

Anglesey 23rd – 24th July

Report by Michele Bailey

Pre Race report

Team Bailey arrived in the paddock at Ty Croes just after 5pm on Friday evening to find it packed. It looked like all Morgan entrants had made the effort to test on Friday. The late arrivals comprised three SpeedMog competitors (me, Clive Glass and Paul Clarke) who felt that having been there just a month ago we could afford to miss testing? Fortunately the last bit of hard standing had been reserved for us.

We were looking forward to our first Morgan Challenge Curry Competition (on tour). Unfortunately my Keema Mattar was still firmly frozen. Jerry and Sharlie somehow managed to defrost the lot, and heat it in time for the judging. I had hopes of not coming last, which were perhaps misplaced as the curries I tried were delicious. The 'elected' judges were Roger, Tracy Gateson and Jeannette Thomas, and they took their responsibilities very seriously. Russell tried to beat the rush as he was 'starving', but was firmly sent away until judging had finished. Results were Highly Commended Alex Green, and winner Jerry Knight. Jerry received a kiss from each of the judges (including Roger) and a dubious looking trophy which included a dead frog.

Quote of the evening was from John Bevan who when discussing wine with Phil Goddard was heard to say 'my wine merchant tells me'.

After a splendid feast and a couple of bevies, Andy Green offered a walk of the circuit to those of us who hadn't tested, and any others who were interested. Thank you Andy. It gave us the opportunity to ask lots of questions of him, and to admire the spectacular location.

Race 1 Report

Saturday morning dawned sunny and warm; we know from experience that is not always the case on Anglesey in summer. Shorts were the choice of leg wear for the day for all of us. We assembled in the assembly area in good time. Sharlie confessed that she was very nervous, which made me feel better as I was too; it didn't stop me from wondering what I was doing there? Perhaps I should have let Chris do these races? As soon I was out on circuit I forgot all about letting him do so!

Qualifying went remarkably quickly. The safety car was out for a couple of laps but I couldn't see why. Paul Clarke had an off at the corkscrew and was out. Everyone else made the start for our first race. Special mention to Simon Scott who managed 15th on the grid despite an unfortunate incident before qualifying, and also to Leigh, who appeared to have decided he didn't want to be part of The Back of the Grid Club for this round of the championship.

Pole went to Keith, followed by Russell and Phil Goddard. Back of the grid club comprised me, John Bevan, the Sumner Brothers and Sarge.

I tried to sneak past John off the start, with my best SpeedMog start, but he was having none of it. Fortunately he didn't push me off the circuit and into the sea, as he had threatened to do. I managed to hang onto his tail, as he was pursuing Ian for the few laps before Keith caught us. I saw Clive disappear into the pit lane at the end of the first lap, with the rear bumper hanging off. He managed to get back on the circuit as he passed me at some point, however the results show that I beat him!!

I was told after we had finished that it was a very exciting race. The winners were: Keith (race and Class A); Elliot (B); Tim Ayres (C); Simon S (R); Henry (D); and Ian (E), with driver of the race awarded to Phil Goddard.

Apres Race 1 Report

Once again John Bevan provided the quote of the evening when telling me that the high quality wine section of Tesco in Holyhead provided wine of up to £7.99, and was not up to the standard provided by his wine merchant. However he was seen to be imbibing a glass or two of something which was up to standard. I tried to encourage him to drink much much more.

The paddock BBQ was most enjoyable, with the BBQs providing some much needed warmth in the strengthening breeze. Thank you to the BBQ chefs for keeping us all fed; I was interested to see that all the chefs were male.

Race 2 Report

Sunday morning dawned with 'normal' Anglesey weather; wet and windy. It was sufficiently cold for me to put on race underwear in an attempt to keep warm.

The grid for race 2 looked interesting at the back, with Clive, Kathy and Kelvin all starting behind me. John Millbank was out with an engine problem, Henry head decided to head home as wife and child were both ill. Leigh also decided to head home, having had a brilliant performance in race 1, and therefore nothing to prove. Pole again went to Keith followed by Phil G and Russell.

My SpeedMog start was better for race 2, as I managed to sneak past John. It goes without saying that Clive, Kathy and Kelvin shot past me as we headed up the hill to the first corner. All I could see was a red car in my mirrors, that I was determined to stay ahead of. This was a position I was unused to, so I spent more time looking out for John than I did later for the faster cars. Any red car with lights on was John Bevan until I could identify them, so I am sorry if I caused any issues with any of you red car drivers (except for John of course!). I know I did prevent Clive from overtaking me for a very short time, and I apologised to him for that; although he was trying to overtake on the inside going down the corkscrew so only slightly insane.

Ian had an issue on the way up to Rocket fairly early on, and after passing him, I was trying to watch out for him too. I don't know how you racers at the front manage it all. I realised I could see the rest of you streaming down the far (sea) side of the circuit as I was heading to the corkscrew, and what a glorious sight it was.

The chequered flag couldn't come soon enough for me, and I was delighted as I finished.

Keith won again, with Russell 2nd and Elliot 3rd. Class wins went to Keith, Elliot (B), Tim Ayres (C), Simon S (R), and James (D).

I like Ty Croes as a circuit, so thought I would enjoy it, but the whole weekend was thoroughly enjoyable and great fun; thank you everyone (particularly Mr Bevan with his pantomime villain laugh) for making it so.

Michele Bailey