. Roy Lane made what looked to be a slow start, but then really put the power down to rocket up the hill in 44.44s. Chris Cramer also made a good start in the damp conditions and was really trying hard in the nimble little March, but once again finished 0.09s behind Lane, and really that was the climax of the meeting, as Roy Lane was FTD Champion. Last to run was Mike MacDowel who retained third place with a time of 44.91s.

So it was a very happy Roy Lane who stepped forward to take his trophy, with Chris Cramer finishing in second position. A further class down, but in third place was David Franklin whose Huntsman Ensign was very close to the other two in rounds of the championship.

The rain had not spoiled things too much, and the prize-giving at which all the Castrol awards were presented by Mrs. Paddy Dixon ended an excellent day's motor sport, competitors happily clutching their ready-engraved awards – well done to J. Hemsworth (Jewellers) of Leeds –

and ready to do battle again next year.

R.J.W.

FTD: M. MacDowel (Brabham BT36X), 41.14s.

Top Five Run-Off: 1, R. Lane (5.0 McRae GM1 Chevrolet), 44.44s; 2, C. Cramer (2.0 Grunhülle Lager March 74B Hart), 44.53s; 3, M. MacDowel (5.0 Brabham BT36X Repco), 44.91s; 4, T. Bancroft (5.8 Compton Edwards McLaren M10B Chevrolet), 46.61s; 5, R. Shardlow (2.0 Chevron B25 Smith BDE), 49.49s.

Class winners: M. Flather (Aldon Mini Cooper), 49.16s; N. Porter (Cooper S), 49.12s; P. Ormerod (Ford Escort RS1600), 49.33s; A. Cox (Cooper S), 48.78s; M. Newman (Vauxhall Viva GT), 47.51s; D. Clewley (MGTC), 54.07s; M. Gleave (Austin Healey Sprite), 49.91s; G. Brooker (Lotus Elan), 48.77s; M. Trewhitt (MGC), 50.85s; R. Speak (Austin Healey Sprite), 47.81s; P. Wilson (Lotus Elan), 48.24s; B. Prest (Mallock U2 Mk11B), 46.08s; J. Barratt (Theta 002), 45.66s; M. Griffiths (Mallock U2 Mk8B), 45.30s; P. Scragg (Chevron B19 BMW), 44.82s; P. Voigt (Voigt Renwick Special), 47.41s; A. Richards (Gryphon 3AR), 44.69s; R. Jones (Surtees TS10), 42.72s; M. MacDowel (Brabham BT36X), 41.14s; G. Beever (Ford Escort RS), 50.72s.

Castrol/BARC FTD Championship: 1, R. Lane (McRae), 33; 2, C. Cramer (March), 32; 3, D. Franklin (Ensign), 25; 4, A. Allister Douglas-Osborn (Brabham), 18; 5, M. MacDowel (Brabham), 13; 6, T. Bancroft (McLaren), 12; 7, M. Dungworth (Brabham), 10; 8, N. Pow (Brabham), 8; 9, D. Morris (Ensign), 4; equal 10, T. Griffiths (Brabham) and Ken MacMaster (GRD), 3.

Castrol/BARC Hill-Climb Championship: 1, P. Voigt (Voigt Renwick Special), 70.00; 2, M. Flather (Mini), 66.45; 3, D. Franklin (Ensign), 61.31; 4, N. Porter (Mini), 59.60; 5, R. Ward (Sprite), 58.47; 6, J. Thomson (Vauxhall), 56.28; 7, J. Barratt (Theta), 55.43; 8, A. Cox (Mini), 54.40; 9, T. Sims (Terrapin), 54.00; 10, R. Lane (McRae), 50.81.

Ladies Award: D. MacMaster (Clan).