

# SOUTHERN STUFF 1 2013

## WISCOMBE PARK HILLCLIMB

This was my first 'spring' Wiscombe as I missed last year's event and we were treated to fantastic sunny spring weather although the previous evening's rain left the track damp for first practice. Surprisingly we only had seven competitors in our Luffield Class, these being Chris Warden, Richard Atkins, Alan Atkins, Steve Luscombe, Ian Benningfield, Terry Pigott and myself. As mentioned, first practise was damp up through the esses and beyond and most people took it easy as Wiscombe takes no prisoners due to the close proximity of the trees. Second practise was much drier and this was reflected in the times recorded.

After lunch the 'event' runs began, the track was dry and things were going well until some bright spark driving a Vauxhall Nova thought his knocking big ends would make it to the top of the hill, I happened to be near the start line and could hear it clattering and was amazed he got as far as Bunny's Leap when the engine let go a few meters after it, he wasn't content with this and somehow managed to keep going through Gate and as far as the bottom 'S' spewing oil on the track. This took some twenty minutes to clear up and the next drivers had a trail of cement dust to contend with, at least the single seater's would help clean the track! The TVR class were in front of us and one of them went straight on at Bunny's (before the cement trail) took to the grass and crashed into the hedge, incredibly the next TVR, once the track was cleared, done the same but went even further across the grass before hitting the scenery. At this point the other TVR drivers were getting a bit twitchy and bets were being placed on the likelihood of any of them reaching the finish, happily they all did! After our first run Steve Luscombe in his Midget posted a time of 48.19 which led our class, Richard Atkins was double driving his Fathers MGA and set a time of 49.75 which not only bettered Alan's time by just over two seconds but also beat Terry Pigott's time by 1.26 seconds, this was some achievement as he hasn't competed since 2011.

The final run decided the class positions, Terry Pigott got to grips with the course and posted a 49.33 to take 3<sup>rd</sup> in class, Steve Luscombe was 2<sup>nd</sup> in class

with his 48.19, yours truly won the class with a 47.18 after fluffing my first run with a lack of concentration and a missed gear (I blamed the TVR's for keeping us hanging around for so long!) Newcomer Chris Warden in his MGF beat his target time by over six seconds and scored a 102, Steve Luscombe beat his 2012 time and scored a 98.5, well done to both of them. Ian Benningfield has a change of steed this year and recorded a time of 56.41 in his Midget.



A view of the paddock with Ian Benningfield soaking up the sun next to his Midget, Terry Pigott's MGB is in the foreground.

As always thanks to the Marshals and Torbay Motor Club for a great day at Wiscombe Park Hill Climb.

Terry Drinkwater