LONGTON AND DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB Est.1962

BULLETIN

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A RACE AGAINST THE WEATHER GIVES DRIVERS FOUR DRY RUNS BEFORE THE RAIN ARRIVES

LOOKING GOOD: 2014 Champion Bradley Dickerson kicked off the new season with FTD

LOOKING SPECTACULAR: Charles Hargreaves gives a three-wheel display in his Escort Mk2

Report and pictures by DENISE MOORE

Another new racing season got underway at Three Sisters on April 12 with a weather forecast guaranteed to blow the cobwebs from the winter-dormant racing skills of our 82 intrepid competitors. The day started grey, damp and chilly, with rain and gusty winds forecast for later, so everyone was keeping their fingers crossed to at least get the practice and some timed runs in the dry.

First practice got underway quite decorously but then Mike Thornton in his Honda Integra DC2 spun off the course at the bottom of the hill. After this several other drivers lost their inhibitions and quite a few cars were decidedly 'loose' at various points around the course. Peter Brogden in his classsic March Lotus F3 lost it spectacularly after the hairpin, performing a complete 360 degree pirouette (and briefly, travelling backwards), necessitating a red flag re-run for Nick Algar in his DJ Firehawk.

Continued ……

Having realised that the surface of the course was perhaps a little more interesting than expected, almost everybody settled down in second practice with mostly quicker times and less drama. Phil Gough in the Caterham 7 lost it slightly at the paddock bend but managed to sort himself out and still put in a quicker time than his first run. Andrew Mackay in a Caterham Roadsport slowed coming down the hill and drove down the exit to pit lane for a DNF in his second practice due to technical reasons. Thankfully this did not affect his timed runs later.

Virtually the same thing happened to a competitor in Class 2B in the first timed run. Michael Skidmore in the yellow Westfield stopped on the paddock straight and had to be pushed back to the paddock by marshals and officials. Paul Webb, in only his second time out in his Jedi Mk4 single-seater, broke a drive shaft at the start and limped to the hill where he waited to be towed off – sadly ending his day.

Robbie Birrell's 'new wheels' - a Radical Prosport

Darren Jones in the Porsche 944

Richard Kerr – shared Westfield, shared time

Phil Nelson in his classic, but fast, Hawke FF

The gathering heavy clouds saw almost all of the drivers throwing their cars at the course with a certain amount of abandon in an attempt to get a fast time before the weather caught up with us, but in spite of this there were no incidents although Geoff Cowell in the HiTech GC2008 raised his arm coming down the hill and continued down to the exit to the Paddock – his car also having failed. Geoff Ward locked up his Swift SC93F approaching the hairpin considerably quicker than he anticipated and Luke Algar in the Westfield Playskool Supertec also created clouds of smoke and a smell of burning rubber by locking up on the bend coming off the hill.

After two timed runs lunch was called at 1pm and half an hour later the rain started! In spite of the wet conditions, runs recommenced at 2pm but most of the cars were taking things more carefully although there were one or two moments of over-enthusiasm. The session was temporarily suspended due to timing issues, the wind was very gusty and strong and blew a plastic bag across the course breaking the timing beam a couple of times before it could be collected and then the timing recorder box was blown over by the wind!

Continued ……

Dom Wilson in the Renault 182 Clio Sport misjudged his braking distance slightly on the hairpin onto the hill and ended up in the tyre barrier (to the amusement of his ex-fellow marshals). Fortunately, apart from a bit of cosmetic damage to the car, the only other damage was to Dom's pride. The damp was forcing misjudgements from other drivers too, Daryl Bentley in his Toyota MR2 swung wildly after the same hairpin but managed to hold it on the track – just, and Colin Vawdrey in the Ford Escort got a little sideways on the pit straight but managed to avoid the tyre barrier along the pit wall.

In total there were 11 timed runs on the day although most of the timed runs after the first two were only utilised by the saloon cars, both for fun and the experience. All of the single seat and open cockpit car drivers decided that they had got their best times in already and wet racing suits and bottoms were no fun at all! In the last timed run of the day there was only one runner taking part!

There were some very close battles over the day including Russell Thorpe, Renault 5GT Turbo, and Keith Minshull, Peugeot 306 Rallye, in Class 1B, both drivers finishing on a dead heat of 52.16 seconds, with Russell Thorpe edged into first place in class on countback. The same thing happened in Class 2B with Richard Kerr and Luke Algar in their shared Westfield Playskool Supertec also sharing a best time of 47.05 seconds in the second timed run. Richard took the honours on countback.

Three new course records were set on the day in spite of the weather. Many thanks, as always, to the marshals and officials of LDMC, especially for their devotion to duty in braving the wet and chilly conditions!

Finally, a much-missed face in the paddock was Barry Whitehead, although daughter Eve was out upholding the family honour in his RBS 8. We would like to wish Barry a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at the circuit very shortly.

Eve Whitehead, sadly solo in the Barry-built RBS 8

Andy Larton waving a wheel in his Peugeot 106

RESULTS SA: Colin Duncalf, 63.24 N/R; SB: David Goodland, 55.96 N/R; 1B: Russell Thorpe, 52.16; 1C: Chris Berrisford, 50.05; 1D: Martin Rowe, 51.04; 1E: Darren Jones, 55.46; 1G: Robert Holt, 61.30 N/R; 2A: Phil Gough, 48.27; 2B: Richard Kerr, 47.05; 3A: Roy Bolderson, 60.30; 3B: Andrew Larton, 48.97; 3C: Steve Lewis, 52.90; 3E: David Welton, 54.12; 3H: Tim Nunn, 43.68; 4A: Robbie Birrell, 44.59; 4B: Marshall Rowland, 53.42; 5A: Bradley Dickerson, 41.26; 5B: Phil Nelson, 48.06; 5C: Peter Brogden, 50.97; 5D: Nicholas Algar, 42.11.
FTD & Best LDMC: Bradley Dickerson, 41.26
Best Lady: Eve Whitehead, 45.13
Best Novice: Barnaby Francis, 49.35

Continued ……

Russell Thorpe in 'Doris', his Renault 5 Turbo

Nick Algar in the DJ Firehawk

The Mini Clubman of Roy Bolderson.....

.....and the mighty TVR Chimaera of Heath Briggs

Mark Anson in his Westfield Megablade RR

Rober Holt in the Lotus Elise

David Welton in the powerful five-litre TVR

Bryan Walker in his unique Brytech DP 2000

Continued ……

Martin Rowe rolling along in his Honda S2000

Colin Duncalf in the MG ZR

Sean Bourn in his unusual Carcraft Cyclone

Marshall Rowland in the Lotus Elise

LONGTON'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Longton and District Motor Club's Annual General Meeting was held on April 13, 2015. Chairman Graham Malcolm outlined a busy and successful past year that included the one-off 'Red Rose Pageant' at Prescott and hosting the British Sprint Championship at Anglesey, as well as the usual Three Sisters events.

The 2014 season saw strong support for the two championships and entries for events were generally good. The Club ended the year is a healthy financial position. Graham thanked all officials, marshals and competitors for their contributions to the Club's activities.

The key officials remained unchanged after the annual election. One committee member, Michael Ashcroft, retired from his role and the meeting recorded their thanks to him for his past work, especially in his role liaising with ANWCC.

DID YOU LOSE A STRIPED SCARF AT THREE SISTERS?

A black, grey and white striped long scarf was found in Three Sisters café on the afternoon of Longton's sprint meeting on Sunday.

It is believed, although not necessarily the case, it belongs to one of a group of competitors (or friends) sat at a table near the main door into the café. If it's yours, contact Margaret Malcolm (contact details on LDMC website).

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LONGTON'S NORTHERN SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

10 events from 22 to count

Date			Club		Venue
25	April	Saturday	Liverpool MC	S	Aintree
02	May	Saturday	Auto 66	H	Oliver's Mount
03	May	Sunday	Auto 66	H	Oliver's Mount
17	May	Sunday	Mini-Cross Drivers Assoc	S	Blyton Park (2 lap)
06	June	Saturday	BARC (Yorks)	H	Harewood
13	June	Saturday	Liverpool MC	H	Barbon Manor
27	June	Saturday	Liverpool MC	S	Aintree
05	July	Sunday	Longton & DMC	S	Three Sisters (Course 2)
11	July	Saturday	Westfield SCC	S	Blyton Park
12	July	Sunday	Westfield SCC	S	Blyton Park
01	August	Saturday	Longton & DMC	S	Three Sisters (Course 1)
02	August	Sunday	Chester MC / Lancs AC	S	Three Sisters (2 Lap)
16	August	Sunday	Auto 66	H	Oliver's Mount
30	August	Sunday	BARC (Yorks)	H	Harewood
05	September	Saturday	Liverpool MC	S	Aintree
12	September	Saturday	Nottingham SCC	S	Thoresby Park
13	September	Sunday	Nottingham SCC	S	Thoresby Park
20	September	Sunday	BARC (Yorks)	H	Harewood
03	October	Saturday	Longton & DMC	S	Anglesey (National)
04	October	Sunday	Longton & DMC	S	Anglesey (International)

LONGTON SPRINT SERIES

3 *events from 5 to count*

Separate Trophies & Awards!

12	April	Sunday	S	Three Sisters
05	July	Sunday	S	Three Sisters
01	August	Saturday	S	Three Sisters
03	October	Saturday	S	Anglesey (National)
04	October	Sunday	S	Anglesey (International)

FULL REGULATIONS ARE ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE ***www.longton-dmc.co.uk*** .

ANWCC Association of North Western Car Clubs

RECOGNISED CLUB MSA RECOGNISED CLUB

ENDS