

## Nottingham Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2015 - Opening 5 rounds

For the second year in a row the NSCC season kicked off at the Rockingham Motor Speedway, with its high speed race circuit, modern pit garages and seemingly regular sunshine. All target times for Rockingham were set in 2014, so there was plenty of scope for improvement and plenty of competitors turned out with that in mind. In fact 5 of the 17 NSCC drivers beat their respective class target, with many others not far behind. Gavin Neate in a modified Peugeot 106 (3A), Steven Needham in a Smart Roadster (SA) and Gary Thomas in a Force PC (5C) all clocked up the maximum 21 points. The battle of the day certainly goes to Steve Miles and Gary Thomas, who fought for FTD honours throughout the day, with our Chairman Steve losing out by just 0.01 sec on the final run!

Just a couple of competitors headed north to Croft for round 2. Once again it was Gavin Neate who managed to shave a quarter of a second off his target to gain another significant points haul, taking him to the top of the overall leader board.

On to Round 3 on the Harewood Hill in April and it turned out to be more of a battle with the elements. After a sharply cold, windy morning with occasional threat of rain, most of the drivers managed to record one timed run in the dry. That turned out to be their best opportunity, as the rain came in and ruined further chances of improvement. David West in (1B) in his Peugeot 106 GTi was our top scorer on the day at a venue where the target times are generally pretty tough. Just one driver, Steven Darley (not NSCC), managed to improve on his wet run, enough to win his class - impressive. The overall standings remained the same, with Gavin leading over Steven Needham, followed by Steve Miles.

It's a bumper year of events in the NSCC Championship this year, with 24 in total and Round 4 was another new one. This time the familiar Blyton Park circuit, but 2 laps rather than one, with the Mini Drivers' Association. It's one of my personal favourites, partly because it suits my Elise and partly because, well, it just is. As a new layout it was a 20 point round and with a fairly small entry there were a number of top scores. Good to see newcomer and novice Callum Trump put in a fine performance with a Locost in his first event. Not for the first time there was a closely fought battle in 2A between Rich Abraham (Westfield SEiW) and Emma Bennison (Sylva Striker). Rich finally taking the honours by 0.45 sec to move him to the top of the Championship, very closely followed (0.28) by Andrew Rollason (Ford KA) with Gavin slipping to third - just for the moment!

Aintree, with Liverpool MC, was the venue for round 5 and with Andrew making the journey while Rich sat it out, their positions at the top of the Championship reversed just in time for this early report. Gavin remains third, closely followed by Gary Thomas, Emma Bennison and Steven Needham. Coming up next we have two visits to MIRA before the first trip to Shelsley Walsh - Happy days now we're back on track.

Stephen Morrison  
NSCC Speed Championship Scorer