

Nottingham Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2016 - to round 10

We are well into the 2016 NSCC Speed Championship, with 10 of the 22 rounds completed.

The ever popular Rockingham Sprint started the season, with the usual suspects performing well. Great to see Gordon Peters taking part in the championship after a few years out and he was off to a flying start in the raucous Nissan 350Z GT. Looks like he's going to give last years' champion, Gavin Neate, quite a challenge.

Harewood, Aintree and MIRA followed, before the first ever sprint on the Blyton Park Eastern Circuit. It proved a popular event, possibly because it was a 20 point round (no targets to aim for) and a number of NSCC competitors took the full tally by winning their class. That included newcomer Matt Turner in the Westfield Megablade R1 and the beautiful Yellow Elan of Rodney Ellis. Another newcomer and complete novice, Hamish Gibson, did a fantastic job to take the class win in his EVO 9 FQ-340 - he's certainly one to watch.

Round 6, another relatively new venue for the NSCC, was the MG Car Club's Silverstone Stowe event as part of the MG Live weekend. It was a misty and cool start but the sun burnt through to bathe us in sunshine for the afternoon, providing ideal conditions for some new class records. No less than 6 of the 9 NSCC entries beat their targets, with 3 of us taking the maximum 21 points. Steve Brown (Westfield Megabusa) smashed his target in T1 whilst Mike Gallery in his gorgeous Mini Cooper S, achieved his 21 points more progressively.

Barbon was quieter for NSCC entries but both Matt Turner and Nick Scott (Force Hyabusa 1298cc) took 20 points as it was a wet round.

Round 8 at Three Sisters saw Gordon Peters put in another outstanding performance to finally push Andrew Rollason (Ford KA) off the top spot in the Championship.

Then it was time for the weekend we'd all been waiting for! The NSCC organised double header at Curborough, with a single lap on Saturday and the Double Lap on Sunday. Lots of members supporting the Club's own events and every one of them gaining an extra point in the championship for each of the two days entered. A quiet Saturday combined with the short 1 lap layout resulted in a staggering 9 runs during the day. Despite the opportunity to fine tune on each run, there were no targets beaten but there were plenty of high scores and close racing. Round 10 on Sunday was a full entry with many additional championships joining us for another great day. The rain held off, despite spots on both days, and it was Gavin and Matt that took the most points away from the weekend.

Gordon Peters leads as we head for the second half of the championship and enter the realms of the dropped scores. He has set the early pace but there are plenty of other challengers hot on his heels as we head to another double header at Blyton Park.

Stephen Morrison
NSCC Speed Championship Scorer