

Evo Caterham Academy

Group Two - Curborough 7th August 2004

It was another very hot day at Curborough, must have been the hottest day of the year so far, and a repeat of the weather of the previous year!!

It is always great to be at Curborough, we are always made so welcome by Alan, Noreen, Cliff, Uncle Tom Cobbley and all!! They are such a thoughtful lot, even providing water and insect repellent due to the very hot conditions and the invasion of wasps by the millions!! They had even thought of something to occupy the little ones, cameras to capture their daddies' silly antics for the archives!!!

Curborough is a sprint course near Lichfield, and was originally part of RAF Lichfield. The late great James Hunt has even competed here!

Everyone had arrived in good time except Greg Watts who did not turn up at all, and going from previous happenings at Castle Combe, are we surprised!!!!!! He probably got lost as soon as he left his front door. We missed you Greg!! Keith Sheppard was also missing, having broken his ribs in a boating incident. Hope you mend soon Keith and are back with us.

Poor Hugo had a bad start, forgetting his licence, so he was £35 the lighter! Darren also in forgetful mood, no balaclava. Luckily after putting out an SOS a competitor from another class came to the rescue. It may be a good idea to get a spare one to bring along just in case.

All went through scrutineering ok and after a walk of the course it was time for first practice. Quite a number of you had attended a day with Evo magazine the previous Thursday so we were looking for some good times from those of you who attended.

Practice was in any order and you went out in dribs and drabs, most of you managing to stay on the black stuff. Wagers had a huge spin coming out of the Esses and got a failed run, Steve Marshall also not getting a time. Second practice the story was quite different, a number of you had moments on various parts of the circuit and were not able to get a time, Jamie, Pat, Darren, 'Mad' Chris Sedgewick, Chris Rome all failing to score. At the end of this mayhem, it seems the men to watch were Adrian, Andy and Paul. Adrian and Andy obviously liking this circuit as they were both doing very well

There was a break for lunch and it got even hotter! There was some shade to be found but not very much and you poor guys definitely needed some broly girls to keep the sun off you and the cars.

Andy Billet whiled away his lunch time by weighing your wheels, much to everyone's amusement. Please remember that you are not to drive on public roads with race

numbers on, the MSA take this very seriously. I have told you this before and it is in the Blue Book. Andy Billet informs me that anyone contravening this rule, if reported to the Clerk of the Course, could be excluded from the meeting, so please be warned.

It was great to see the usual little family members, clan Somerville-Cotton, and 'When In' Rome Junior! It was a very hot day for them and they behaved beautifully.

First timed run and if possible it was even hotter!! Richard Ice Cream Granelli had a mad moment, forgetting to turn in at the end of the Shenstone Straight to complete his second lap!!! Poor Patrick Schf had to take a re run due to the timing equipment failing and just had a bit of a moment coming out of the Fradley Hairpin which cost him a little time. His first run looked to be very quick and very smooth. Leader of the pack after this first run was Paul J with 65.13 then Pat G with a 65.86, Adrian still there with 65.92.

Second timed run and all to play for, conditions even hotter!!! More entertainment on the circuit, Adrian unfortunately overcooked things and aborted his run, not being able to better his first time. Paul J hit the kerb too hard coming in to the Esses, he managed somehow to control the car as it swerved all over the place until he finally got it under control, but no time for him, he had to rely on his first run being the winning time. Fabian SC also had a moment coming into the Molehill and had a spectacular spin, hopefully his daughters will have caught it on camera!!

Claudia was behaving herself and managed to complete both time runs very smoothly indeed. Andy B had another good run, very smooth and quick. Chris 'Rooster Tail' Sedgwick was having the time of his life, I have not seen so much smoke since bonfire nite!!! Don't know if he had any tyres left at the end of the day but it was great to watch. Luke was driving very well until he spun coming out of Shenstone back into the Esses for his final lap, he held it very well and continued to get a good time.

So at the end of all this hilarity, Pat G was the winner with a 64.93, second was PJ with 65.13 and third Patrick Schf with 65.73, well done it was a great contest.

Thanks to all who stayed for prize giving. There was a special prize given that day entitled 'Spirit of the Meeting' award, and this was presented to our own Claudia. Claudia had come to the rescue of a competitor in a different class who had driven to the circuit, and due to the fact that his car caught fire, he was unable to drive it home. An SOS was put out and Claudia answered it by offering to transport the car home. This is another great aspect of this sport, everyone is willing to help everyone else, which is surely how it should be. Unfortunately Claudia had already left in order to transport the car back. I was given her prize and was able to present it to her at Silverstone the following day cos she had come to watch the 'big boys' play!

Looking forward to seeing you all at Snett.

Kim