

WSCC Speed Series - Pembrey 31st May – 1st June 08

Class B

Stephen Lewis and Jonathon Sheldon were both out in class B, but try as he might Jonathon couldn't get ahead of Stephen on both days. So a good 16.5 points to Stephen

Class C

Was well represented again with 5 people competing, Keith Adams was on flying form on the Friday evening, passing me his Westie going at a rate of knots !!! amid much horn blowing and he was nearly as quick on track, but it was to be John Loudon's weekend, the walk around the track analysing it in minute detail on Friday must have paid off !! Tim's car is looking much smarter this year, but only quick enough to take 2nd.

Class E

With Stuart Hill and Tim Pennington running, class leader Andy Rushworth was in for a bit of a battle and had to really push to get the win, but was super smooth through paddock bend to achieve it. Meanwhile Stuart and Tim were having a great scrap, with Stuart just beating Tim.

Class F - Paul Dew (Tigger)

Well as the rest of the country was wet and/or overcast, Pembrey way out in West Wales was enjoying a cracking day of sunshine. So much that many people went home with RHS (Red Head Syndrome).

This was a two-day event of which both were in the dry, always a good thing when you're in your first season of racing.

A Newcomer to the class this year is Matt Hillam. An excellent driver who has shown his ability in previous years and I believe he joined this class for the competition he may get but unfortunately, he is outclassing us all so far. There were 4 of us on Saturday in "F" of which 3 were novices and only 3 on Sunday as Dave Thomas had to go.

First day was a 1-¾ laps so it was a pretty fast and long day finishing at 6pm. This was both myself and Pete Goulding's first time at Pembrey and it looked a fantastic track with two hairpins, fast curves and double apexes so lots to take in. A walk of the track was of utmost importance and two locals (Brian Jones and Dave Thomas) kindly offered their advice.

For some strange reason, the classes on the day ran out of order so class 2a, 2b, 2c all ran last which meant that if they ran out of time we would suffer.

Out of the pits you were faced with a hairpin straight off. Both Pete and myself over shot this a couple of times. Around Spitfires and then you had a double apex of Diben Bend and Paddock.

My personal mountain to climb was speed straight trying to go flat around it as was Dave & Pete but never quite had the bottle and had to lift just slightly otherwise we may have been somewhere near Matt's time.

As suspected, we didn't have enough time to finish all the runs so all of Class 2 which was ALL of the Westfield's had to run our 2nd timed lap next morning without practice!!!! Except Dave Thomas as he wasn't there Sunday.

Matt came out almost 5 seconds quicker than us in “F”, in fact everybody in Class 2 which was a quick time. Pete’s scores got screwed up but they eventually sorted him out with a 2nd fastest time of 1:20 secs for which he had a nice trophy (his first of the season)

Sunday 1st June

This was only a ¾ lap so 50 ish seconds was achievable although not by me.

No names mentioned but somebody (not in “F”) forgot about the shorter lap and ran straight past the finish line just before “Honda curve” and whipped down “Park straight” It was amusing to see the marshals jumping up and down waving him down but seriously, it could have been disastrous although he never would have caught the Judd that went out in front of him Not in a million years.

This being a shorter lap gave everybody else a fighting chance as Matt didn’t have so much time to pull a fast time. As Dave had already gone home, it was only Pete and myself left to fight it out.

After our 2nd timed run from Saturday, a Vauxhall Corsa managed to roll on the “Brooklands hairpin” which brought home the dangerous nature of this sport. He was ok but his car wasn’t so lucky.

After two more practices, we managed to get in some times but the start line marshals were trying to rush things and let out too many people too close to each other so at one point, I had 2 re-runs and was apprehensive of running out of fuel, it was good fun though.

Matt put in a great time of just over 50 secs on his practice but his timed runs were slightly slower. Pete and myself eventually finished up 0.15 secs apart which goes to show how close it was even though I was running the harder tyres of the three of us and still managed over 1.4g cornering speeds – that’s scary!

I’d like to thank everybody at the Pembrey circuit for a great day although some of the organization needs to be ironed out, to Matt for his free advice on how to drive and to Dave and Pete for a great bit of competition.

Class G - Matt Jones

Class G was a two-horse affair with Matt Jones and his namesake Brian Jones competing for honours.

This was Matt's first Sprint and thoroughly enjoyed the legendary Speed Series hospitality but at the end of the first day, which was held over the full 1 & ¾ laps, Brian held a comfortable lead of over 2 seconds.

The second day saw the timed runs over the shorter and twistier ¾ lap and despite the gap decreasing Brian still held on for a comfortable win.

Class H

With Peter Hayter deciding to pull out Del was all on his own, but did well on Saturday taking 3 seconds out of his previous personal best.

Class J

Top entertainment for the weekend was provided by Matt Downer and Graham (Windy) Millar, their full sideways action around paddock bend at some ridiculously high speeds was a real crowd entertainer. The extra power of Matt's SBD Duratec must have paid off as he managed to pip Windy on both days but only just, so look out for some great battles in the rest of the season.