

## Evo Caterham Academy - Group One

### Report - Round 3

#### Castle Combe Sprint – July 6<sup>th</sup> 2002

Well, at last some decent weather, almost anyway, at least the sun shone for some of the day. I think this was the first time we had seen an ice cream van actually selling some ice creams, and no guys, Richard did not gain fourth place because he let me have some of his Magnum, and he did it entirely on his own merit!

Combe is a lovely venue, nestling in the wilds of Wiltshire, a visit to the village of Castle Combe is a must. It is a great circuit for spectators with banking surrounding much of the circuit. It is a challenging circuit, the sprint comprising of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a lap, just over 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, with the finish at Westway. The driver has to negotiate two right hand corners, three fast right hand bends, two left hand bends and two natural right/left chicanes, easy!!!

At one time we did think we were in the tropics, sunshine and then parrots!!!! No we were not dreaming, there was actually a pair of beautiful green parrots squeaking and squawking in the treetops. There is a wildlife park not far from Combe, and it is thought that parrots have been gradually integrated into the wild.

Derek and his motor home were in place, and the now expected smell of cooking breakfast awaited my arrival (this is not doing my waistline much good let alone Derek's). Glad to see you were all there, and I have to compliment you on the turn out of your cars, they all (well most of them) looked sparkling clean and in good order, this is important, keep up the good work. It was noticed that for some it was the pit crew that were washing and polishing away, (Richard) and well done Ian for making an effort with yours, it was nice to see you join in the fun.

It was nice to see familiar faces again, Oliver Bull, ex Academy now very experienced Roadsport A competitor, competing at his home circuit trying to win FTD again in his Quest Rawlson ( have not got a clue what it is). Unfortunately technical problems with the car prevented this happening, so an early exit for Oliver. It was also good to see so many family and friends turn up to support again.

Scrutineering and Convoy runs started the day, followed by the two practice runs, which you all seemed to get through without much trouble. Ben seemed to have a problem with his starts but still managed very quick times. At the end of the practice runs it was James, Doug, Ben, Andy Thompson and Chris Widdowsen coming out with the best times.

Our eligibility scrutineer Tony Parsfield was with us and ride heights seemed to be causing a problem, hence the frenetic activity in the paddock passing around 'the piece of wood' which Alex had produced to help with the measuring. It was noticed that in between munching of the sandwiches the circuit guide was being frantically studied, no doubt trying to find out where those seconds could be made up.

So onto the first timed run, most of you seemed to get a decent start but a few spins spoiled some of your runs. Andy Thompson had a huge spin at Quarry, Phil, Alex and Andrew Jackson all having moments, and Nick Payne having a big moment coming out of Bobbies into Westway, out braking himself and almost disappearing down the escape road! Still, all back in one piece and not one car off the track, brilliant. At the end of this first run, James was in the lead with 75.15, followed by Ben with 75.98, Doug with 76.21 and Stephen CB with a 76.24.

Second run came all too quickly, again a couple of big spins for some of you, Alex managed an entertaining 360 at Quarry which must have enthralled the crowds, and Andrew Jackson spinning at Bobbies, but again, both remaining on the circuit, well done lads.

The result at the end of what has to be said was a wonderful day, was James coming out on top with a 74.98, well done James, Doug second with 75.87 and Ben close on his heels with 75.92. Richard came fourth with 76.22, followed very closely by Chris with 76.26. These were very competitive times, well done to all of you.

I cannot end this report without mentioning the smooth running of the day by the Bristol Motor Club. The day went without a hitch, and unbelievably, not one car came off the circuit!!! I would like to thank those of you who stayed for prize giving, it is important to cheer the winners if possible.

See you all at Dunkeswell on the 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Kim Denning  
Championship Co-Ordinator