

Bentley Drivers Roundup

As always the BDC is a real treat to attend with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere, total lack of 'officialdom', and a superb collection of cars and drivers to drool over – well the cars anyway.

Mark Shears with his freshly restored old car looking lovely and somewhat concerned by a lack of retardation. No doubt all will be sorted in time.

The Techniques Trophy had a slightly unusual feel about it with few of the normal front runners entering leaving the way clear for James Sumner to go one better than last year, and claim the magnificent silver (?) trophy.

Maybe the highlight of the race was the presentation, James Gateson doing a stellar job as he increasingly becomes the 'face' of Techniques, and thank goodness for that. (Time to retire Dad!)

The two Aero races were superb with some dramatic action at the front, as Keith Ahlers found he was not having it all his own way for a change, Ollie Bryant and Russell Paterson providing stern opposition.

After his race two win Keith was cock-a-hoop at having beaten "a man who had been racing a GT3 car at Le Mans only a few weeks ago". I will not reveal the tactics he used to keep the brilliant Ollie Bryant at bay, but it says a lot for Mr Ahlers' racecraft.

Now Formula 1 teams spend millions of pounds on trying to win prizes, having the most expensive drivers, engineers, designers, and Team Managers available, however, there are much less expensive ways of scooping the loot. Some of the more perspicacious Morgan drivers have discovered that the easiest way to be a winner is to enter a Class that nobody else is in! This cunning ploy was evidenced by the number of mysterious blue boxes handed out by Katy Thompson to; "Wiinner of Class ' in which there was only one person competing.

I trust that many who figure in Peter Olley's splendid photographs will be pleased to shake his hand next time he graces our paddock. Pete is happy to provide his images freely to the web site, and so good are many of his efforts I can only assume that he has a much more expensive camera than me!!!

I hope to add a lot more of Peter's work into the album you can reach through the usual link on Mary's wonderful web site.

Speaking of photographs, I hope that you are all busy collecting suitable images for the annual Gilbert Trophy competition. Potential entrants should not listen to any objections from Dominic who is constantly attempting to skew the rules in his favour, so desperate is he to reclaim the prize he won two years ago.

When a certain Simon Orebi Gann stepped up to receive his award at the Aero presentation, so gleaming white were his overalls that I instinctively looked around for the film crew making the Persil ad. Wow! Kate must have been down at the stream early that morning.

Donington next. Can't wait.

Errata Cadwell

As any regular reader of these reports will appreciate, I take great pains to ensure that they are cogent, incisive and, above all accurate to the tiniest detail. I pride myself on the meticulous research, and dedicated search for the truth so vital when recording events of the magnitude of the Aero Morgan Challenge. However, occasionally errors may creep in, invariably the result of some mis-reporting by participants in the events related.

In order to ensure that history does not become skewed I have to correct a small statement in my MGCC Cadwell Park report. Following exhaustive enquiries, including interrogating both parties I can confirm that Steve McDonald's meeting with the tyre wall was not caused by Philip Tisdall's spinning car. Indeed Steve has already hit the bank before Philip lost control. I am happy to put this right.

Another, somewhat more serious mistake, crept into a previous exposition of events, to whit the whereabouts of Peter Rafter's teeth. I am delighted to report that far from being mislaid they are, and always have been in Mr Rafter's possession. This news has been greeted with enormous relief by Sheffield's purveyors of pork pies, black pudding, and also by assorted Chinese Take Away establishments. Further good news relates to the share price of the manufacturers and stockists of Steradent, the share price is almost back to it's level prior to the report appearing on the Aero Challenge web site.