

Solway Autograss

Report by: Malcolm Brown

A move to the wild side

Sunday 1st June saw the fourth meeting of the season and after a lot of hard work, we were now able to move the pits area to the far side of the track. This made things better for not just the drivers but also gave the spectators more room.

The day commenced with the Class 1 drivers, with Mark Johnston keeping a good early lead until passed by Arthur Cunningham. The bottom corner proved to be quite hair raising with the leading cars having all four wheels off the ground as they took the corner. Sadly, Mark had to pull off the track with a problem.

With an excellent turn out of Stock Hatch, two grids of cars had to be used. The first grid of cars saw John Hooper having an excellent race, keeping in front the whole time despite taking the corners wide, he still managed to drive home to first place.

The second grid saw Kevin Brough and a Dales driver fighting against each other the whole way, until Keith Bowrey moved up to first position. After a few hiccups things seemed to be looking sweet for Keith until sadly into the fourth lap and he had to pull off the track with a broken drive shaft. Better luck next time Keith. This left the field open for Kevin to catch up again and earn a first place and George Coombe from Dalston in third place.

Classes 3 & 7 left the grid together. This race saw Brian Abbott get an early lead and keep a good gap away from the rest of the pack. This early lead saw him finish first followed by brother Kevin and in third place Mark Little. We even got a glimpse of Gary Graham in the second

heat; he has been so unlucky at Silloth.

The Specials had a mixed race of Classes 8 & 9, Wullie Stewart showed the boys how to race his space framed machine around the track he does it with great ease. He certainly seems to be going from strength to strength. A good first place followed by Phill Talbot and Steve Hartley.

Now was the turn of the fiery youngsters, so eager to get out on the track. With such a good



Paul Hodgson being closely followed by Mark Johnston

turn out, we had to run two heats; we seem to be pulling Juniors out of the woodwork. Every meeting we seem to have more to add to our list of members, long may this continue. The first heat showed how excited the youngsters were, on entering the top corner Steven Armstrong and David Hooper came together. Steven Armstrong rolled his car and hit the fence and David Hooper headed straight into one of the track posts. After a good check over both lads were okay and eager to have a second attempt, which gave the results of first place to Scott Rigg, Ashley Dublin and Steven Armstrong. The second grid of Juniors saw Dales driver Rachel Davies have an excellent race with second place going to Gavin Marks and Rebecca Hadden in third.

Class 2 looked to be

a good race with Richard Lewthwaite in his recently purchased Micra, which had won its class in the BAS championship last year. Dales driver John Davies had an early lead until Richard seemed to fly past and up into first place. On the bottom corner, Dales Lee Lindsay rolled his Nationals qualifying Peugeot 205. However the results were as standing with Richard having a good second place.

Class 4 & 5 left the line together and saw the final

outcome of Eric Agnew winning his race.

Class 6 with Trevor Brough in his Honda powered V8 rover got a first and second in his heats, also with the same results in his heats was John Fyrth.

The Ladies racing turned out to be good for the spectators with all classes put out on the track together. This proved to be quite hairy at times when the cars came round a corner to be met by a special next to them on the track. Class 11 resulted with Lin Cunningham winning a first and second place in her heats. Lynn Curnow also got a first a second in her heats. Cath Hadden with two second places. Class 12 Helen Gray won both her heats, with Sue Burgess second in her heat, in Class 14 Mary Telford was first. Cath Hartley had a first and second also in her heats.

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The result of the Solway Mens Open

1. Richard Lewthwaite
2. Arthur Cunningham
3. Trevor Brough

Final results:

Class 1 Paul Hodgson
 Class 2 John Davies,
 Class 3 Mark Little,
 Class 4 Andrew Nesbitt,
 Class 5 Nick Barnard,
 Class 6 Trevor Brough,
 Stock Hatch John Hooper,
 Junior A Gavin Marks,
 Junior B York driver,
 Class 8 Wullie Stewart,
 Class 9 Richard Telford,
 Class 11 Lin Cunningham,
 Class 12 Helen Grey,
 Class 14 Mary Telford.
 Our next race meeting will be a 2-day event to be held on 28th & 29th June The Cumberland Open.