

Solway Autograss

Report by: Leeanne Harding

A fantastic two days autograss racing was had by all at Silloth this weekend by over 100 drivers and many, more spectators.

The meeting was a big success and there were many drivers both from Solway Autograss club and away clubs including Scarborough, Yorkshire Dales, Central Scotland, White Rose and finally last but not least Leewood autograss club in Manchester who all showed up for the F600 stock special championships, bringing with them many cars and even more spectators.

The two day event started off with fantastic weather and racing on the Saturday with two heats being raced by each class. The day did not go without its hitches though with several green flags handed out for driving on the tyre markers including Junior Driver Gavin Marks in SL22, another junior driver to receive a green flag was young Lee Birks in SL18, Anthony Bickley in SL614 and also Keith Bowrey in SL52. A black

flag was also given to stock hatch driver SL600 for causing the race to be stopped. Unfortunately for Will Ward driving SL25 his car spun out, rolled over and then landed on its four wheels again, thankfully after being looked at by the St. John's Ambulance crew Will was fine as was the car.

This did not put a damper on the entertainment on the Saturday night however, unlike the rain, with Solway men winning the tug o' war competition but alas Leewood women were just that bit stronger than the Solway ladies who stomped home with a win for the ladies.

Well after Sun burn on Saturday it was time for a different kind of burn on Sunday, yes that dreaded Wind and rain was out with wind burn slapping everyone's cheeks.

Having said that again the weather did not deter the racing with another heat to be raced in order to decide who had made it through to the finals. Again the

day did not go without its flags with several green flags handed out again for crossing tyres and two black flags, one during the Class 9 racing to SL5 Mark Johnston as his Exhaust was hanging off. The second was given to a young Yorkshire Dales driver during the Junior Class A final for repeatedly running over the tyres. There was also another unfortunate roll for Will Ward driving SL25 who again escaped thankfully unhurt.

Class 1 saw two Solway members achieving trophies Paul Hogson from Carlisle in SL103 gained second place with Michael Robson in SL44 gaining third position.

Class 2 saw all three places go to away drivers with 1st for Yorkshire Dales and second for a Leewood driver.

Class 3 saw two wins with Stewart Lewthwaite from Frizington in SL3 gaining Second and Aspatia's Neil Barnes in SL68 gaining a well deserved third place.

Class 5 saw a first place trophy awarded to Robert Pattinson in

SL87.

Class 6 second place went to SL94 Michael Macintosh and third place to another Solway member SL106.

Class 7 saw the first class to be won entirely by Solway members with SL100 Stewart Lewthwaite gaining first, even though it was only the second time he has had this car out on the race track and keeps putting it through fences, Mark Nugent from Carlisle in SL51 gaining second and third place going to Scotland's David Pagan driver of SL41.

Class 8 was a very closely run race with second place going top SL80 Phil Talbot and third place to SL50 Steve Hartley.

Class 9 driver Richard Telford stormed home in SL8 to gain first place.

Class 10 was won by a visiting driver from York.

Class 11 saw Whitehaven's Lin Cunningham coming home with a trophy for third place in SL12 after being piped at the post by Young Yorkshire Dales driver Lindsey Knott

and another Dales driver Angie Hilton.

Class 12 saw young Debbie Alford in SL156 coming home with a first place trophy after just entering into this class.

Class 13 was won by drivers again from Yorkshire Dales club.

Class 14 saw two wins for the cars SL177 which was being driven by a lady from an away club and second place for Sue Carlisle's Burgess in SL33.

Juniors A final saw Carlisle's Gavin Marks in SL22 gaining first position with the winner from the B final Jonathon Biagi gaining joint third - well done.

Juniors B final was the second class of the day to be cleaned up by Solway drivers with Young Jonathon Biagi SL85 storming home for first place, Lee Birks from Maryport driving SL18 in Second and third but by no means least newcomer John Brough in SL256.

Stock special A final saw a third place trophy heading Solway's way in the form of SL177 Peter Cobb.

Stock special B final was dominated by Leewood drivers.

Stock Hatch saw a fantastically close race from all the drivers with a few near misses but nevertheless resulted in two trophies for Solway members with SL626 Kevin Brough gaining a well deserved first place and Cleator Moor's Trevor Payne in SL678 gaining a good second place.

A special mention must go to all the new Solway Drivers who raced for the first time this week end including Frizington's Paul Sharp in SL476 who had a fantastically immaculate car, that unfortunately suffered a few technical hitches - which is all part of the learning curve.

Remember it's never too late to join Auto grass racing and the best way to start is by watching others racing, having a look around the pits at the lunch break and asking anyone there any questions that you might have. For more details look on the website: www.solway-autograss.co.uk.

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