

## **Cadwell Park 12 June 2021**

A report by Michele Bailey

The Challenge was returning to Cadwell after a gap of 4 years, including the return of the famous Cadwell Curry. Our last visit was not one I wanted to repeat. We decided that we would 'test' on Friday (for the first time ever anywhere), and as the afternoon session was fully booked, arrived bright and early.

Others 'testing' on Friday morning included Simon Sherry, Paul Bryan and Brett Syndercombe, Brett being on his first ever visit to Cadwell. Brett must have left Brands Hatch at an unearthly hour to get to Cadwell by 8am. He described 'testing' as getting to know the circuit, and went on to say that it was completely different to You Tube, as on You Tube he could see over all the crests!

Unfortunately Paul Bryan had an engine issue which was not repairable and had to withdraw before Friday testing finished.

Qualifying on Saturday morning was at the sensible time of 11.30, which meant everyone had plenty of time to fettle their cars, and in my case get nervous. There were 24 of us in assembly. Unlike 2017, the weather was glorious and sunny at 24 degrees. Chris and I had to share qualifying, and with the help of Brian and James Gateson managed to get in our allocated 3 laps each. Philip Tisdall had an engine issue, and only managed 1 lap.

Pole position for race 1 went to Oliver Pratt, with Roger Whiteside alongside him. Row 2 comprised Martin Pratt and Brett, followed by Tony Rivers and John Milbank. Back of the grid was me and Tony Kilby, preceded by John 'Dastardly' Bevan and Phil Tisdall. In front of them were the two Club Sports of Richard Fearn and John Richards.

Cadwell is a lovely long circuit, known as 'mini Nurburgring'. The race was a bit of a blur for me; I held onto the tails of John Dastardly and Tony Kilby for a short time, but they then scampered off in their own battle. James Sumner departed the Circuit at probably the worst possible point for him, and also everyone else; after the left turn but before the right turn onto the Mountain – very scary, and almost on the last lap.

Front of the grid results were:

- 1 Oliver
- 2 Roger and
- 3 Brett.

Class wins to Oliver, Brett, John Milbank, Steve Lockett and Dastardly Bevan

Race 2, and Chris took control of Gromit, but he wasn't at the back of the grid. He was joined by James (after his 'Mountainmoment'), Paul Voakes and John Emberson, who both had technical issues in Race 1. The front row looked different due to OK 99 (Oliver's car) having issues on the start line of the Future Classics race. Roger was therefore on his own at the front, followed by Brett and John Milbank. Row 3 comprised Tom Richards and Steve Lockett.

The race was very exciting from a spectator's point of view; with battles almost all through the field. Roger took the win from Martin Pratt who had moved up from 9<sup>th</sup> place at the start. Brett took third, with John Milbank 4<sup>th</sup> and Steve Lockett 5<sup>th</sup>. Simon Sherry was in very commendable 6<sup>th</sup> having fended off Tom Richards for much of the race. Greg, Sarge and Phil Tisdall were separated by less than 3 seconds at the finish.

Back of the grid results were:

- 1 Chris
- 2 John D Bevan

With Tony Kilby less than a second ahead.

Class wins to Roger, Brett, John, and Chris.

Well done everyone, an excellent and most enjoyable day's racing.