

Bentley Drivers Club Silverstone 6th August - Morgan Challenge and TT race.

An alternative view from John Bevan

At a bright and dry Silverstone, there was a large grid of Morgans for the Challenge race, with 34 cars entered, a larger entry than the Bentleys present! Morgans were also racing in the TT Race, the Allcomers Scratch race and the Allcomers Handicap.

Having elected to watch the Morgan Challenge race and participate in the TT and scratch race it was very interesting to see the qualifying- with six Class A cars present, Olly Bryant put his car on pole, with Keith Ahlers, William Plant and Russell Paterson taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively.

Tony Hirst put in a cracking time to take the first Class B place, with Elliott Paterson two places behind on the grid. Tim Parson had put his Supersport first in Class R, with Steve McDonald in his Class C Plus 8 just behind him.

The race itself was very exciting- Keith managed to get ahead of Olly, and there was a tussle for first place, with Olly being victorious, Keith then has a tremendous fight with Will for second place, with Keith finishing just half a second ahead and deservedly winning driver of the day. Elliot drove a superb race to take class B honours, with Tony Hirst and Andrew Thompson continuing their battle, Andrew finished ahead of Tony by 0.211 of a second!

Steve McDonald took first place in Class C, with Tim Ayres constantly snapping at his heels. Phil Tisdall was also in the mix until an electrical issue caused him to retire. Henry Williams in his rapid Class D 4/4 was just behind, with a fired up Simon Scott in his Roadster Lightweight just behind.

With such a large grid, it was very encouraging to see such high driving standards, with the faster cars giving the D and E cars room, and no contact. Well done all!

In Class R we had a new driver to the Challenge, Richard Fohl, who had flown in from the States to drive the ex-Peter Rafter Roadster Lightweight. In addition it was Kelvin Laidlaw's first race in his newly re-built Class I Moss Box Plus 8- a beautifully turned out car, and driven to the circuit as it should be! It also allowed Kelvin to race against Alex, with Kelvin emerging victorious.

The Techniques Trophy

The TT race qualifying was short and exciting- with eleven four cylinder Morgans out and Jonny Shears in his MG Midget, plus assorted ACs and MGs. After four laps, the oil filter came off Jonny's car, causing him to spin at Luffield and depositing oil across the circuit, making for some interesting moments as cars arrived at high

speed to find there was no grip for either braking or turning! With the track in such a condition the qualifying was red flagged.

Henry Williams was on pole with a cracking 1.12.201 with James Sumner just behind in the Yellow Peril on 1.13.86.

The race was, as always, tremendous fun, with Henry sailing off into a commanding lead and James Sumner giving chase for a well-deserved second place. At the other end of the grid I had a great battle with the Baileys, and Brian Gateson until my tyres went off and they all nipped past. Leigh Sebba in his lovely red +4 looked on from behind and as always drove well and emerged with a grin. Jonny Shears had managed to reattach the oil filter with Dad Mark's help and drove well in the tiny and rapid Midget.

Thank you to Brian and Tracy for sponsoring the race and providing the food and drinks, we really do appreciate it and I am looking forward to next year already.