

## **RACE REPORT – GROUP ONE**

### **Evo CATERHAM ACADEMY 2002**

#### **ROUND TWO – HAREWOOD – 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

What a day!!!! Hope you have all dried out now and are not suffering from colds and flu. Doug, hope you are feeling better, you were obviously suffering quite badly. I am not going to dwell on the awful conditions, suffice it to say you will all be extremely good wet weather drivers, Schuey look out!

Harewood is a lovely venue, nestling in a valley, it runs through a working farm and is a very demanding quite technical course with lots of corners to learn. We were very lucky to have Tim Wilson walk the course with us, Tim is a very experienced Caterham Hill Climber, and in fact won his class and FTD on Sunday, well done and thanks Tim. I am sure Tim's advice helped you all as you seemed to tackle the hill extremely well in the very wet conditions.

We are always made extremely welcome at Harewood, and my thanks go to Pat, Brian and of course all the marshals and officials who helped the day run so smoothly. Some of you already knew Pat and Brian as you had been to the school to get some tuition a few days before the event. No problems with signing on and scrutineering, we had with us that day our Championship eligibility scrutineer Tony Parsfield, who was kept busy weighing the cars. If any of you have any questions do please ring Tony, he is a very helpful chappie.

Nice to see Derek and Trish in their wonderful motor home, I am trying to persuade them to cook bacon rolls for breakfast at Goodwood!!! On the subject of food, a big thank you to Jonathan and Susan for allowing us into their lovely home for a BBQ on the Friday night, if anyone lives near Castle Combe.....

It was also nice to see lots of support for everyone, families, girlfriends and the Jonathan Medley fan club. It was also great to see two of my boys from previous Academy years, Tom Battye and James Kerr, it just shows when the Caterham bug bites it does not stop.

First practice was dryish, Ben made a good start by coming off in the field at Country, not the only one to come off the black stuff. Second practice was wetter, and you had a long wait as a car in the previous batch had come off and it took some time to clear, unfortunately this car had left some oil on the track on the first corner. Stephen Colbourne- Baber was unlucky to spin there, most of you took it pretty steady.

Lunch time and still raining. Whilst eating lunch, tyre pressures were being discussed, cars were being dried off, tactics planned. Richard Smith's dad seemed to be doing a good job looking after Richard's car, hope you paid him a decent wage Richard, Dad's, wives, girlfriends and children make good umbrella holders in the rain.

On to the timed runs, 1<sup>st</sup> run was dry, most of you did very well, and Phil had a spin, which unfortunately for him was on the only dry run of the day. Ben came out on top

with a 77.21, followed by James Bromley with 77.75 and Jonathan Medley, keen to impress his fan club was third with 77.92. Second timed run was in torrential rain, so obviously the times were a lot slower. Andy Thompson had an excursion into the field at Farmhouse, the rest of you seemed to take it steady. James managed a very quick time of 80.73, Jonathan 81.10 and Ben 81.22, these three were followed closely by Chris Widdowsen and Dan Whiley (liked the hair Dan). It seemed no time at all to the final run of the day, and unfortunately it was still very wet, there would be no improvement on the times of the first run. Ben had another off at Farmhouse, but collected it quite quickly, the track was really slippery by this stage. Again, compliments to you all, you kept your heads and none of the cars were damaged at the end of a perfect day.

So, Ben came out on top, well done Ben, James a close second and Jonathan a very good third (must have been the pressure from the fan club). Chris fourth, Dan 5<sup>th</sup> and Andy 6<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all of you, you really did perform extremely well in awful conditions, compliments also came from the organisers, they thought you behaved very well on and off the track.

Prize giving was a very soggy affair, the rain came down even harder. Thanks to those who braved it out, I do realise that lots of you had a long way to go home, and forgive you for not staying. I look forward to seeing you all at Castle Combe, lets hope the sun will be shining.

Kim Denning