

Morgan Aero Challenge at Castle Combe 2nd May

as not Witnessed by Bob Bull.

A lack of a firsthand report on Mary's excellent site of doings in the West Country leads me to venture into the unknown, and write a report using three vital ingredients.

- 1) A set of results
- 2) A fine pictorial record as provided by the estimable Peter Olley
- 3) A vivid imagination.

No liability will be accepted for this interpretation of whatever happened in actuality.

Race 1

Inevitably pole position was annexed by Keith Ahlers, and while he undoubtedly did not need it he was aided by being the sole Class 'A' car present. Lining up next was a trio of Class 'B' contenders, so once proceeding got underway it was all, apparently, somewhat less than exciting at the front.

Mr Ahlers duly came home a country mile ahead of the rest, while Andrew Thompson, Tony Hirst, Elliot Patterson and Phil Thomas followed along behind, however, Henry Williams in his rapid 4/4 managed to almost upstage Phil finishing just over a second further back, also winning Class 'D' in the process.

Tim Parsons lead home Kelvin Laidlaw and Simon Scott for Roadster honours, and Andrew Bentley once again worked miracles in his Class 'D' car of 1956 vintage. Tim Ayres, as is becoming a habit took Class 'C' with only Steve McDonald for company.

Peter's wonderful images suggest that the sun shone throughout, although there damp patches on display.

As forecast rain swept in from the West to dampen spirits and track for the second Morgan race, this did not stop Keith from repeating his early win, however, by a mere 1.362 seconds from the irrepressible Andrew Bentley. What mastery of the tricky conditions this feat must have been considering the discrepancy in litres, horsepower, and experience. Why even that noted wizard in the wet, Elliot Patterson was upstaged to the tune of almost 15 seconds in third, with Tony Hirst some 30 seconds in arrears. Fifth was Henry Williams, leading what looks to have been the 'dice of the day'. Tim Parsons, Phil Thomas, Kelvin Laidlaw, and Tim Ayres coming along next covered by a shade over two seconds. Andrew Thompson and John Bevan made only one lap before retiring, and one wonders exactly what lies behind the this bald fact.

From Peter's magnificent images it is obvious that all concerned did a good job in difficult circumstances well apart from the aforesaid retirees, perhaps?

Maybe due to the somewhat obscure region of the UK that is home to Castle Combe the entry was somewhat sparse with only 19 cars on the grid, lack of enthusiasm? Or just plain laziness, who knows, as I plan to make the arduous and perilous journey to Donington for the next outing of the Aero Challenge I sincerely hope that more people make the effort to turn up.

I now sit back and await the writs to flow in.