

OSS Rockingham 18th / 19th July

The weekend of 18/19th July saw the OSS Road Show head to Rockingham Motor Speedway, a first for most of our members. By close of entries on the preceding Wednesday we had only 15, significantly down on our previous meetings which was disappointing but was very encouraged by the number of e mails and phone calls I had from members letting me know why they couldn't come. A big thank you to those who contacted me and shows the interest there is in the Series which is growing meeting by meeting. A big welcome to Ferris Cowper our newest member who joined us at Rockingham along with his manager his mother who at 91 is still well interested in motor racing.

There was general test session on the Friday which reduced our numbers by 2. Poor ken Finneran who has been desperate to join us from the start but has been unable to because of a succession of problems with his exotic Timpoli. He eventually got the car sorted but in testing it caught fire. Ken our condolences and hope you can get it sorted for Oulton. Leigh Parkes car just wouldn't start all day and despite help from several quarters he had to pack up and go home with a suspected cam chain problem. Graham Cole had to withdraw due to hip problems, don't ask just don't ask. Dustin Barnes also withdrew having sold his car but the good news is that he will be out at Oulton in his new ADR3 plus his old car in the hands of the new owner

Saturday dawned with our numbers down to 11, or 10 as it would be for free practice. The clutch had gone on Shane Marshals Jade and despite long hours on Friday night the problem was still there on Saturday morning forcing Shane to miss free practice. Frantic efforts from Shane and his team ably assisted by Owen Jones of Jade got the car going literally minutes before qualifying. Well done guys.

Free testing went without drama and surprise surprise Josh Fisher was fastest.

Qualifying saw Josh on pole but Eamon Matheson found an extra 3 seconds over free practice to end up 4th fastest, 2 new tyres may have helped. Alan Hogg piping Steve Griffiths to second place by 0.007 of a second on his last qualifying lap. Anything F1 can do we can do better.

Race 1

Saturday was a nice sunny day with patchy clouds so race conditions looked good. The rolling start was superb everyone in place, this was obviously nothing to do with the drivers but the excellent briefing given by the co ordinator (remember who has written this). So well done guys. However there was 1 non Starter Dorian Tyrell who's ADR stopped on leaving the assembly area the problem not being solvable which meant Dorian missed both races.

Josh immediately shot off into the lead followed by Alan and Griff but at the end of lap 2 Alan spun at the chicane rejoining the main straight handing 2nd place to Griff. Alan got going again and then spent the rest of the race desperately trying to get back on terms with the leaders. Josh had got a 3 second lead on Griff who kept the pressure on for the whole race.

Shane had a coming together with Wayne Hills in the early laps Shane cursing himself for the mistake, he pitted on lap 4 to check the car and retired later afraid he may have damaged his radiator. Wayne was able to continue to win class C from Verity Banks.

Eamon Matheson retired on lap 5 with a dropped valve so that was his weekend over so he made an early return to Ireland. If enthusiasm could win races then Eamon would have a clean sweep.

Lap 7 saw safety car intervention because our newest member Ferris Cowper stopped out on the circuit with a broken throttle cable, he said he was really enjoying the race after spending all Friday testing setting the car up.

Lap 9 was the restart but Griff was behind a backmarker so Josh got a better start from the green flag and Griff was unable to get any closer to challenge.

So Class A was Josh, Griff and Alan 1^s, 2nd 3rd Class B was won by returnee Andrew Bentley in the works ADR followed by Bob Scanlon from N. Ireland in another ADR run by Steve Coen Motorsport and 3rd was John Church in the Bicknell, John's first podium in the Series.

Race 2.

Sunday weather was allot more overcast and with a race start of 14.30 there was always the threat of rain, however it held off for the race only to downpour as everyone was loading up.

There were 2 non starters Dorian who still couldn't solve the problem and Wayne who had a recurrence of a rib problem and found it too painful to continue to say he was disappointed is an understatement.

There was major drama at the end of the rolling lap as Josh pulled into pit lane leaving Alan to take the lead from Griff. That was the end of Josh's race a small rose joint failure in the gear selector causing his retirement. Alan and Griff shot off into the lead opening up a small lead from Shane who then spun on lap 2 dropping down the order to recover to third overall and in class.

Alan and Griff kept up a frantic pace with Griff taking the lead on lap 6 but Alan didn't take it lying down and kept the pressure on making several attempts to wrestle the lead back. (Don't ask me where as the micky mouse infield section is all corners and confusing). But on lap 11 while lapping Griff had a coming together with a back marker which allowed Alan to regain the lead. The back marker having hit the rear left tyre of the Jade resulting in handling problems meaning Griff couldn't take the fight back to Alan

Class A and B results were the same as Race 1 with Verity taking class C honours and new boy Ferris Cowper class D.

So role on Oulton where we will be back up to good grid numbers. So see you all there.

Alan



