

## Bentley Drivers Club Race Meeting Silverstone 7 August 2021

### Challenge Race 1

The forecast for BDC was not good; unlike our last outing at Donington Park it looked like we would need umbrellas for their original purposes. There was usually a good turnout of Morgans at this meeting, both on the circuit and as spectators. It would be the first time spectators had been allowed in the paddock for quite a while, so we were hoping for good support.

We left mid-afternoon on Friday, and unusually I wasn't driving Gromit. Chris' 4/4 was away, and I had (very generously!!) agreed that Chris could drive Gromit in the Techniques Trophy, as well as our usual shared races. We immediately hit traffic queues on the M1 as a result of an accident, but eventually arrived to find quite a number of Morgans already parked, and a few partaking in the BD hog roast. We joined them. The Wolf team of Club Sports were having their own BBQ joined by Paul & Brenda Bryan.

We arrived early on Saturday as qualifying was at 9am. Chris was qualifying for the Challenge race in the TT qualifying, which meant that we needed to change numbers and tyre/wheels throughout the day. When I say 'we', my responsibility was the numbers!

There was a good grid of 22, including Oliver Bryant and Bill Lancashire, who usually turn out for Bentley Drivers although they don't always compete in the other rounds of the Challenge. Qualifying, from my perspective was without incident, although I thought I saw Oliver Pratt's red car off at Becketts. There was no rain.

Pole went to Oliver Bryant, with Bill Lancashire alongside him. Row 2 was Roger and Andrew, followed by Brett and Craig. Back of the grid saw Tony Kilby (acting as my back of the grid companion in the absence of John Dastardly Bevan) ahead of me. We had been joined by Oliver Pratt who had moved out of car 74 and into car 75.

It looked like Bill had a good start as he was ahead of Ollie Bryant for a couple of laps, when Ollie took the lead and remained there for the rest of the race. I'm told there was some good racing throughout the field. Fierce competition between Tom Richards, Philip Tisdall, Peter Cole, Sarge and James Sumner, while number 75 Oliver Pratt carved his way through the field. Mark Butterworth and Steve Lockett had a close race. It stayed dry after all.

The win went to Ollie Bryant, with Bill second, Roger third and Oliver Pratt 4<sup>th</sup>. Andrew was 5<sup>th</sup> and Craig 6<sup>th</sup>.

Class wins to

- 1 Bill
- 2 Andrew
- 3 Brett
- 4 Steve Lockett

Back of the grid to Tony Kilby.

Michele Bailey  
August 2021