

Cadwell Park 12th June

A report by John Bevan

It is always good to be a Cadwell Park: a great circuit with flowing corners and bends that are both up and downhill! This year we were blessed with great weather, and this allowed the competitors camping overnight at the circuit to take part in the traditional Cadwell Curry competition outdoors. Simon Hall of SiFab (and Race Series Technical Secretary) carried off first place with a very delicious Thai Green Curry.

With practice not starting until 11.30 in the morning competitors had time in the morning to fettle, sunbathe or indulge in a lie-in. Father and son Oliver and Martin Pratt took third and first place respectively in 99OK, the ex-Matthew Wurr red Plus 8 and the ex-Will Plant "TomCat" Plus 4. Roger Whiteside qualified second and Brett Syndercombe from BHM put his 2 litre 4/4 on fourth place on the grid, a really impressive achievement since Brett had not driven this technical circuit before! Electrical gremlins stopped Phil Tisdall after just one lap, and Mark Butterworth in "Bumblebee" was also experiencing technical issues which meant that he had to start from the back of the grid.

In race 1 Oliver Pratt took a commanding win, finishing almost 48 seconds ahead of Roger Whiteside, whilst Brett Syndercombe finished third, despite being in Class 3 car! John Milbank in his Class 2 4/4 came in fourth with Steve Lockett in his Class 4 Plus 8 in fifth. After some pirouettes at the entrance to the Mountain left James Sumner beached on lap 10, the rest of the field managed to negotiate the corner and avoid James who was unable to re-start the car and had a closer than intended view of the rest of the competitors for the rest of the race! At the other end of the grid, I enjoyed chasing Tony Kilby in his Club Sport around the circuit whilst trying to keep ahead of Michele Bailey lurking behind me!

Race 2 was the last race of the day, allowing John Emberson to have his gear stick re-attached so that he could race his Baby Doll, and the other drivers to top up their sun-tans.

With Oliver Pratt's Plus 8 not starting Roger Whiteside started and finished on pole, 16.7 seconds ahead of Martin Pratt in TomCat. Brett took third place again, and the curse of Cadwell struck James Sumner again with the Yellow Peril stopping due to a mechanical issue on lap 10 again. First of the class four cars home was Steve Lockett again, closely pursued by Simon Sherry, also in a Plus 8. Chris Bailey had swapped seats with Michele and took first place in class 5 (well done Chris, although my excuse is that you added lead and fuel to my car!).

So a perfect days racing with no damaged cars and great weather. We look forward to the same at the next race at Donington Park on the 18th of July.

Driving home in the Morgan I had just overtaken some of the other competitors who were towing when my panhard rod decided now was the time to detach itself from my car. It says a lot about the Morgan Challenge that at least three cars stopped to ask if they could help- thank you to James and Brian Gateson who made short work of fixing the problem! After this I was keen to get home- and having stopped at Lincoln for fuel I was home in two hours and twenty minutes after a gentle pootle down the Fosseyway!