

SPRINT SERIES

TOYOTA  **2009**

Event Report



Round 1, Rockingham, Sunday March 29th 2009

Now in its second year and with a record entry of over 60 registered contenders, the Toyota Sprint Series contenders headed to Rockingham for round one of the 2009 championship. Rockingham provided a perfect season opener, with a smooth and open track layout, it was sure to re-ignite last years close battles.

The event was expertly run by track day specialists Javelin with support from Blitz-UK, Millers Oils, Fensport and the GT4 OC.

The day dawned fine and dry if a little cold and the impressive array of Toyota's were soon organised and scrutineered. There were quite a few new faces with new machinery more than ready to challenge the more established contenders from 2008.

A very challenging track had been designed, starting in pit lane and using parts of the famous banking along with service roads and chicanes. The track was fast with big braking zones as well as technical sections and tightening bends. 1.3 miles of demanding smooth tarmac to test both cars and driver's abilities.

The early morning untimed practise runs were soon dispersed, and claimed the first retirement of the day, Jonny Milner set a very competitive but unofficial time just as his engine let go. Was a great shame but he will be back faster than ever!

The first 3 timed runs up to lunch time saw everyone trying very hard, with quite a few lockups and a few spins along with some scattered cones, the competition was fierce. Man of the morning was Otis Hayes, leading by nearly half a second in a class A2 car, he had everyone perplexed including the faster A1 cars & drivers. Another man on a mission was Lee Mabbett in his Supercharged Celica, on his first ever sprint and with only front wheel drive, he was already second in class A2 and an impressive 5th overall.

As lunch break approached, the paddock was busy with drivers talk of the big braking points and teams adjusting their cars to find more speed. With a further 5 competitive runs to complete the afternoon was sure to be just as intense.

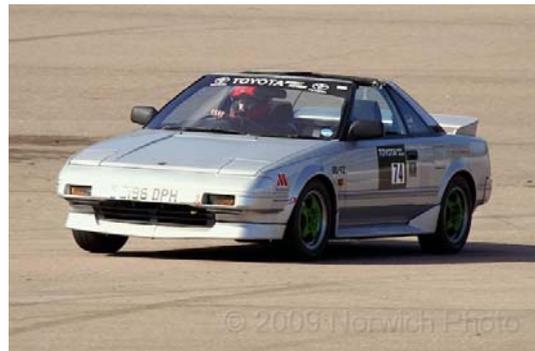
Class F (1.0L)

Paul Thomas (below) in his lightened Aygo was the only entrant in the 1.0 class, but it didn't stop him flying round the circuit and embarrassing a few of the more powerful cars. Paul's best time was a 93.07.



Class D (under 1600cc NA)

David Brooks (below left) in his rear drive starlet carried on his form from last year and produced yet another stunning drive, his best time was 82.16s. David went on to win his class by over 5 seconds from Neil Latham (below right) who's best time was a 87.30.



Class C (over 1600cc NA)

Two drivers Jeff Lotts (below left) & Tim Cogman (below right) were battling it out at the top of their class, both driving Celica 2.0 GT's. Jeff's Celica is lighter but Tim's more powerful, Jeff managed to stay just in front of Tim all day, recording a best time of 84.84 and Tim tried a big push on the last run to record a 86.65.



Class B (Under 1600c forced induction)

Peter Coleman (below left) in his first ever TSS sprint stamped his authority straight away, leading the class at lunch time, Peter's best run was a 82.13, which he set early on run 2 in his near standard Starlet turbo. Chased all day by Barrie Newsome (below right) in his Starlet turbo, Barrie got faster all day to record a 84.12.



Class A2 (Over 1600c forced induction limited modifications)

2 Drivers in A2 were extremely impressive; Lee Mabbett (below left) driving an immaculate Celica generation 7 with supercharger had a great day on his first ever TSS sprint. Although Lee's Celica is only front wheel drive and he was against much more powerful 4wd cars in his class, he set a stunning time of 78.18 on his way to 2nd in class and 4th Overall.



Driver of the day in class A2 has to be Otis Hayes (above right), driving his Celica GT4, Otis was leading the whole field by lunchtime and even the more powerful A1 cars struggled to match his pace. Otis went on to record a blistering 74.74 in the afternoon to take first in class A2 and on to a fine 3rd overall.

Class A1 (Over 1600c forced induction),

Again 2 drivers were out ahead at the top of A1, Adrian Smith in his Corolla GT4 & Darren Deavall in his Celica GT4. Both drivers were simply stunned by the pace of Otis Hayes who despite a power deficit was leading overall by lunch time, albeit by only half a second, but both Adrian and Darren had been trying hard! During the lunch break both drivers were working hard on car set up and balance, trying to find those extra tenths.

On run 5, Adrian pushed the limits and set a very fast 73.75, pushing past both Darren and Otis to take the win by a very narrow margin of 0.36s. Darren also dug deep and produced a stunning time of 74.11s, just 0.63s ahead of Otis to claim 2nd overall.



Hard Charger

The Hard Charger award went to Barry Cross who normally drives a supra, changed his car for a Yaris T sport only a few days before the sprint, Barry went out and recorded a time of 94.19 beating some cars with twice the power. Well done Barry !



- 1st Overall; Adrian Smith, Corolla GT4
- 2nd Overall; Darren Deavall, Celica GT4
- 3rd Overall; Otis Hayes, Celica GT4
- Class A2 Winner; Otis Hayes, Celica GT4
- Class A2 Runner up; Lee Mabbett, Celica T sport SC
- Class B Winner; Peter Coleman, Starlet Turbo
- Class B Runner up; Barrie Newsome, Starlet Turbo
- Class C Winner; Jeff Lotts, Celica GT
- Class C Runner up; Tim Cogman, Celica GT
- Class D Winner; David Brooks, Starlet 4AGE Rwd
- Class D Runner up; Neil Latham, MR2 Mk1 20V
- Class F Winner; Paul Thomas, Aygo 1.0
- Hard Charger Award; Barry Cross, Yaris T sport

Full Results can be found at

http://twistysprint.com/sprint/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11&Itemid=1

Round 1, Summary

Rockingham provided a stunning backdrop for the opening round of the 2009 championship. With only 0.99 of a second covering the top 3, the championship is completely wide open and Rockingham re-ignited all the battles from last year. There were also some stunning drives throughout the classes, some from complete novices, be sure to look out for them at round 2.

We would like to thank Javelin Trackdays for their professionalism and smooth operation of the day. Also thank you to all our sponsors for making the championship a reality.

MR2's, Celica's, Supra's, Lexus, Corolla's, Auris, Starlets, Sera.....If you like Motorsport and Toyota's then the Toyota Sprint Series is the place to be....

Roll on round 2 at Barkston on the 3rd May, Spectators welcome.

Many pictures from the event can be found at

<http://www.norwichphoto.co.uk/tss/2009/r1/>

For General information on the sprint series please visit

<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/index.php>

Thank you to our Sponsors

2009 Toyota Sprint Series is sponsored by

The logo for BLATZ, featuring the word "BLATZ" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A stylized lightning bolt is integrated into the letter "A".The logo for FENSPORT PERFORMANCE. It features a stylized graphic of three parallel lines on the left, followed by the word "FENSPORT" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "PERFORMANCE" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

Toyota Celica GT-Four
GT40C
Owners Club

The logo for Jave/in TRACKDAYS. It features the word "Jave/in" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with a red dot above the "i". Below it is the word "TRACKDAYS" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.