

LOTON PARK HILLCLIMB 2014



Martin Wollacott approaching Keepers Corner – Photo - David Coulthard

Our Luffield round at Loton Park was again a double header and an opportunity for two days of competition at this very popular venue. We had 22 entries with the usual cross section of models, the weather was set to be warm and sunny until late afternoon.

Rob Orford in his MGB didn't even make it to the start line, the fuel pump wiring was the culprit and a hasty repair aided by Richard Withers soon got Rob under way in the next practice batch, Mike Cole blew his MGB's head gasket soon after the start, the remainder of us completed our two practise runs during the morning without further incident. Between the practise runs it was all hands on deck to repair Mike's engine, the head was soon off and Mike was on way to the Welsh MG Centre for a replacement gasket. Fortunately we were a late class in the programme and this gave us time to put Mike's MGB head back on, the Clerk of the Course needed signatures from all class competitors to enable Mike to take his two event runs which, much to his relief he completed with his engine performing well. The MGB curse hadn't finished with us yet, Richard Wither's oil light came on during his final run and he had to pull out of the Sunday event. New class records were set by Martin Price TA 81.31; Martin Woolacott MGA 70.54 and Darren Porter MGF 69.57, Martin Wollacott and Martin Price were top points scorers with 100.71 and 99.23 respectively. Class awards went to Richard Withers 3rd, Rob Orford 2nd and myself 1st.



Many hands make light work? Too many cooks? Whatever, we got Mike back in the event. Photo - Christine Orford

Day two at Loton with 26 of us in the Luffield class, we had a few rain showers overnight but due to our late class in the programme the track was dry for our first practise run. Things got off to a flying stop when Darren Porter crunched his MGF at the Triangle tyre wall causing damage to the bumper, front wing and the tyre barrier! Fortunately he was OK and David Coulthard helped with a quick gaffer tape repair to get him out for second practise. The event runs after lunch produced some

quick times and new records were set by Martin Price TA 81.30, Ian Beningfield Midget 74.62 and myself 62.34. Top point scorers were again the two Martins accompanied by Ian Beningfield who scored 99.95 points. Keith Egar won the class in his rapid 'K' series Midget with a 62.12, I was second and Mike Cole 3rd with 63.92.

As always thanks to the Marshals and Organisers.

Terry Drinkwater