

## 2017 Speed Championship Round 4 – Prescott

### **‘14 year old record broken at La vie en bleu’**

#### **Sunday 28 May**

A fine entry of 12 500's and 4 'over 500's' at the birthplace of the Cooper marque ensured a day of interest. The event welcomed first-timers Andy Raynor (Cooper Mk.5) and Simon Dedman (immaculately restored Waye). Amongst the top runners Fin Mackintosh was absent, Steve Lawrence, who had taken the victory spoils at the Cooper day last year was making his first 2017 appearance, Mark Riley had left Squanderbug at home to run the competitive Creamer while Alistair Dent and Jan Nycz were in their usual mounts.

#### **Practice**

The V-twins were seeded before the 500's and the unfortunate Ruth Ross, as first away, stalled on the line with clutch problems. In the 500's, Alistair Dent coaxed the Hornet to the top of the hill with wayward steering. Also in trouble were Steve Lawrence as the Cooper Mk.9 spluttered its way up before a total carb strip down back in the paddock, Ains Barwick 'failed' when a battery lead to the fuel pump on the Triumph twin came adrift and Jan Nycz's Staride suffered a disconnected throttle cable. In the first ever run for the Waye, Simon Dedman suffered a bottom upright through-bolt nut disappeared leaving his team to search for a replacement. At the front, straight into the 52's went Nick Reynolds, over a second ahead of Mark Riley who in turn was a second ahead of Richard Grant.

P2 saw a fail for Alistair who underbraked the Hornet to land up in the kitty litter at Pardon. Another to visit the extremities of the track was Mike Wood who went very wide on exiting Ettore. Richard Grant was running well and 'getting used the hill again'....despite the trail of oil from the trip tray left in the paddock queue. The Staride of Robin Baxter had unusually thrown a chain on the return road. The leading trio of Reynolds, Riley and Nycz were now followed ever closer by John Dent and Richard Grant.

In the 'over 500 class, Marcus Black and Ruth Ross had both experience clutch problems leaving Charles Reynolds and Ains Barwick (seeded amongst the 500s) to show the way.

#### **Timed runs**

After the spills and failures of practice, timed runs passed relatively untroubled. Following the V-twins, Alistair Dent was able to post a benchmark in the 54's which, with a slower 2nd run would secure an eventual 4th spot. Also into the 54's went Jan Nycz and Richard Grant although Richard never completed his 2nd run after a big moment sliding into the gravel at Pardon hairpin. Steve Lawrence was left pondering where almost 2 secs had gone since his Cooper day win but managed to stay ahead of the ever consistent John Dent.

At the front Mark Riley went into the lead after the first runs after Nick Reynolds made an "untidy/scrappy" run. So it was down to the wire for T2 with Nick, seeded

before Mark knowing that all hinged on the final run. Whilst Nick set off, the Creamer suffered a puncture meaning Mark was unable to even start his 2nd run. Nonetheless, casting all to the wind, Nick set about completing a scorching 51.91 and in the process take the hill record from Jon Brough's 14 year old time.

In the big engine class, Charles Reynolds was able to fend off challenges from the rapidly improving Marcus Black in his very original Cooper Mk.7's, Ainsley Barwick in his Cooper Mk.6 (650cc) and Ruth Ross in her familiar Cooper Mk.4.

### Results:

Up to 500 cc

(Previous record: Jon Brough 52.19 on 01.06.03)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Nick Reynolds	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	52.57	52.60	53.21	51.91	51.91
2	Mark Riley	Creamer Special JAP	53.83	53.33	52.90	-	52.90
3	Jan Nycz	Staride Mk.III Norton	-	54.75	54.07	54.35	54.07
4	Alistair Dent	Hornet JAP	74.51	-	54.27	55.02	54.27
5	Richard Grant	Kiehn Special JAP	56.23	55.38	54.61	-	54.61
6	Steve Lawrence	Cooper Mk.9 JAP	81.02	56.30	55.81	55.44	55.44
7	John Dent	Cooper Mk.8 JAP	55.78	55.23	56.46	56.39	56.39
8	Mike Wood	Iota CB2 JAP	61.08	62.36	60.14	58.46	58.46
9	Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk.V JAP	59.59	59.26	58.71	59.45	58.71
10	Robin Baxter	Staride JAP	62.33	59.61	60.93	59.61	59.61
11	Alex Duce	Cooper Mk.5 JAP	68.13	68.83	70.09	64.01	64.01
12	Dennis Williams	Arnott JAP	68.01	66.99	66.43	67.51	67.51
13	Simon Dedman	Waye JAP	76.10	71.24	70.19	68.83	68.83

Over 500cc

(Current record: Charles Reynolds 51.33 on 30.07.16)

Pos	Driver	Car	P1	P2	T1	T2	Best
1	Charles Reynolds	Cooper Mk.7 JAP	53.21	51.55	51.46	52.29	51.46
2	Marcus Black	Cooper Mk.7 JAP			54.61	56.34	54.61
3	Ainsley Barwick	Cooper Mk.6 Triumph			61.46	58.15	58.15
4	Ruth Ross	Cooper Mk.4 JAP			65.75	66.86	65.75

A full report will appear in the next issue of 'The 500'.



Paddock activity in the sunshine at the well supported Prescott 'La vie en bleu' meeting.

