

Morgan Challenge Rounds 10 and 11

Oulton Park 3rd September

A Challenge in Cheshire

A meagre seventeen cars turned up for the Aero Challenge rounds at the MGCC's meeting at Oulton Park in Cheshire, but still managed to provide some close racing and a fair share of drama.

Qualifying saw Tom Andrew annex pole position for race 1, ahead of Andrew Thompson, and Shane Kelly, guest driving the second official works Plus4 2000. Sole Class 1 entrant, Roger Whiteside, in 4th spot had newcomer, Louis Workman-Ruff and, James Sumner behind him, with Tony Hirst, Tim Parsons, Rob Gilmore, and Brett Syndercombe completing the top ten.

Come the red lights going out it was yet another fast start from Andrew Thompson that saw the silver ARV6 lead away, and to take a comfortable win. Roger Whiteside benefitted from the demise of Tom Andrews Mint Motorsport Plus 6, to finish second, while an impressive Louis Ruff, driving the William's 1600 4/4, came home in third place. Tony Hirst, Rob Gilmore, Tim Parsons, James Sumner, Mark Butterworth, Stephen Lockett, and Kelvin Laidlaw filled out the top ten. Phil Tisdall, Simon Sherry, Richard Fearn, and Tony Kilby brought up the rear. Shane Kelly, and Tom Andrew retired with mechanical problems, while Brett Syndercombe ended his day when he misjudged his braking, and hit Tony Hirst's works Plus 4 2000.

Race 2 had just 13 starters as Kelvin Laidlaw, Tom Andrew, and Brett Syndercombe all non-started. Despite the paucity of runners, there was plenty to hold the attention of the spectator, as Andrew Thompson once again took an early advantage, but it was not to be another canter to the chequered flag, as Roger Whiteside rapidly closed on the leader, and proceed to set about getting by the ARV6. Andrew put up a valiant defence, but in doing so he began to lose grip from his tyres and eventually ceded the position, and settled for a safe second place and Class victory. Tony Hirst took the last podium place, but had to work very hard to hold off Louis Ruff, who crossed the finish line barely half a second in arrears. Tim Parsons in 5th had Rob Gilmore and Sam Butterworth glued to his back bumper. Completing the finishers were Stephen Lockett, Philip Tisdall, Simon Sherry, Richard Fearn, James Sumner, and Tony Kilby. In a bizarre turn of events, Shane Kelly having come from last to third, ran out of petrol, 20 yards from the flag, and failed to finish.

Final rounds are at Snetterton on September 24th.

Bob Bull.