

## Nottingham Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2016 - Rounds 11 to 18

Having just completed the NSCC Curborough double header at the beginning of July, we only had a few days to regroup and sort our cars out in time for another double header. This time we were part of the hugely popular WSCC weekend at Blyton Park. It's an excellent circuit and has always suited my Lotus Elise. That was until the heavens opened! The Saturday event was delayed during practice due to standing water on the circuit. After a short break, we had a fun run in the wet, making a splash for the cameras on the final apex. Amazingly, it dried out so quickly, we were running in dry conditions by the second timed run. Sunday had similarly mixed conditions but again, the fastest timed runs were on a dry pace. Championship leader Gordon Peters in the Nissan 350Z was the top performer over the two days, with 2015 champion Gavin Neate in the Peugeot 106 and Andrew Rollason in the Ford KA following close behind.

Rounds 13 and 15 were both at Scammonden, with a round on the figure 8 Curborough layout sandwiched in between. There were an abundance of timed runs at both Scammonden events, providing newcomers with plenty of time to learn and improve.

The Mid Cheshire MRC event saw an incredible 12 timed runs for anyone with that much stamina and enough fuel. Matt Turner in the R1 powered Westfield certainly made the most of it, setting a new class record, taking the FTD and moving up to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the championship.

Gavin was back on the charge at Curborough, beating the 3A target by 3 hundredths and we also saw new NSCC competitor, Dave Chesterton, scoring well in his SB Fiesta.

Paul Webb in the Aries Locost and Steven Tomlinson in his Subaru Impreza Type R both scored highly during 6 timed runs at the second Scammonden event. For Paul, it was enough to move him up to 4<sup>th</sup> overall, just ahead of the absent Matt Turner.

The annual trip to Oliver's Mount was next on the calendar and Steve Brown was back in action in his Westfield Megabusa. Steve proceeded to smash his second record of the season, taking the maximum 21 points. Meanwhile Gordon was on form again, finishing within a second of his target for the eighth time this year and retaining a healthy lead in the championship.

Rounds 17 and 18 took place at the lovely Loton Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend, with a good turnout from the NSCC contingent.

There was a spell of wet weather during practice on Saturday morning to upset the flow and make it tricky. However, it soon dried out, allowing Steve Brown to take a class win, just a few tenths off the target. Matt Turner also had a great day, winning the Westfield Sports Car Club class 27 by a healthy margin and moving him up to 2<sup>nd</sup> in the championship.

Unfortunately, Bob Smith and Tim Burrill had car troubles and will be finishing the season in an alternative car, but it was good to see novice driver Dave Morris in his MG V8 out on the hill on Sunday.

A number of drivers competed on both days, including Mike Gallery in his Mini Cooper S. Not only did Mike provide us with a lovely car to watch, he took the 3A class wins on both days to round off a successful weekend.

There are 4 rounds remaining in the championship, with the final 2 at the Anglesey double header on the first weekend in October. Gordon Peters remains out in front and has been dropping lower scores to extend his lead over Matt Turner. Andrew Rollason is in 3<sup>rd</sup> for now but there are other drivers yet to reach the maximum 8 scores. That includes Gavin Neate in 4<sup>th</sup>, who will be very close to Gordon once he clocks up his 8<sup>th</sup> result. Then it will depend on the dropped scores in the last few events and if we have any wet rounds, where a potential 20 points would be on offer. Of course it's never predictable and I have noticed that one or two of the

top contenders have their cars up for sale, so that may put another final twist in the championship tale.

Stephen Morrison  
NSCC Speed Championship Scorer