

SPEED Challenge

VOLVO OWNERS CLUB MOTOR SPORT CHALLENGE

ROUND 13

ASTON MARTIN OWNERS CLUB GOODWOOD SPRINT SATURDAY 9TH JULY 2005

With the demise of our regular Brighton and Hove Motor Club Sprint at Goodwood, due to His Lordship double booking the venue, we managed at pretty short notice to get a replacement through our good friends at the Aston Martin Owners Club. Two of our competitors travelled down to Goodwood, Chris Davies in the Amazon and John Sandford-Hart in the 850 Turbo. There should have been the Miles' family PV also but due to its coming together with the tyre wall at Quarry Corner at Castle Combe to the detriment of the near side front wing, it was still undergoing cosmetic repairs. No matter, I gather that our two competitors had fun. The honours going to John Sandford-Hart.

ROUND 14

ROSS TRADERS HISTORIC RALLY

Based on Ross on Wye in Herefordshire, this rally is generally a navigator's brainteaser. This year did not disappoint. We had Nick and Rosie Morgan in the rally Amazon, Stephen Lloyd and Ron Bowden in another Amazon and yours truly and Dave Cooper in the PV544. Sadly although entered, we did not see Ian and Sally Thearle's Amazon.

As mentioned this event was a navigator's rally and several people at the lunch stop and finish were saying that they felt as if their brains had been fried. As for ourselves in the PV, Dave actually likes this sort of thing and although we do not always do that well, he enjoys it when the piece of paper with the devious instructions is thrust through the window of the car at the time control. It started off right at the start and 400 yards after the start we were in a queue of 4 cars with the navigators desperately trying to unravel the instructions and once on the move we had to adhere to a strict average speed with intermediate time controls to check this and penalties duly awarded for errors both late and early. For the driver the scenery was superb as we pottered around the Herefordshire lanes at our nominated 24 or 26 mph average speed, which, just to keep us on our toes, quite often changed on each section. Strange people, navigators, who love all this together with the mental arithmetic to keep us on time. I suppose that the crew of the PV did not do too badly because we ended up in 10th position overall when we arrived back at the Ross and District Motor Club House in Ross on Wye for our supper. Stephen Lloyd came home in 21st position keeping the consistent scoring in our Rally Challenge and Nick and Rosie, still in their first season of rallying, must have found it all a bit tricky, came home in 44th place.

ROUND 15

ASTON MARTIN OWNERS CLUB LOTUN PARK HILL CLIMB Sunday 31st July 2005

A new event for us, although we have been to the AMOC Curborough Sprints for a number of years, we were pleased to accept the Aston Martin Owners Club invitation. Lotun Park is not far from Shrewsbury and is about the longest hill climb around at 1475 yards. It is also very challenging including a very fast straight that is, in fact, not quite a straight ending in a sharp left hander, Fallow Corner, that is approached over a hump in the road and where it is very difficult to judge your braking. We were three Volvos in number, Rally man Damon Green in his Amazon, David Slater in his £250 Ebay purchased 740 Turbo and his Dad, Mel Slater in an S70 T5 plus the interloper, me in a Ford Dagenham Dustbin.

The weather was set fair and our three contestants eagerly awaited the action. For Damon and Mel it was their first motor sport event but David Slater had already thrown the 740 Turbo around Curborough with great abandon. He set about Lotun Park in the same way by warming up the tyres on the start line and for me who was waiting nearby to take a picture, I could hardly see for tyre smoke and, in fact, the digital camera did not work because it could not focus because of the said tyre smoke. The 740 launched itself off the line at great pace and disappeared into the distance to achieve a time of 75.09 secs. The honours just going to David in a best of 71.15 secs to Mel Slater's best of 72.10 secs.

Damon was throwing the Amazon up the hill and judging by the silly grin on his face when he returned back down the hill, thoroughly enjoying the experience. I know because I recognised the self same signs of addiction that I got at my first Hill Climb many, many moons ago. The Amazon was worked down to a best of 83.01 secs.

On our handicap system our winner on the day was Damon Green with an improvement of 1.65 seconds.

ROUND 16

HISTORIC TARGA RUSTICANA RALLY Saturday 3rd September 2005

Voted deservedly in 2004 as the best Historic Rally of the year, the Volvo Owners Club had no less than seven entrants in the entry of 80 cars.

Originally a Motoring News road rally, the Targa Rusticana is run as an Historic road rally based at the Welsh Show Ground at Builth Wells. It is not to be missed comprising of lots of great special tests on the Show Ground plus 28 miles of forest section including the Sweet Lamb complex in Hafren Forest.

Our crews were Keith Wilson/Dave Cooper Volvo PV544,

John Griffiths/Mike Burrows Volvo 142, Chris and Steve Winter Volvo 142, Stephen Lloyd/Ron Bowden Volvo Amazon, Damon Green/Sean McGuire Volvo Amazon, Keith Colman/David Wilson Volvo PV544 and Wes Massam/Peter Blacket Volvo Amazon.

We left on the various regularity sections and into the Forest gravel roads and the car was misfiring and barely struggling along. We came to a steep hill and we could not make it up the incline and so rolled back off the track and had a look under the bonnet. All looked OK but we changed the plugs and changed the distributor cap and leads and flicked the points, and there was a spark. The car then fired up and seemed well for about 10 miles when the whole sequence occurred again. To cut a long story short we struggled around and upon looking when back home, after taking some advice, discovered that the fibre piece that abuts on the rotor arm had worn away and the points had closed up. I have subsequently discovered that the problem was self induced as when the points were last checked by myself and I could not find the normal grease to lubricate the distributor cam, I dabbed a spot of copper grease on instead. I now find, to my cost, that copper grease will grind away the fibre abutment for the points very quickly! It will not happen again. This was not the only problem we had as we also made numerous wrong slots and much time lost thereby and in the circumstances our 44th place overall was just about as good as we could hope for.

The others managed much better. Wes Massam being our best with 10th overall, Damon Green an excellent 22nd, Keith Colman in the superb looking PV 26th, John Griffiths 31st, Steve and Chris Winter 38th, Stephen Lloyd 41st and Keith Wilson 44th.

ROUND 17

MG CAR CLUB WISCOMBE PARK HILL CLIMB Saturday September 10th 2005

To say that this Saturday was wet was a severe understatement because during the morning it simply emptied and Wiscombe Park looked at its most forlorn. The intrepid Volvo gang, however, made the most of the conditions and in the afternoon there was just a semblance of a dry line up the track. The Volvo gang were Alison Sandford-Hart in the family PV, fresh from its repaired front wing after the Castle Combe excursion with Tony Miles in attendance. Joining Alison was husband John in the 850. Seen by us for the first time was Glen Street's smashing looking black two door Amazon looking very smart and purposeful. Our other entrant was John Dando in the doughty but now a bit tired Amazon. Alison was taking things quietly to start with and John had to stop at one stage in order to clear the windscreen in order to see where he was going. I must admit the writer in the Cortina almost suffered the same problem. Although the road conditions did not improve much for the second runs, the times did, as we all got a bit more used to it. John Sandford-Hart set a storming time for second practice and rather spoil his chance for our handicap system. I gather that the handbrake was used to good effect for the two hairpins, something to be seen on a big Volvo 850, I should think.

John Dando got under the 60 seconds barrier twice, John Sandford-Hart improved but just marginally and Alison set a storming time on her second timed run to win on Handicap. Glen Street improved on every run and the car and driver looked very good and steady, obviously there is more speed to come as it was Glen's first motor sport hill climb. Top honour going to Alison Hart .

POINTS TO DATE OVERALL

1st	Keith Wilson 51 points
2nd	Stephen Lloyd 40 points
	John Sandford- Hart 40 points
4th	Alison Sandford-Hart 37 points
5th	John Dando 36 points
6th	Wesley Massam 30 points
7th	Damon Green 27 points
8th	Steve/Chris Winter 26 points
	John Griffiths 26 points
10th	Nick & Rosie Morgan 22 points
11th	Tony Miles 21 points
12th	David Slater 19 points
13th	Barbara Morris 16 points
14th	Chris Davies 15 points
15th	Ian & Sally Thearle 8 points
	Keith Colman 8 points
	Glen Street 8 points



Ian Stainburn (Amazon) 125.26secs



Left to right - Keith Wilson, John Dando, Glen Street, Chris Davies, John Sandford-Hart & Tony Miles
Seated at front - Barbara Morris & Alison Sandford-Hart



John Sandford-Hart, 1994 Volvo Estate