

# SPORTING SCENE

HILLCLIMB:

24-4-80

## Griffiths the star

MARTYN GRIFFITHS was the star of the Guyson BARC championship hill climb held at Harewood on Sunday 13 April. Griffiths in the new Pilbeam MP40G used all the 2500cc of his Hart engine to shatter the course record, with a superb run timed at 37.79s.

Martyn was not the only record breaker as Ken Knott (Imp), Nick Bridge (Clubmans Mallock) and David Garnett (Pilbeam MP43) all shattered their respective class records. The weather was fine and warm and attracted a good sized crowd for this season opener. Over the winter much work has been carried out on the track, resurfacing and widening being evident on several corners, thus aiding the record breaking pace.

The meeting started as ever with Class 1, and gave Bobby Fryers a not unexpected win in his Cooper S. John Casey scored yet another class win in his familiar B28cc Cooper S, whilst championship leader George Swinbourne in his Ford Escort scored a comfortable win from the Sunbeam Lotus of Ian Crammond. In the up to 1000cc Special Saloon class one of Charles Barber's old records took a tumble when Ken Knott took his lap up the hill in a time of 43.13s, which he reduced to 44.79s in the Top Ten Run Off.

Tony Baines in his 1298cc Mini-Ford made life difficult for himself with some very sideways motoring to win his class with a time of 45.09s, from the 1275 Mini of Geoff Sykes. The unlimited capacity special saloon class should have seen a three cornered battle between James Thomson (Chevette), Tony Drummond (Escort) and Jim Thomson (Firenza). This failed to

materialise, however, as James Thomson put in two smooth runs recording a best of 43.39s, comfortably ahead of his father on 45.36s, with Drummond a subdued third on 45.54s.

Des Richardson (Midget) usually a certain class winner, suffered another defeat, finishing fourth behind John Gormall (Midget) on 48.99s, David Gormall (Midget) 50.10s and the Mini Jen of Alex Graham on 50.31s. Deryck Wright took another Marque Sports Car victory whilst restaurateur Phil Prince took the larger class. The winning ways of the ex-Barter Davrian continued when John Foran steered it to a very comfortable win, whilst Tony Bancroft (Porsche Carrera RS) took the over 1300cc category with Josh Sadler trailing, three seconds in arrears, in his Porsche 914.

The current Longton champion, Nick Bridge, (this meeting also being a round of the Longton championship) shattered the class record in his Clubmans Mallock with a fine run of 41.58s, which he later improved to 41.53s in the Top Ten Run Off. David Kennedy took a clear win in his Mallock in the up to 1300cc sports racing car class whilst in the bigger sports car category David Garnett completely overwhelmed the opposition with a record breaking time of 40.72s in the new Pilbeam MP43. This was good enough to qualify David for the Top 8 Run Off.

Richard Hargreaves took the minuscule Moton 7 to a win, whilst Keith Gowers took the up to 1100cc racing car class in the Monopin. The up to 1600cc category saw a fine battle between the March of Martin Bolsover and



the Huron of Alan Newton. In the class runs Newton won with a time of 40.72s but an indication of what to expect in the future was that Bolsover improved to time of 40.47s in the Top Ten Run Off. In the larger racing car class Martyn Griffiths was quickest with Malcolm Dangworth (very much on form) Roy Lane and Alister Douglas Osborn following.

The climax of any Guyson championship event is of course the Top 8 run off, which was led away by David Garnett who, with a fine time for a sports car, of 39.74s, came seventh. Jim Campbell (Modus) just couldn't beat the 40 second barrier and with a time of 40.30s the Scottish hill climb champion was left in eighth place. Norrie Galbraith is improving commendably in single seaters and posted a time of 39.52s, which netted him fifth place in his March 782 BMW.

Ted Williams took his Hesketh

308E up the hill consistently to earn sixth place. Malcolm Dangworth in his Pilbeam MP22 seems to be improving and did well to manage a time of 38.42s, whilst Waring and Gillow team leader Alister Douglas-Osborn put in a fabulous first run of 38.41s. Unfortunately AD-O couldn't improve on this, thus allowing Roy Lane in the March 795 to forge ahead with a time of 38.14s.

The climax came, however, on the last run of the day when Martyn Griffiths came to the line. Having spoiled his first run with a spin, Martyn had everything to do this time. After a good start Griffiths stormed up the hill and to everyone's astonishment posted a time of 37.79s. This was good enough to claim a new hill record, FTD and 8 points in the Guyson FTD Award series. A great end to a good day's hill climbing.

R.B.



HART of the matter: 2.5-litre equals winning success for Martyn Griffiths