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SBD Motorsport

**moleracing 2022 season so far,
.....so so, could be better!**

Hethel

Due to the long gap between the first British rounds at Anglesey and Blyton, I popped in a sneaky club sprint at Hethel for more seat time and practice. Pete in the Ecoboost also did the same but then this is a local track for him. Simon Wallis was also there and we had a good ding dong all day, and just like Cadwell, Pete emerged top by a fraction of a second. Still all good practice! *(no photos from Hethel as it is a Lotus development track and cameras are not allowed)*

Blyton Park Weekend

I took a half day midweek before this event to have a practice and try out the new rear wing endplates. It is interesting that it takes a full-bore competition weekend to push yourself hard, and in reality, when I am at a test session I drive at 95% and it should be the time to push harder as mistakes (crash damage withstanding) don't matter.



The morning was successful, with the new curved endplates – designed by ex Ferrari and Sauber Aero top man Willem Toet (shown here when I met him at Silverstone last week at the Formula Student event) - giving more rear end downforce to the extent that I had to increase the front aero to get a high speed balance back again. This then influenced high speed ride height which needed compensating.



On the Saturday Eastern circuit, the Ecoboosts were flying and Graham, who also had spent a day at Blyton having instruction from Alan Muggleston won the first run off by just 0.03 secs ahead of Pete and myself 3rd ahead of Terry in the V8 Iola. In the second run off, Terry found his form and won, and Pete tickled the barrier at Bishops and removed the right front! But, all was well and here is Pete – centre of picture - removing the car off the recovery truck.

An amazing effort from the SBD team, who removed the engine after first practice to replace a damaged belt caused by a bolt being picked up somewhere and wedging in the wrong place. The SBD aerodynamicist undertook an 8 hour round trip to Surbiton to get the new parts. By 8pm, they had the engine running again. Top Effort!



All that effort was rewarded as Matt demolished the field the following day to win both run offs, Graham netted 2 second places, Steve Broughton two 3rd places and a 4th and 5th for myself, and strangely Terry 5th and 6th. The sharing of the wins makes it all very tight at the top of the championship at least.

Anthony Mitchell, a photographer local to Blyton had a full 360 degree sphere camera and took this great interactive image of my car. This is just a screen shot, but if you click on the photo, you can manipulate this yourself – have a play!

Click on photo to view in 360 sphere mode!



Pembrey

After a few weeks off, an excited travelling British Sprint Championship circus arrived and queued up to gain access when the track day stopped at 6. Several competitors were working on their cars either on or off the trailer, myself included!



A few days earlier I noticed that a rear shock absorber was leaking, so a swift same day turnaround from Shaun Pickering and quite a few miles driving sorted that out. In hindsight however, I made an error in the reassembly and bump rebound adjustment phase and the set up of the car was significantly wrong for the first two runs of the Saturday, and as a result I managed to qualify for the run off points but only came 6th. The event was rather slow in being run and as such there wasn't a second run off. So, the day sort of fizzled out, but with Terry Holmes putting his V8 Lola at the top for another win and Graham Blackwell pushing him hard to 2nd place then Matt in 3rd. Jubilee music and some beers cheered up the paddock as we packed away in a downpour!

The rain overnight was welcomed and I hoped I had the car set up enough by hand to allow me to push a little more. 2nd fastest behind Terry in practice was a good start and I qualified 3rd. At 2 pm for the restart the rain had stopped and the track was drying fast. A quick inspection showed only a damp track and minor puddles so I elected to run on slicks, mainly to avoid damaging the wets if it was too dry. This worked well and for run off 1 I managed a 3rd place, with Steve Broughton a few tenths behind Terry.



Matt didn't do well in the slippery conditions and was in 11th, so that will be a dropped score come the end of the season for him.

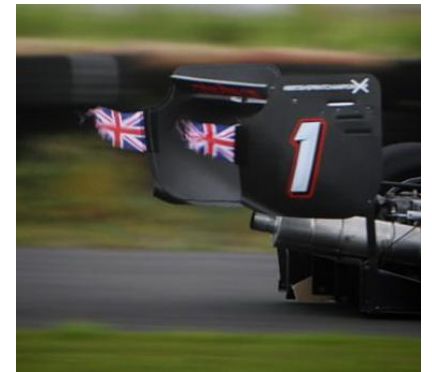
The final run off was back on to full wets, and the big power cars ran well, Terry taking a clean sweep for the weekend with a win, chased hard by Steve, I was 5th and "I only like it when its dry" Matt in 12th!



Terry Holmes takes the win



L to R: John Hansell, Graham Porrett, Simon Bainbridge, Terry Holmes, Kim Broughton, Steve Broughton at Pembrey



Llandow

An annual favourite club event, put in the diary for testing and seat time and fun day or two out. I made myself car sick as usual with around 8 laps spread throughout the Friday afternoon. The test was useful for SBD as I was upgraded with new traction and launch control software – designed to work smoother and with a different philosophy to before. It was a two way thing with me sending data back to the factory and then receiving fine tuning updates in the evening direct to the car ECU, via my laptop and phone as a dongle – all very high tech!



The day was a fun mix of rain, sunshine and hailstones. I took a comfortable overall win, but not a PB due to conditions. The bonus was the car was all in one piece, even though the oil tank slight leak repair didn't work. Let's see if the second attempt repair will be better at Lydden this coming weekend.

Off to Lydden!

Its all very tight at the top, but due to the number of round wins, Terry looks to have one hand on the 2022 British title when dropped scores come into play, but we are all trying to not make it easy for him!

British Sprint Championship 2022 after round 12		
Graham Blackwell	1.6T Ecoboost Mygale VVTi	252
Steve Miles	2.0 Van Diemen RF96mm2020	243
Terry Holmes	3.5 Lola TeGra T 90 Judd	237
Steve Broughton	2.0 SBD Dallara F3 RB01	210
John Loudon	1.1 Force TA	194
Simon Bainbridge	4.2 Chrono V8 TT	193
Pete Goulding	1.6T Mygale FF200	192
Matt Hillam	2.0 SBD Dallara F3 RB01	191
Graham Porrett	3.5 Lola TeGra T 90 Judd	175
Grahame Harden	1.3 Radical PR6	169
Mark Anson	1.0 Jedi Mk 6	163
Simon Wallis	1.1 OMS 3000M	155
Carole Torkington	1.5 OMS CF08	136
Steve Brown	1.3T Empire Evo2	132
Chris Jones	1.0 Force TA	123
Nicholas Scott	1.6 Force TA	121
Robert Tonge	1.4 Force TA	64
Chris Bennett	1.0 Force TA	18
Mark Harrison	3.0 Reynard 94D F3000	
Zoe Kingham	1.6 T SBD Westfield SeiW	
Martin Pickles	1.0 Jedi Mk 1	
Paul Tinsley	2.0 Dallara F397	

In 2022 there are 30 rounds with the best 18 scores to count

Schedule & Results 22	Overall	Run Offs	Verdict	
26 March	Cadwell	2 nd / 100	-	😊
2 April	Anglesey Nat	1 st / 120	3 rd & 1 st	😞
30 April	Anglesey Int	3 rd / 120	5 th & 5 th	😞
24 April	Hethel	2 nd / 100	-	😞
14 May	Blyton Eastern	4 th / 110	3 rd & 3 rd	😞
15 May	Blyton Outer	4 th / 110	5 th & 4 th	😞
5 June	Pembrey	6 th / 110	6 th	😞
6 June	Pembrey	3 rd / 110	3 rd & 5 th	😊
25 June	Llandow	1 st /100	-	😞
16 July	Lydden			
6 August	Kirkistown			
7 August	Kirkistown			
4 Sept	Knockhill			
24 Sept	Blyton Park			
25 Sept	Blyton Park			
1 Oct	Anglesey			
2 Oct	Anglesey			
8 Oct	Castle Combe			

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