

The Bath Gymkhana

1st June 2008

Well the day was well underway when the organisers motored up to Charmy Down to set out the course—things were going well and we even stopped for lunch before the keenest of the competitors arrived for the afternoons sport.

The entry was encouraging with one MMM entry, 3 TC, 3 Midget, 3 Metro, 2 MGB, 2MGF and a ZS—bit of a problem for the organisers endeavouring to work out classes with that lot so it ended up with 'Old' and 'New' which was hardly fair but if more of you entered then we could have more classes (more classes = more prizes).

The encouraging thing, from the organisers point of view, was that for four of the entries this was the first ever M.G. event, two were 'old' members who, inexplicably, hadn't been out for a few years and we even had volunteer marshals one of which came from the Sprint/Hill Climb fraternity and just wanted to "put something back" to the club for all the fun he has had over the years.

During the event Dave Coppock was having trouble with an intermittent 'missing' in his TC—a replacement spark plug put things right again so when Peter Jones had a similar problem with his TC (an almost unheard of occurrence) he fished out a 'harlequin selection' of plugs from the depth of the spacious spares locker and that didn't make a scrap of difference, so he changed the rotor arm, then the condenser, then the points and, eventually, the coil (which was the problem all along). He then went on to win the class much to the upset of Daryl Cocup, who was also entered in Peter's car, and always suspected that he was rather the better driver ! The car was, as Peter pointed out, working perfectly until Daryl got his hands on it so please could he have the money for a new coil ? Alas Daryl came in towards the lower echelons of the class after second place Dave Coppock (TC) and Chris Lewis (PB 4 str).

The overall winner was Russell Morgan in his disgustingly fast Midget (that had appeared to have been grazing at some point of the proceedings) and that allowed John Dellafield to win the class in his Midget. After him came Jim Lot in the Metro and John Bird in his prettily pirouetting Midget (had he kept it going forward on the slippery surface all the time he may have done better). The two MGFs were split by the 2 MGBs (Brenda Foot doing exceptionally well for her first event) and Sam in the Metro (letting Jim in front for a change) with Richard Tranter's fearsome (if not particularly well suited) V6 ZS 160 allowing Carole Brown in the Metro to pick up the prize for having the most points of the afternoon.

As a matter of interest the winner of the 'Old' class had exactly the same number of points as the winner of the 'New' class which just goes to show what a leveller the style of Gymkhana run on a grass surface really is—unless you have 160 ps under the right boot which can be a bit of a handful.

The competition was not at all serious, everyone driving round seemed to have a huge grin on their faces all afternoon and it didn't even rain—what more could you ask for

£10 ? A selection of exciting photos of this and other SW events can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/MGZSJim/BathGymkahna2008> thanks to the untiring efforts of Jim Lot.

As to the future we have on July the 13th the Pucclchurch Gymkhana (to the North of Bristol) and August 3rd for the Chew Valley Gymkhana (to the South of Bristol) when similar stupidity will again be organised for the fun and enjoyment of any member with £10 and an M.G. all details of this and so much more can be gleaned at <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccsw/>

Peter Jones.

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