

Evo Caterham Academy

Group Two – Event Report

Lydden Sprint – 19th June

Lydden is a fantastic circuit as I am sure you will all agree. It's great from both a spectator and competitor point of view. Lydden has got to be one of the best club racing venues there is, famous of course for Rally cross events for those of you young enough to remember! It is a very challenging circuit, as I am sure some of you found out. Paddock Bend and Devils Elbow providing some entertainment for us all. The spectator is able to get a wonderful view of all the circuit from Dover Slope, and indeed most of the circuit can be seen from most areas. Facilities I thought were great, I had the best bacon and tomato roll ever!!

We had been invited to Lydden for the first time by Borough 19 Club and they made us most welcome and certainly did their best to ensure the day ran smoothly and quickly! I am sure the paddock marshal had a sore throat at the end of the day! Well done to you all for managing to make some sense out of the tannoy announcements as they were not easy to hear by any means.

The weather was not too kind to us, quite cold, cloudy and windy, but the sun was there and made the odd appearance during the day. Conditions actually great for competing.

We were a few competitors down at this event, Mark Johnson, Mark Brown, Dominic Wallington and Mark Wells, must be something about the name Mark! Thanks to those of you who informed me of your non appearance. Please guys, if you are not able to attend please let me, Nick Potter, or the organisers know as soon as possible. Apart from the fact that we are concerned about you, there are usually reserves waiting to take up any spare places, so please have the courtesy to let someone know.

Signing on, scrutineering all went according to plan. There was a drivers briefing for all drivers followed by a first time drivers briefing, of which there seemed to be quite a few, much to the horror of the Clerk of the Course!

Practice consisted of 2.75 consecutive laps of the circuit. One from a standing start followed by two flying laps. Most of you got thru this ok, there were a few re-runs due to competitors being shown the chequered flag incorrectly and runs not being timed. Simon gave us a few flutters as he came screaming through Paddock and nearly hitting the tyre wall, he avoided this by keeping his foot down and not lifting, well done to him.

There was time for one timed run before lunch, two timed runs after lunch. Weather still overcast. Times were provided in a wonderful old fashioned way and much better as far as I was concerned, by recording the times on a card and placing said card in position

order on a board outside signing on. There was also a computerised timesheet but the card method gave us much entertainment and was far easier to follow!

First timed run, and most of you improving on your practice time, only exception being Chris Fryar and Simon Young. Simon managed all 4 wheels on the grass so a failed run, not sure what happened to Chris, he was obviously taking his time to enjoy the scenery. Some of you had improved greatly on your practice time, Richard Morgan, Chris Hurst, and Nick Brooms oops I mean Brooks!! At the end of this run, no surprises as to the leader, Jeremy with 86.17, followed very closely by Tim Guy and Peter.

Lunch time arrived, the usual tactics being discussed around the paddock. Simon from Midlands not having too much work to do at this stage of proceedings, had put out the scales for you to check your weights. Chris Hurst had a wonderful time in trying to get his car on the scales, much to the amusement of everyone. I am sure we all learned how not to do it. He got there in the end, thanks to Simon for coming to the rescue! Keith Chanter, who had just got his car back from Midlands following his incident at Goodwood was obviously missing his gofer. Don was on a walking hols in Wales (poor guy) and Keith had to wash and brush up his car, and himself without his team support! I did mention in an earlier mail but will say it again, I thought your cars looked wonderful again, you are all obviously putting in a great effort to keep them looking so good.

Not sure if you noticed a photographer in your midst's, as you all know how useless I am at technology, I asked Keith to take some pictures with my digital camera (present from my lovely Roadsport B competitors last year so I have to show willing and take lots of piccies) I now have a nice set of Academy pics from Lydden to put on website when I work out how to do it.

Second timed run, it was quite overcast now but still did not look like it was going to rain, the wind kept it away. Jeremy gave us a bit of a jitter as he went very wide at Paddock, as did Tim, and indeed both had a failed run for getting all four wheels off the circuit. All seemed to be going ok until Steve Grainger got it all wrong at the Devils Elbow and came off with quite a bang, thankfully he was ok and the car sustained very little damage. Unfortunately, Peter Earnshaw who was behind Steve, failed to see two red flags and was very severely berated by the Clerk of the Course, and rightly so. It is unforgivable to miss one red flag, let alone two, and Peter was very lucky to be allowed to continue, he could have been sent home. This is part of the learning curve the Academy gives you and hopefully you learn from it. Steven was very cross with himself and was determined to put things right on the next run. We had new leaders at the end of this run, Kevin and Chris Fryar with an 87.99 each.

And so to the final run of the day, Jamie, who had been going well all day, fluffed a gear change coming out of the hairpin which cost him. Paul Sweeney was leery at Paddock, Simon had big moment and spun but somehow managed to keep it together and get to the flag. Charles Bateman had an even bigger moment, spun at Paddock, managed to avoid the tyre wall and did exceedingly well to hold it together. He did not manage to make it to the flag however, so this was a failed run for him, but he did provide huge

entertainment! Keith was much smoother on this run, as was Kevin, although he was a bit leery coming out of the hairpin!

So, the end of a perfect day, and no surprises with the outcome, Jeremy came first with 86.17, Tim second with 87.16, Guy third with 87.26, so a very close contest at the end. Well done to them, and to all of you for another great performance.

Prizes were given to 7th place, so a few of you went home with unexpected trophies, as did I!!! Thanks to those who stayed for prize giving.

On to Harewood, hope the weather is kinder to us, its glorious there when the weather is good.

Kim Denning
Caterham Motorsport Co-Ordinator