

Evo Caterham Academy

Event Report – Group Two

Harewood Hillclimb – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2003

Back at Harewood again, this time with Group Two, and this time we were welcomed by sunshine and lots of it!! A fairly early start, 8.00 and it was good to see that most of you had managed to arrive before the rest of the world arrived at Harewood House for the very popular Game Fair. There was a huge backlog of traffic and the A1 was closed at some stage, luckily none of you happened to be on it, although some of the officials had to take avoiding action to get to work on time!!

It seemed that not many of you had managed to attend one of the Harewood Hillclimb so the mandatory walk of the course was essential. We were very lucky to have with us Tim Wilson, Caterham veteran and Hillclimb champion.... Tim very kindly offered to walk the course with you to give you some insight on the best way to tackle it... James Kerr, ex Academist and Harewood enthusiast was also on hand to give advice for those who missed Tim's walk and talk. Harewood is a lovely spot to be when the weather is wonderful, it nestles in a valley, and weather permitting you can see for miles. It is a very demanding course, and quite technical, so practice runs would be vital to get to know this course. Country Corner was one to watch, as was Quarry at the finish.

Scrutineering went without a hitch.... As we were the second class to run there was not too much time to get ready for first practice. Practice runs went extremely well, you had obviously listened to Tim on the walk. Nathan managed to get his car to produce a James Bond type smoke screen; he had a problem with his Apollo tank, Caterham Midlands to the rescue once again...

Lunch time and still the sun shone and shone... it must have been hot because City Index Boys, Jimbo and Bonzo actually put up an awning (well they did not actually put it up, they were still getting over the curry they had the night before, Roger did all the hard work). The awning was not to protect them but their cars, very sensible. It was lovely to see lots of supporters again, family, and friends alike. Tim Wilson very kindly gave another informal talk, ensuring that you had lots of advice to take with you on your first timed runs...

First timed run of the day, all of you managing to get round without too many problems, unfortunately the timing equipment was not working properly so it was difficult to follow the times. At the end of that run Bill Addison was in the lead with 68.93, followed by Mike Richards with 69.51 and Nathan with 69.54. It was great to see a new name at the top!!!

Second run and you were obviously all trying that bit harder! There seemed to be an awful lot of re-runs.... Garret had a spin at Orchard, Bill who was obviously trying to repeat his performance in the first run just overcooked it coming out of Farmhouse Bend and ended up in the tyre barrier! This stopped proceedings for a while, Bill was fine but the car was not... another rescue mission for the lads from Caterham Midlands. Mike Richards who was in second place after the first run having a spin at Orchard thus adding quite a few seconds to his first time! Howard Pessall who also had a good first run decided to have a moment at Quarry. Jimbo improved greatly on his poor first run by managing to keep on the black stuff, Gary and Christian also having better runs. Not sure what was happening to Ben, he was not having a good time out there. At the end of this run Nathan came out on top with a 68.34. Back to the drawing board for some....

There was much activity in the paddock, mainly due to Bills car being put back together again; a new De Dion tube was required. Thanks to Simon and Nick, all was put right for the third and final run of the day, and the sun was still shining!

Most of you had come to grips with the hill by this time and were managing to get good runs. Unfortunately Howard had another mishap at Quarry and received his worst time of the day... Well done to Bill for having another go, 69.57 for him, and Neil, who had been pretty quiet all day (contemplating his forthcoming nuptials no doubt) had a great run with 68.99. Simon Mardle had a very good run, improving greatly on both his previous runs with a 70.85, Ben also having a good run this time. Garret managed to stay on this time and ended up with his best time of 71.29. Mike Richards did not have a good run 69.85 was the best he could do and this was not enough... Nathan somehow managed an extremely impressive 67.33 and of course came first, well done Nathan. In second place came Bill who was very very pleased with his days work. third was Neil, who was also delighted with his time. Mike had to settle for fourth this time, and Howard, despite his troubles at Quarry came 5<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the fact that the traffic was going to be horrendous, due to the masses leaving Harewood House and the Game Fair, I did encourage you all to leave early and not stay for prize giving, but even so I think a number of you had problems getting home.. Thanks to those of you who did stay!!

Another action packed fun filled day over, and next on the list, your first Academy Race at Stowe..... which will be a completely different story..

Kim Denning