

WSCC Speed Series Report - Loton Park 18th May 2008

Class A & C - Mark Leybourne

With the weather checked and OK for Sunday it was with in trepidation that I visited Loton again, never a good track for me. I needed a good win 2 years ago to get the championship and failed and last year my best friends lost my best time demoting me from 3rd in 2A to 4th.

Arriving with Andy Rushworth after a convoy run from the M62 we arrived at 6.00 to find Saturday's wet event still underway! Parking was lets say – tricky

Anyway it was soon Sunday morning and we were greeted with a blue sky. First practice and it was a settler for Andrea recording a 88 second run and for me somewhere around 64, 62 had been my best previous, but it appeared that everyone else had slow times even the sneaky ones who had entered Saturday for a practice! Very obvious at the front of class 2a were a group of Loton regular non-speed series competitors who were flying, namely John Palmer Chris Jones and John Bradshaw.

2nd practice was much the same with some improvement in times Andrea managing to knock 7 seconds off! – then it was time for the Church service so a 1-hour break was called.

Timed runs came round and this is where it counted the front boys as mentioned were well ahead with the speed series boys and girls still improving with plenty of grins all round

At the front was Myself with a 62.55 in a Zetec SE powered car closely followed by Keith “the teeth” Adams posting a 63.18 in his 16V Vauxhall powered car and 3rd was Paul Pocklington who is really peddling the Cross flow nowadays to produce a good 64.08. not far behind but re-classed on the day was Jason Lamb another novice who put in a 64.22 and certainly one to watch Andrea bless her posted a 74.69 in Marks car and wasn't last!

2nd timed runs occurred after a ½ hour lunch break and spurred on by the boys at the front who were posting 58 seconds I foolishly braked too early for the famous crest but still managed a PB of 61.70 with Keith slipping back slightly posting a 63.24 and Paul Pocklington coming through to 2nd with a terrific 62.87. Andrea did another good run and managed a 73.42.

A good turn out of Westfield's in the class also saw Michael Tindale Richard Machin John Wells Mike Todd and Martin Hepworth all show good improvements on the day. Moving Loton to a May date was certainly a good move – see you at MIRA

Class B

Anthony Burris was out in B by himself, but set a good time of 63.87 beating Jason in class A.

Class E

Experienced competitor Stuart Hill was out for his first run of the year and it was a local track for him, could he beat Andy ? Tom had travelled a long way, would it work out ? When the timed runs came Andy set a winning run 1st time and then improved on it as he learnt the track more. Stuart was good and consistent, but needs some more ponies in the engine. Meanwhile Tom was enjoying himself and improving, but came 3rd to the others.

Class F - Richard Kerr

Class F saw a good turnout with usual suspects, Jocksport and Big Fish, with class F newbies Slingsby and Hillam going very well. Speed series new boy Richard James completed the class. Richard has gone well in his events so far, no doubt he'll be challenging for honours before long. I know he's enjoying himself, that's the most important thing.

P1 saw some competitive times with old fatbloke leading the way. Jocksport had a decent run beating my PB at Loton last year. Barry put in a very respectable time on a tricky hill and bearing in mind he'd never driven it before, great achievement. P2 saw the times tumble again, not too sure how on my part, nightmare run with two missed gears and a lockup and the first corner.

Having broken for our 1 hour church service (yes really) we were under way for timed runs, Matt comfortably lead the way with an excellent drive, with the rest of us improving too. Big Fish's car decided to die on him, laptops, head scratching and some fettling couldn't solve the problem, eventually the fault was located, a very technical Blown Fuse. Fuse replaced and John was back in business.

T2, oh dear. With several people's words of wisdom ringing in my ears, I knew what I had to do to try and catch old lardy boy. The voices in my head were saying "don't over drive it, the car got plenty power, go out there and just enjoy it etc etc" I did this to great effect, well seven seconds anyway!! first corner, braked, locked up, slid about 20 yards and twatted the armco. "Blinking Flip" I thought, that was careless. Needless to say that was the end of the Hillam assault for me. A visit to the medics revealed I was "good to go, a big lad like you should be fine" I think he just meant I was overweight and was worried about the suspension on his ambulance. I told him I could get this abuse at home and did off.....On a serious note, well done to the marshals and medics who did there normal excellent work. I know they were kept very busy over the weekend. well done lads and lasses.

Class G – Barney

Loton was a cracking battle, honours were even between Mark Anson and Andy Mac after 3 sisters and Harewood, both cars carrying badges of honour...in the timed runs Barney put in a time of 55.80 scaring the crap out of himself through the kink in the cedar straight...(straight yeh right....)Andy Mac had already posted a 57.46 and firmly placed if not thrown the gauntlet down to Mark. Who responded with a 58.53,all down to the final timed. Barney shaved a bit off down to a 55.56, Andy Mac made a small mistake at triangle and couldn't improve on his first run and Mark took a time of 58.12.Honours to Barney, then Andy and then Mark. Cracking banter as always, It must be said though Mark does bring a touch of glamour to the paddock, well his pit monkey/tyre cleaner/ does anyway:-)

Class J

Marshall Rowland was out in his Elise again and setting good times, coming 2nd in his class on the day out of 10, pretty good going for an Oldun !! Meanwhile Mr Sideways (Windy) was seeing a bit of competition to his very well turned out Escort, with a Chevette HSR hard on his heels, but he managed to pip him on the 2nd timed run to win the class on the day and come first in J.