

Nottingham Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2015 - up to Round 20

It has been 15 rounds since my last compilation... and of course a lot has happened.

In May there were two busy rounds at MIRA, where we first got to see (but not photograph!) the Legends Racing Ford Sedan, shared by newcomers Alan Foster and Simon Kidger. Reigning champion Steve Brown, was competing for the first time this season with a new engine in the Westfield Megabusa. Steve set a new 3F class record during the second visit to MIRA and was clearly back to business.

June saw a variety of venues with Shelsley Walsh (now 110 years old), Barbon Manor and Silverstone Stowe with the MG Car Club. As a new venue for the NSCC calendar, Stowe was a 20 point round and six competitors happily accepted the full 20 points for their championship bids.

The annual NSCC organised Curborough 2 lap event took place at the beginning of July and Gavin Neate (Peugeot 106) began to show his intent for the Championship title. It's a popular event at that time of year and the 2015 event was another success thanks to the hard work of all the usual volunteers. I'm afraid that didn't include me this time, as I was several thousand miles away enjoying thunderstorms in Las Vegas. Gavin was the closest to his target of all the NSCC entries, falling short by just 1.03 seconds with Steve Brown an uncharacteristic 2.44 seconds off target.

Plenty of points were dished out for the WSCC Blyton weekend, which has become one of the most popular double headers on the sprinting calendar. There were stand-out performances from Rich Abraham (Westfield SEi) and Gavin as they beat their targets on both days. NSCC Chairman Steve Miles (Van Diemen RF96) came close on the Saturday and then smashed it on the Sunday, but was beaten to the FTD by WSCC's Nick Algar.

It was the BARC Midlands Curborough Figure 8, Round 16, that was the turning point in the title race. There were numerous class records broken, partly due to the relatively new layout, but partly due to major commitment from many drivers. One of those on a mission was Gary Thomas, setting a new course record of 52.27 seconds. Gavin (seen on 3 wheels several times during the day), was one of 5 drivers to hit the maximum 21 points, taking him into the overall lead. Despite a healthy haul of 19.17 points and leading for the preceding 10 rounds, Andrew Rollason (Ford Ka) was finally nudged off the top. Nice to see the lovely Hillman Imp of Martin Parkes out for the first time with NSCC too.

There were 6 rounds in August, with both Loton Park (R19) and Harewood (R20) finishing off the action on Sunday 30th. That action included another class record for Steve Brown at Loton Park, beating his own target by almost 2 seconds! David West (Peugeot 106 GTi) also had a good weekend at Loton but at Harewood, regulars Emma Bennison, Tim Burrill and Bob Smith all had car troubles and came a way pointless.

Unfortunately, as many of you will be aware, the NSCC double header at Thoresby had to be cancelled due to track subsidence. This nostalgic event is usually the grand finale of the season and will hopefully be back for 2016. This means the last two rounds (21 and 22) now take place at Anglesey on the first weekend in September. Gary Thomas in 2nd will be chasing Gavin, but with a 3.57 point gap he has his work cut out.