

ASWMC Sprint Championship

Well that's it for me this year; the last ASWMC sprint for the season has been and gone. Flying the flag for Plymouth Motor Club I have come 2nd in the ASWMC Sprint Championship.

It's been a good year for me in my Toyota Starlet GT Turbo and with a bit of luck and some good driving has seen me do very well. This is how my year went

Castle Combe the longest sprint by far, 1 and ¾ laps of high speed action. 6 entries in my A3 class and with Toby Harris high powered puma having problems and some good driving by me I just beat a new Renault Clio cup to win the class and the little glass trophy was mine.

Clay Pigeon Raceway was my second event. This is by far my favourite circuit of the year. Just like the old Dunkeswell sprint this is a go-kart circuit well suited to my car with good area for spectating. Due to a lack of entries though the A4 class got amalgamated with us and Bob Dick in this Mitsubishi evo 4 just beat me by 0.14sec to win the class but for coming 2nd I received a very nice whisky glass.

Llandow is another purpose built track if a bit on the small size but it makes for a good sprint circuit. It's a good venue and very well run by the welsh boys. Despite the heavy rain in the morning it turned out to be a good day with another class win and a very nice and large glass trophy. Disappointingly the following 2 Llandow sprints were cancelled due to lack of entries I also did not make it to Abington. I here Abington is very good, you get to drive 2 different tracks one in the morning and one in the afternoon but at £130 entry fee and a 300mile round trip it works out to be the most expensive. The next event for me was our most local of events St Eval.

St Eval well what can I say, we all know this one and it's a great shame to see it go. Big thanks to Newquay Alto club for putting on this great event for so many years and at a very reasonable entry fee. This is a sprint that I never seem to get right, it's either the car or me and I know which I will blame. I tend to be 2 or 3 sec off the pace but as luck would have it only 5 cars in the class and neither of my biggest rivals turned up and a 125.30sec time was fast enough for a class win. The next event was Castle Combe but I could not attend through work commitments.

Another **St Eval** was my next event 6 in the class this weekend and I was determined to go faster, some tweaks on the car and some second hand sticky tyres I knocked 2sec off my time but the Cornish boys were there to ruin my day. Ian Edwards putting in a 120.84 and Paul Munro just missing out on the class record with a 120.23 which put me 3rd in class.

Portreath Saturday, not everyone's favourite weekend, don't know why, I loved it. Lots talked about poor road surface but I did not see any of that. I thought it was a very good and challenging sprint, very surprised not to have seen more people there. Anyway I had a shocking day on the Saturday, 6 in class and I finished 5th and came off the track twice. It turned out my rear trailing arm control rod was broken and the trailing arm was hitting the chassis as it was so misaligned.

Portreath Sunday, this was the most exciting days racing I had all year, 5 in the class all within 1 second and all having our fastest times on the last timed run. Anthony Wright turned up for the first time this year in his 300+ BHP Audi A3 Quattro. This car is amazing off the line at 64ft its 0.67sec quicker than my car and he set a new class record with a 54.08 but it was all close at the end with just 0.55 in it when I got a 54.63 but it was only good for a 3rd with Ian Edwards taking 2nd with a 54.48.

Chivenor cold, wet and miserable summed up the weather and my day; I was just having one of those days. Chivenor is a very good sprint but the torrential rain and an un-used surface made it very slippery and a lot of skill was needed and I had none on that day, 6in the class and I came 5th. The best part of the day was thrashing the car up the ¼ drag strip 14.83 @ 98MPH. a little off Anthony Wrights 13.17 @ 111MPH?

Clay Pigeon Raceway Hot, sunny and beautiful summed up the weather and my day for the last sprint of the year. All or nothing was the plan, new wheels new tyres and head on straight. It all paid off with a 1st in class and set a new class record set with a 82.51, and the prize for the last sprint was a very nice engraved hip flask.

Thanks

To my darling wife for putting up with me through the race seasons, looking after the kids and allowing me to spend lots of money on entry fees and the car.

To my mate Christopher mayo for allowing me to spend endless time in his garage and the use of his tyres.

Cousin Martin for tuning the car (enginetuner.co.uk) and giving me some wheels.

To everyone who took part in the ASWMC this year and made it a very enjoyable and sociable year.

Luke Wilcox