

Race Report for the AR series at Oulton Park Sat. 10th June

A report by Alan House

Unusually, there was no opportunity to test on the Friday afternoon but a few entrants arrived to set up camp prior to darkness falling on a lovely summer's evening. Unfortunately the forecast for Saturday was not good and preparation for scrutineering was dogged by fairly persistent squally rain showers ensuring a damp start to the proceedings. However, by the time the 15 minute qualifying session came, the rain had all but cleared and as there had been two sessions ahead of ours, the track was in a slightly better state than was expected.

I took myself off to the outside of the track to observe at Deer's Leap to watch for any exciting manoeuvres on the exit from Lodge corner, but apart from a few twitchy rear ends hanging out, only one driver had to take to the grass!

Jack(17) had an early visit to the pits and only managed 3 laps, and out of my view Phil(46) had an argument with some Armco on Clay Hill. Those apart, everybody seemed to complete the number of laps consistent with their lap-times.

So, Keith(29), fastest in CI A, on Pole with Elliott(1), fastest in CI B, alongside only .81secs separating them.

Row 2 saw Tony(87) and Andrew(66), both in CI B, whilst Row 3 saw Tim(45) fastest CI R alongside Simon(61) CI B.

Next up on Row 4 saw Russell(72), fastest CI H and Steve(56), fastest CI C.

James(22), fastest CI D was on Row 6 alongside Dominic(67) CI B.

Michelle(50), fastest CI E, was on Row 10 alongside the returning Malcolm(65) CI D.

The most common comment of the session was that it was very slippery.

Fortunately the weather continued to improve and by the time the grid formed for the start the track was dry. However, that did not mean that the first corner would be incident free. When the lights went out Keith(29) was found wanting and Elliot(1) took the inside line with Andrew(66) alongside him on his left, closely followed by Keith on the right and Tony(87) alongside him on the left, with Simon(61) following closely behind. Keith had a wobble exiting the corner and squeezed Tony onto the grass where he rotated 180 degrees before returning to the track where he completed his rotation to finish up in the middle of the chasing pack facing in the right direction but at a standstill! By now Simon had gone and Tim(45) passed through on the right and Steve(56) took to the grass on the left to avoid the stricken Tony. Next up came Russell(72), who passed through on the right, and Dominic(67) who took to the left only to find Steve returning to the track on his left. Meanwhile the rest of the pack avoided any altercations and everybody sighed in relief.

The remainder of the race was incident free with Elliott trying his hardest to close on Keith the gap being less than a second on laps 8 and 9 but Keith held on to take the outright win. So the class winners were:-

- A. Keith,
- B. Elliot,
- C. Steve,
- D. James,
- E. Michelle,
- H. Russell,
- R. Tim,

Joint Drivers of the Day were Father and Son Laidlaw

I think a great day was had by all and we enjoyed some great northern hospitality. So next it is the turn of the East of the Country as we look forward to 2 days racing at Cadwell Park and hopefully some great curries.