

## EVO CATERHAM ACADEMY 2002

### GROUP ONE – ROUND ONE HETHEL SPRINT – 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY



Back to my old stomping grounds again, was sorry I was not still living in Diss instead of hundreds of miles away in Devon! The Norfolk friendliness and hospitality was still the same, being very warmly welcomed by the organising officials at this BARC Midlands Centre meeting, Neville and Tina Moon and their hardworking team. My thanks to them first of all for a very well organised, efficiently run event, with a lovely sense of humour added, which helped to ensure the evo Academy had a good start to their Championship.

The weather was a little unkind to start with, dull, drizzly and cold and the hot bacon rolls and coffee were a welcome start to a very early day. Congratulations must go to you all for turning up promptly, organised and looking spick and span in your nice new overalls, the cars did not look too bad either! You had all clearly made an effort and it showed, keep up the good work. A little light exercise was required after the bacon rolls, so off to walk the course. The circuit is the actual test track for Lotus Cars and looked to be a quick, demanding little circuit of approx 1.2 miles. Added difficulties came in the shape of Norfolk wild life wandering onto the track in the shape of ducks and pheasants!

All cars passed scrutineering ok, and after the very informative drivers briefings you were getting ready for the first practice run. I am sure there were lots of fluttering tummies out there but you all looked pretty cool. Tina Moon passed on some very helpful information during her briefing re the first run, and you must have taken note because you all took time to look at the circuit and not try and get your best time!! There was obviously quite a bit of understeer discovered on that first run, as Derek was besieged for requests for thicker anti roll bars!!! Second practice run was a different story, times coming down drastically, but conditions were hotting up too, the sun actually came out. At the end of the practice runs James Bromley was in the lead with 80.53, followed closely by Doug Scott, Steven Colborne-Baber and Nick Bailey.

There was a brief interval for lunch, as there had been quite a few stoppages during the morning, lots of very eager, excited drivers out there, and one or two excited pheasants causing a red flag! The sun was really hot and lots of white bodies were exposed, would think there was a bit of sunburn amongst you today. The talk of the paddock was tyre pressures, lines, and where to make up the time. The roundabout was where most of you seemed to be losing time, due to understeer. Some of you found time to clean the cars, (a favour is owed Richard, that bucket was heavy), have a nap, but all too soon it was time to get ready again.

Timed runs were in batch and number order, the Academy being last, so there was quite a time spent lining up in your cars in the heat, just remember to drink lots of water when the conditions are hot. First timed runs went extremely well, a few twitchy moments and spins but all of you came off with no damage done, except to your times. The track had really warmed up, Doug Scott was in the lead with a 78.65, followed by James Bromley with 79.05, Andy Thompson with 79.48 and Ben Winrow with 79.56. Back to the paddock, more talk re tyre pressures and anti roll bars and then off for your final run. Conditions had changed slightly, the sun had gone in and it was overcast again but dry, the outcome of the day being a win for a very delighted Doug Scott with 77.86, second was Ben Winrow with 78.13, third was Andy Thompson with 78.96 and fourth, James Bromley with 79.82 Well done to the winners, and well done to all of you for equipping yourselves so well on your first event.

You were praised at prize giving by the Clerk of the Course, Neville Moon, who had been watching your progress with interest during the day, he was very impressed with the way you competed, you all deserve a pat on the back!!

Just a few technical issues to mention: Please re-read the regulations with regards to items such as Timing equipment and Weight. It is your responsibility to ensure that your car complies with these regulations. If you do have any queries do not hesitate in liasing with Tony Parsfield our eligibility scrutineer, tel: 0961 899739. It is very likely at the next event items such as these will be checked very carefully! Decals looked great, if you do require spares please let Derek know in good time and he will bring them to the next event. Please do ensure you have all the correct paperwork, including current insurance documents, if you do not have these you could be prevented from racing.

Lecture over, look forward to seeing you all at Harewood, that's if I get back from Knockhill ok!

Kim Denning  
Championship Co-Ordinator