

Evo Caterham Academy

Event Report - Group One

Harewood Hillclimb – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2004

It was great to be back at Harewood again. I know I have said it before but I say again, it is a beautiful place to be, especially when the sun is shining. The hill nestles in a valley and runs through a working farm; it is a very demanding, technical course with a number of corners to learn. The track had been resurfaced since our last visit and it was obvious to see that great improvements had been made. Harewood is actually the longest permanent hillclimb course on the UK mainland. The event is run by BARC Yorkshire Centre, who are always so welcoming and so helpful.

It was an early start and much to do in a short space of time. This year there were motor cycles competing, something I had not seen here before, and what fun they were to watch! We were going to be first to go so this meant signing on, scrutineering and walking the course had to be done very quickly... this did not prove too much of a problem for most of you!! Thanks go to Brian Kenyon for walking you down and up the hill, lots of information can be obtained from walking the course with someone who has competed there often.

It was great to see some previous academy competitors at this meeting, Jonathan (the cleanest car ever to be seen) Medley was there, as was Tom Batty and Alan Williamson. Nice to see them supporting their local event. Thanks must go to Alan for helping Hugo sort himself out in time for his first practice run!! It was also good to see lots of family and friends supporting you, thank goodness the weather was kind.

The day consisted of two practice runs and three timed runs, although due to lots of red flags during the course of the day, we only managed to get two timed runs.

Practice was very eventful to say the least. I saw the most number of red flags I have ever seen in practice before!!! I do think, to be fair, that the track surface took some time to warm up.. Nice to hear lots of squealing tyres though, showed you were all trying hard.

All cars were weighed and James and Brent were found to be underweight, this had to be corrected before the first timed run.

Lunch time, and frenzied activity in the paddock.. this consisted mostly of everyone eating ice cream! Some were taking advantage of the sun and getting some rays, others were trying their best to keep out of it..

First timed run was upon us... it was very hot, will try and bring broly girls to the next event for you.... You had improved greatly on this run, think there was only one red flag due to Adrian coming off at Quarry (his mind was on other things I think considering his wife is due to give birth any time now, good luck!) Brent managed to get a re-run because of this. Greg was going well but managed to miss a gear coming up from Farmhouse to Quarry, he muttered some excuse about not being able to get to the gears properly). Adrian W had a very leery drive but managed a quick time, James Sykes had a moment or two at Farmhouse, but all in all not too bad!

At the end of this first timed run, Chris Rome was in the lead with 67.42, Jamie (laid back) Bashall second with 67.67 and Pat third with 68.18.

It was obvious at this stage that time was not on our side. There had been so many red flags during the course of the day that we were running late. This meant that there would be only two timed runs. Brent was in trouble again with his weight (more pasties and pies Brent) his car was deemed underweight after this first run. The Clerk of the Course was informed and Brent had his first time disallowed. You must ensure that you are within the regulation weight limits for car and driver. Don't forget that with sprints and hillclimbs there is a possibility you will be given a re-run and you must allow for this in your fuel consumption. You must also allow for body damage, e.g. a wing coming off, this will reduce the weight of the car.

Unfortunately due to my having to be with officials to discuss Brent's weight issue I missed most of your second run!! It looked like you all did very well, no dramas, and at the end of this second run we had a very worthy winner in Chris Rome. Chris had also managed to break the Academy record of 67.27, held by Tony Lawrence, with a 67.21, congratulations to him on that fine achievement. In second place was Patrick Scharfegger with 67.33 and in third place Henry (matching T shirt) Fletcher, with 67.51.

Well done to our podium guys, and well done indeed to all of you, it was a great competition and good to see some new names at the top.

I was sorry not to be able to stay for prize giving, I am sure all went ok. Hope you all had a good trip home and look forward to seeing you at Castle Combe in July.. much nearer for me thank goodness!

Kim Denning  
Championship Co-Ordinator