

Nottingham Sports Car Club RTR Speed Championship – to Round 15 (2014)

19/8/14

There has been an abundance of great events in the NSCC Speed Championship already this season so it's hard to believe there are still 5 remaining, including the award winning Thoresby Park in September.

Back in May we managed to dodge the showers at MIRA and had a full set of dry runs. June, saw a number of new competitors get going and an impressive start for novice Daniel Morris in his Clio 172 Cup at Prescott.

July started at Shelsley Walsh where reigning Champion Steve Brown smashed the class record and took maximum points with it. He actually went on to claim a hat trick of class records and maximum points during July and August so he's clearly out to keep his title! The day after Shelsley, we were at Curborough for our first NSCC organised round with very close to a full entry. The first timed run was dry but if you hadn't got it right on the first one you were in trouble as we had a heavy shower. There were some valiant efforts, but Steve was the only one to beat his target time and with Emma Bennison absent, he stole the championship top spot heading into the half way stage. But not for long.....

Still in July it was a hot double header at Blyton Park and many drivers took the opportunity to camp over. Despite the evening festivities and an overnight downpour to keep them awake, all the NSCC competitors posted faster times on the second day – with Andrew Rollason (Ford KA), Ian Oldfield (Ford KA Sports Libre) and Adam Mills (Peugeot 106) making the biggest gains. Target times were beaten by myself and Rich Abraham, with Emma just a whisker slower. Unfortunately our Chairman, Steve Miles had mechanical troubles after just one practice run so didn't get a shot at the lap record but at least he saved his gearbox, just in time as it turned out! Positions as we paused for our 3 week F1 style break showed that Emma had regained the lead with Paul Webb up to second and Rich third.

Paul and Rich swapped places after a quiet round at 3 Sisters in August, before the second visit to Curborough for another double lapper. Dry all day on this occasion and some quick times but again it was only the Megabusa of Steve Brown that was beating any targets. Steve was aided by new slicks but took them for a little spin on the grass in his first timed run, just to show us how hard he was trying!

Up to date after Round 15 at Oliver's Mount on 17th August and the top spot is almost guaranteed to be retained by Steve with a staggering 160 points and still climbing – although he did blow his engine after just one timed run to spare us further pain! So it's all about the remaining places and with another great effort, Rich (Westfield SEI) reduced the gap to Emma (Sylva Striker) to 1.73 points with Paul Webb (Van Diemen RF84) trailing by a further 8.36 in 4th. Both Ian Butcher (Renault 5 GT Turbo) and me (Lotus Elise) are still in with a shout as we haven't put in the minimum 8 scores yet and there's still an outside chance of top 3 for Paul Woolfitt (Z-Cars Mini) following a maximum 21 points at Oliver's Mount. It's usually close going into the final double header at Thoresby Park and this year looks like we're in for another treat.

Stephen Morrison, NSCC Championship Scorer