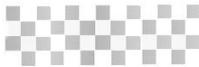


*SPRINT
SERIES*

TOYOTA  **2011**

Event Report - Round 5 Croft 4th September 2011

For the first time in the Toyota Sprint Series history, Croft played host to round five of the championship. A former wartime airbase located in North Yorkshire, records of racing there go back to the 1920's, although the current layout was not designed and put into use until 1997, and has since received yearly visits by the British Touring Car and British Superbike championships.

Only the organisational skills of Javelin Trackdays Colin Jebson and the compliance of the Toyota Sprint Series competitors to adhere to noise limits throughout the year made this event possible, as due to a court judgement in 2009 regarding noise, only forty "noisy" days a year can be run at the circuit.

Thirty one drivers in twenty six cars took part, and those who hadn't seen the circuit before were surprised at how fast and flowing it was, the only exception being tight hairpin at the end of the lap.

With the end of the season drawing closer, overall and class positions were being fought out and looked at closer than ever before, and Croft would be a turning point for many in their quest to come out on top.

Results in class order:

Class F Street - Up to 1.0



Dan Quinn returned in his little 1.0 litre Yaris, and thoroughly enjoyed his day, proclaiming it to be his greatest days sprinting ever. Praise indeed from someone who has taken part in every event bar one in the history of the series.

Dan managed to shave over a second off of his previous best on his last lap to win the class with a 96.25 lap.

Class F Pro - Up to 1.0



Class F Pro is the home for the TRD built 1.0 Vitz shared by Jane Newsome and Tim Cogman. A rejuvenated Jane drove with more confidence and verve than she has all season, an ever larger smile accompanying her return from each run. A 97.49 lap was her reward, but Tim once again took the class spoils with a 93.87 obtained on his last lap.

Class D Street – Up to 1.6 Normally Aspirated



Local man Matthew Tyson made his series debut driving his pretty Corolla AE111 at Croft, and thoroughly enjoyed his day. Matthew was consistent throughout, and like so many others, set his best time of 89.07 on his final lap to take the class win.

Class C Street – Over 1.6 Normally Aspirated



Scott Briance unusually had his car all to himself for Croft, his father and brother being unable to take part. Scott drove with his normal speed and consistency, six of his eight runs being in the 89 second bracket, his sixth run of 89.19 being the quickest to clinch the class win.

Class C Pro- Over 1.6 Normally Aspirated



Stephen Ellis (above right) put up a brave fight in his automatic ST182 Celica, finishing with a 91.09, but it was once again Paul Thomas's Supra (above left) that took Class C Pro honours with a 86.42 attained on his final run.

Class B Street – Up To 1.6 Forced Induction



After a short absence Gavin Mycock entered his second event in a row in his Sera and found himself all alone in Class B Street. Despite some unorthodox mechanical assistance by certain "friends" (!), Gavin chipped away at his times throughout the day to finish on a 89.06.

Class B Pro – Up To 1.6 Forced Induction



The fierce season long battle between Barrie Newsome (above left) and Phil Cutler (above right) was expected to continue at Croft, but sadly a supercharger problem for Phil's MR2 left him helpless. Barrie cruised to an untroubled victory with an 80.71, Phil's best time being an unrepresentative 89.32.

Class A3 Street – Over 1.6l Forced Induction



Seven drivers contested Class A3 Street, Ash Simpson's ST205 Celica (above left) again proving dominant with a superb 80.69. In her last sprint of the season, Di Turner's relaxed attitude reflected in her times. An 82.6 in her ST205 Celica (above right) putting her an excellent second in class, 10th overall, and a deserving recipient of the Hard Charger trophy.

Class A3 Pro – Over 1.6l Forced Induction – Modified



A healthy seven cars also did battle in Class A3 Pro. Andrew Falkingham once again proved untouchable in his ST205 Celica (above left), and recorded an extremely fast 77.41 on his fifth run. Chris Cooke again encountered overheating issues with his MR2 (above right), but assistance from Arran Gabell allowed Chris out for the final three runs to record an 80.45 on his final run, enough to finish a commendable second in class and fifth overall.

Class A2 Street - Over 1.6 Forced Induction



Dave Ellen missed the last round at Cottesmore due to tyre issues, but bounced back in his Lexus IS350 at Croft to cruise to a to an 89.33 class win.

Class A2 Pro – Over 1.6 Forced Induction



The Servitune duo of Andy Bunney and Nigel Levinson enjoyed one of the closest tussles of the day, consistently trading fastest laps with each other in their ST185 Celica. A huge spin for Nigel ensured that Andy eventually came out on top, but only by a mere .41 of a second. Andy's best of 80.24 coming on lap six, Nigel's 80.65 on lap five.

Class A1 Pro Over 1.6 Forced Induction



With only two rounds left in the championship, pressure on both Jonny Milner (above left) and Adrian Smith (above right) was really building.

At times Jonny did not look particularly fast, looking over the limit due to the amount of sideways action, but the eyes can deceive and Jonny was on top form, setting a stunning 67.82 on his third run.

Adrian was left to play catch up for the rest of the day, and despite giving his absolute all during his final run, had to settle for second on the day with a 69.92.

Results – Simplified:

1st Overall: Jonny Milner – Celica GT4-TC

2nd Overall: Adrian Smith – Celica GT4-X

3rd Overall: Andrew Falkingham - Celica GT4

Class A2 Pro Winner: Andy Bunney - Celica GT4

Class A2 Pro Runner up: Nigel Levinson - Celica GT4

Class A2 Street Winner: Dave Ellen – Lexus IS350

Class A3 Pro Winner: Andrew Falkingham - Celica GT4

Class A3 Pro Runner up: Chris Cooke – MR2 Turbo

Class A3 Street Winner: Ash Simpson - Celica GT4

Class A3 Street Runner up: Diane Turner - Celica GT4

Class B Pro Winner: Barrie Newsome – Starlet Turbo

Class B Pro Runner up: Phil Cutler - MR2 SC

Class B Street Winner: Gavin Mycock - Sera

Class C Pro Winner: Paul Thomas – Supra

Class C Pro Runner up: Stephen Ellis – Celica ST182

Class D Street Winner: Matthew Tyson – Corolla AE111

Class F Pro Winner: Tim Cogman - Vitz

Class F Pro Runner up: Jane Newsome – Vitz Dan Quinn

Class F Street Winner: Dan Quinn – Yaris

Hard Charger: Diane Turner – Celica GT4

Summary:

The smooth, faster than anticipated nature of Croft made it hugely popular with every competitor. Excellent facilities along with the friendly nature of the series led first time entrants to comment they would definitely be back for more, and those who had travelled the furthest distances to attend stated they would have no hesitation in returning should the series use the same venue again.

It is interesting to note that fourteen of the 31 competitors posted their fastest laps on the eighth and final lap of the day. Learning the track? Feeling more confident in their own or cars abilities? Pure desperation? A combination of all of these? I leave it for you to decide, but driving standards and car preparation certainly take a leap forward with each passing round.

One of the many indications of how friendly and easy the series is to access is reflected by the fact that five ladies were once again entered at Croft, enjoying it every bit as much as the men, and often putting them to shame in the process!

Congratulations to all who took part, every one of you making it a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable day for everyone involved.

And so on to the last round of the series at Blyton.

With so many classes yet to be decided, the action is sure to be even more tense and closely fought than ever before.

Bring yourselves, bring your family, bring your friends, and witness the final round of the 2011 Toyota Sprint Series for yourselves.



Some more photo's from the day:





Photo's courtesy of Andrew Cliffe at www.norwichphoto.co.uk

Event report by TSS Tim

This year also marks the return of series sponsor Toyota GB along with support from Blitz-UK, CTC Performance, Fensport, Javelin Trackdays, Merlin International, Millers Oils and SuperPro. All of which give great support to the series and are willing to help out both novices and professionals alike.

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.

Don't miss Round 6 at Blyton on the 15th October !!

For General information on the sprint series please visit www.toyotasprint.com

Toyota Sprint Series 2011 is sponsored by

