

Aintree Speed Series Report – Saturday 26th April 2008

The day started dry and according to the weather forecast we were going to get rain in the afternoon, but thankfully it never arrived, other than a few spots. So the day was dry and warm enough to give some grip at last, only took till the 5th event to get there !!! An excellent days result for the WSCC with the class H guys taking FTD and 2nd & 4th FTD, well done guys keep it up.

Class A

Andrea was all by herself in A, this week, but had a lot of experienced C drivers to set her target times and she was improving as a result all day, and with a big smile on her face all the time, great to see.

Class B

Out for their first time were Neil McKinstrie and Stephen Lewis, both obviously enjoying themselves and having their own battle as they swapped places throughout the day, with Stephen just getting the better of Neil by the end of the day. Neil's timing strut broke, but a quick rally around the WSCC, soon saw him sorted out, with a bit of ESP plastic !!

Class C

John Loudon was in determined mood after Mark beat him at 3 sisters and it showed, he was the clear leader throughout the day, beating Mark by nearly 3 secs. Meanwhile George Hardman and Stephen Pritchard were having their own battle, with local boy George just winning.

Class D – Paul

It was great to see all the old faces - and some new ones - at Aintree. At first glance, you could be fooled into thinking Aintree is an easy drive - after two years away, I can tell you it is not!

Out of the kindness of my heart, I offered a poor sad sole a double drive of my car - as he had broken his car, beyond repair, at the first corner of the first practice run. It being my first event for two years - I thought it would be useful to have another pair of hands at the wheel to help assess the car after its extended lay-up (and Nick Algar is a mate - so no problem!).

Getting all excited because I was third in class, my wife and I march off to the awards ceremony - to find that my class was the only class in the entire event where there were just two awards - first and second place.

Guess what happens? Poor sad sole had driven my car to a better time than me, taking second place (and the trophy) leaving me with nothing. If I had not lent my car to the poor sad snivelling whinging bas***rd, I would have a nice piece of marble on the mantelpiece right now. (seriously though - I really ain't bothered - it wasn't a particularly nice piece of marble and it was a genuine pleasure to offer Nick the chance to drive).

Moral of the story - if you are going to lend your car to anyone - make sure they are not a better driver than you.

Sub note - of course, me being the king sized prat I am, finally managed a sub 50 second run on the last run - which didn't count.

Class F

After last weekend Gary Bunn had invested in a set of the new super sticky Toyo 888's and very effective they proved with him just piping Richard Kerr for the F win this week. Richard was heard to leave the event muttering about getting rid of the very old ACB10's he was running. Richard James was out again and managed to keep in front of John Shepard, with a solid T1.

Class H - Terry

With no sign of ACW coming out to play yet it was Peter Hayter, Derek Hodder and Terry Everall who were to battle it out for Class H points. Amazingly the weather forecast was wrong and we had overcast but dry weather all day with a strong headwind down final straight(apart from a few drops of rain on last runs). Practise run 1(P1) saw Peter had bought new tyres and meant business posting his intention with a blistering 45.40secs which beat last years winning time. Del 51.49secs)had a problem missing a gear and Tel (46.28secs)ran wide at the first right-hander and never recovered the time. P2 saw a drier track and the pace hotted up with Peter at 44.68secs, Del 45.96secs and Tel on 45.94secs even after going on the green stuff a bit. Del and Tel were seen huddled together trying to understand why Peter was reaching 146mph+ over finish with them only making about 136mph+. First timed runs before lunch had Tel changing suspension settings and with the clouds building a good run was essential as a banker time. Pete did exactly that and did 44.34secs with Del in second at 45.21secs and Tel trailing with 45.45secs after a clean run. After lunch only Tel improved his time to post a blistering (authors privilege) 44.58secs. Despite great efforts from Tel and Del on the last run Peter held on to take the class and the points from Tel. This was good and bad news for Peter as he achieved FTD and had to stay for the awards rather than start his 5-hour trip back home. Terry took 2nd FTD being only 0.24secs slower than Pete and Del took 4th FTD. Another good show from the slick boys against the single seaters (Nick Algar's car was broken!!!!) and the times achieved were impressive. Class H looks like it's developing into a hell of a battle and might be joined by Gary Bunn who was seen trying on slicks in the paddock. Dell is not doing Harewood but Peter and Terry should be going head to head again on 10th May.

Class J

Marshall Rowland was by himself in J, but not in the class on the day, where he came a very credible 4th out of 9

Nick Algar / Paul Edden and Terry Everall