

## **“Not Another Visit to Silverstone...?”**

The inaugural launch of Classic Tracks on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

An account of proceedings by Bob Bull

The last race had been run, the Drivers Dinner done and dusted, and one could look forward to a few months of rest away from noisy cars and drivers, but no! John Bevan decided that he needed to ‘launch’ his new venture at Silverstone on a bleak rain and wind swept Silverstone race circuit!!! Idiot! No not JB, but me for accepting an invitation to go along and enjoy the day.

Compensation for my foolish decision to accept was that the hospitality was more than adequate with plenty of tea and biscuits always available, and a nice £10 voucher to spend in the Paddock Diner with a ‘goodie bag’ to take home at the end of the day.

There was always the danger that some enterprising Morgan driver might insist on taking me for a ride if I hung around, so I did my usual trick of hiding on the banking with camera, and managed to avoid that particular hazard.

Despite the inclement weather a goodly number of folk turned up to support their fellow Aero Racer the likes of Barry Sumner and son Ian, Simon (I’m just a novice) Sherry with the family Mog, while Mrs S adorned the paddock and the track with her MGB, Richard Plant, Andrew Thompson, Mark and Phillip, plus Craig Hamilton-Smith, all were prominent.

Professional help was on hand from Mark Hales and after a full briefing from Mark and a chap from Silverstone on the do’s and don’ts of circuit etiquette a number of the braver, or perhaps the more well prepared, drivers took to a wet National Circuit to enjoy a wet ride. Several Mogs were involved and a Porsche provided some variety before a break for lunch. Once the vouchers had been redeemed it was back to trackside for me and on-track for the rest, with better conditions more cars took to the circuit, A Reliant Scimitar resplendent in yellow, another Porsche, a Caterham or two, and more Morgans. A few folk over-did the enthusiasm and spun into embarrassment, but none hitting anything solid. Talking of embarrassment the ‘works’ Morgan coasted into retirement with an unfixable fault leaving Craig without a drive and Mark Evans with a long walk home. It was nice to see MSCC Chairman, Peter Chapman out in his Mog, but then he only lives next door.

When the track closed and everyone repaired to the garage for more tea and biscuits I was amazed to find there were no awards to hand out even though Katy was on hand. Most unusual!

All-in-all a nice day out and a successful launch for Classic Tracks, and we all wish John every success for the future of the project. Well, the goodie bag contained a Mars Bar!