

Morgan Challenge final round Snetterton 1st October

The Plain Truth Concerning Events at Snetterton October 1st. 2016

As observed by celebrity broadcaster and journalist, R F. Bull

At last I can lay down my metaphorical pen, return the Canon to it's camera bag and breathe a sigh of relief, as the final round of the Aero Challenge has run it's course.

Despite the gloomy prognostications of the BBC Weather people, I once again checked tyres, oil level, washers, and bag of sweets in preparation for the long and arduous journey to the wilds of Norfolk, to that be-knighted, and bleak race circuit, Snetterton. However, unsurprisingly the Beeb had mislead us again, for a slightly misty morn soon became a sun dappled, bright AM, suitable for watching the contestants in the Morgan Aero Challenge set out for their final fling of the year.

Qualifying produced little to surprise with the estimable Keith Ahlers annexing pole position for the race with the elder Paterson alongside him. No surprise either to see Champion elect, Paterson Junior next up on row two while Andrew Thompson sat beside him, followed by Tony Hirst, Jeremy Knight, House jnr., Mr Bumble, and our 'enry Williams well up in his mere Class 'D' 4/4. Then came the rest of the motley crew of Morganista.

The Race.

Little need to report that come the 'lights out' K. Ahlers dashed off on his own flatly refusing to play with the lesser lights who were lead by Russell The Elder ahead of a fast starting Andrew Thompson, Elliott Paterson, Jerry Knight, and Stuart Anderson. The rest of multi-coloured field followed behind, some running on their own and others squabbling over position, all with class honours in mind. So just another processional round in store BUT!

Where was the enfant terrible Elliott.P? An unforced error (As they like to say in Eff Wun) at the hairpin had resulted in our hero dropping to the back of the field when he locked his brakes into the corner. The resultant drive through the pack was glorious to watch, as our young hero battled his way up to fifth position by the time the chess board came out, and setting a lap time that was bettered only by the three Class 'A' runners at the head of the field.

Andrew T took the Class 'B' spoils ahead of Elliott P and Stuart 'Bumble' Anderson. Tim Parsons lead the Roadsters home in eighth spot, while Steve McDonald claimed Class 'C', comfortably ahead of Philip St. Clair Tisdall (to give him his proper monicker), and Tim Ayres who only just managed to stave off the Class 'D' winner, Henry Williams. Brett Syndercombe finished second in 'D' with Jack Bellinger bagging the final podium place. Craig H-S had renewed his rivalry with Phill Thomas for 'Barbie' honours, but was another to disappear from the charts for a while, and eventually ended up in 15th place, a gnats whisker in front of Peter Cole's silver and yellow machine who thus became the second Roadster home.

Tony Hirst was one of the drivers who preferred his own company most of the time but eventually was less than a second behind the garish machine of Stuart Anderson. Dominic House seemed to be constantly in a major scrap with various rivals, barely making it home ahead of the feisty McDonald chap after an entertaining drive. Good fun for the spectators.

Clive Glass, Barry Sumner, Paul Bryant, Leigh Sebba, and Peter Rafter brought up the rear guard, while Greg Parnell acted as 'Lanterne Rouge' (a Tour de France expression for the last man). It should be pointed out that following brake problems with his Aero Coupe in qually (don't you just hate that term?) he borrowed a +4 SS and drove with great circumspection, clearly concerned about his no-claims- bonus .

And so to bed!

The threatened rain did not fall, and the sun shone making the work of the dedicated reporter/photographer a pleasure, and with the provision of a buffet lunch to follow the usual plethora of prizes, charmingly presented by the lovely Katy Thompson ... well what more could one ask for? Well good company, and good friends of course, but that is standard for the Aero Challenge.

Oh! Besides the aforementioned drivers etc. There were many other luminaries of the Challenge World on hand to add cheer to the day, so thanks to Mark Evans for being such a decent chap, Alan House for making even me look smart, Keith Morris for making even me look slim. Thanks also to the Techniques mob headed by James, while the lovely ladies who grace every venue with their presence, are such a delight to have clamouring for my attention, that I am missing them already.

Quotes;

Keith Ahlers was “.. surprised to break his own lap record otherwise it was an uneventful race.”

Andrew Thompson. “It was lonely, but fabulous.”

Elliott Patterson. “ Locked brakes into the hairpin, and it was all my own fault.” But enjoyed fighting back.

Leigh Sebba. “ I was careful not to take out any of my team mates in tomorrow’s race.” His explanation for a signal lack of aggression on track.

James Gateson. “ A lovely end to the Techniques season and Steve’s class win was great”

Having commitments back in Luton I left Snetterton just as the rain started to appear, and soon found myself driving through monsoon conditions spreading up from the south, so I guess the rest of the meeting was pretty soggy. Thank heavens for the timely timing of the Morgan race.

Now for a few months rest from reporting for Mary ! Oh! Bugger!

Any Morgans going to the Birkett?

Note to publisher; Expletives may be deleted.